

Melbourn Parish Council

INVITATION TO QUOTE

QUOTE: Grass Cutting

QUOTE REFERENCE NUMBER: MPC-GC2024

CLOSING DATE: 12 April 2024

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Closing Date for Submission of Quotations: 12 April 2024, by 4pm - No quotes will be accepted after this deadline.

Quotations can be submitted earlier than the above date. All quotations received by the due date will be opened on 15 April 2024.

Quotations should be submitted in a sealed envelope for the attention of the Parish Clerk, marked with Quote Reference Number.

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Melbourn Parish Council provides local government services to the village of Melbourn, South Cambridgeshire, which covers approximately 314 hectares, and forms the southernmost part of the county of Cambridgeshire.

Melbourn Parish Council (hereafter MPC) is responsible for the direct provision and management of village facilities, including services to the community, many of which are provided through contractors.

OUTLINE CONTRACT SCOPE AND CONTEXT

Melbourn has a large number of grassed verges and some specific open grassed recreational spaces as a result of continuous road and housing development over many years. Small areas of grass are under the maintenance of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Small areas of grass exist on many of the roads in Melbourn. The contractor should assume these fall within the scope unless explicitly excluded. Section 4 shows the road plan and lists those roads that can be specifically excluded.

Millennium Copse and Golden Jubilee Orchard

The Millennium Copse is a public open space used by visitors for recreation purposes. This site has a small orchard of various fruit trees and an area set out as a copse.

KEY INFORMATION

Quote:	Grass Cutting
Quote reference number:	MPC-GC2024
Quotation availability date:	26 March 2024
Quotation deadline:	12 April 2024
Quotation return address:	Parish Clerk Melbourn Parish Council Melbourn Community Hub 30 High Street Melbourn Cambridgeshire SG8 6DZ
Contact:	Abi Williams & Alex Coxall
Telephone:	01763 263303 ext 3
Email:	parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk
Number of copies required:	1
Expected tender decision date:	23 April 2024
Contract start date:	1 June 2024

CONTENTS

Section 1. Information for Bidders and Contract Terms

This Section contains information on how the bid will be assessed, together with MPC contract terms and expectations. Bidders should read and accept these terms before bidding.

Section 2. Contractor Information, Quotation and Competencies Declaration

This Section must be completed to formally accept bid terms, provide a bid quotation and describe those aspects of the Bidder's organisation that are important in the evaluation of the bid.

Section 3. Schedule of Works Required, Methods of Work and Safety

This Section contains the detailed specification of the work and requires the Bidder to set out how the work is to be done (Method statements) and how safety is to be assured (Risk Assessments).

Section 4. Exclusions

This Section contains the locations that are explicitly excluded from this invitation to quote – these areas remain the responsibility of South Cambridgeshire District Council or Housing Associations.

Appendix A Questionnaire justification additional space

Appendix B Grass Verges Schematic

Appendix C Other Grass Spaces Schematic

Appendix D Millenium Copse Schematic

Appendix E Village Entrance Schematic

SECTION 1: INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

1. Information for Bidders & Terms

- 1.1 MPC is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to provide complete grounds maintenance for village areas, as specified in this Invitation to Quote, contract commencing on 1 June 2024.
- 1.2 The contract is for an initial 1-year term, with the option to extend each and every year up to a total of a 3-year term (each additional year will be subject to budget availability and satisfactory contractor performance).
- 1.3 Submission and evaluation of quotations will be a single stage process.
- 1.4 Potential Bidders may ask questions or seek clarification of the contract terms during the bidding period. It should be noted that questions and answers to those questions would be circulated to all other companies who may wish to bid.
- 1.5 Bidders should be aware that, as part of the bid evaluation process, they might be asked to meet with the MPC to present their case or clarify aspects of their bid.
- 1.6 If the contract awarded is for a period longer than one (1) year, the quotation offered by the supplier will be the same price for any subsequent years. (i.e. price fixed for the entire contract covering all years). (3 years Maximum).
- 1.7 The contractor will provide a set of costs for each site for the following types of work as listed in the schedule of works in Schedule 3.
- 1.8 Bidders must also provide details of their Public Liability Insurance Cover, (If your company is appointed then MPC will need to see a copy of your insurance certificate) and confirm the staff carrying out the work are competent to work on MPC property.
- 1.9 The evaluation scheme is described below.

Bidders' responses to the method statements will be scored out of a possible maximum of 5 marks. It should be emphasized that MPC are not bound to accept the lowest price:

Evaluation Criteria	%	Relating to question
Quality Competencies , of which:	60%	
References	20%	2.4
Staff and general staff experience	10%	2.1
Method statements	5%	Method of Work – section 3
Level of valid insurance held	10%	2.2
Have you or your staff undertaken any general and / or safety training or certification for working in this field?	10%	2.3
Equalities	5%	2.5
Cost – based on an estimate of the likely work over a 1 year period and the proposed increase to cover 3 year period.	40%	

- 1.10 The schedule in Section 3 sets out tasks required by MPC. These tasks have been agreed by MPC and the successful contractor must follow the schedule without exception.

- 1.11 Village Wardens and MPC Councillors will undertake regular and random inspections of the areas listed in Schedule 3. If necessary, photographic records will be used to illustrate any problems arising to MPC Working Parties or Committees.
- 1.12 Failure of the contractor to comply with the contracted schedule (unless agreed with MPC in advance) shall be seen as contrary to the contract agreement and may/will result in the loss of the contract at any period during the contract. See 1.13.
- 1.13 MPC reserves the right to terminate the contract if it finds fault or non-compliance with the schedule of work or any other area of dissatisfaction.

By this is meant:

- a. Quality and standard of work
 - b. Customer service
 - c. Conduct of staff
 - d. Any changes to those items listed in 1.18 below
 - e. A period of 21 days will be given to enable the contractor to rectify any issues made known to the contractor by MPC. If issues are not rectified, then 14 days notice of cancellation of contract will be given in writing.
- 1.14 Terms and conditions will be agreed between MPC and the successful contractor at the time of the contract award.
 - 1.15 Monies paid to the contractor will only be paid on submission of a signed monthly invoice. MPC has a 60-day settling of invoices policy, however every effort will be made to accommodate a 30-day time frame.
 - 1.16 All quotations submitted will provide at submission the following information, failure to do so may result in the tender being rejected:
 - Proof of Full Public Liability Insurance cover.
 - Contractors should show evidence that the protection of staff is considered in their bid approach to safety and show where they or staff members have formal first aid training.
 - A complete summary of powered plant/equipment that is to be used on MPC property/sites. (Suitable operating licenses to operate this machinery will be required, where necessary). This information can be included in method statements.
 - Qualifications of contractor.
 - Evidence of past experience.
 - A competent knowledge of the pruning and management of plants, hedging and trees.
 - If relevant to the contract, proof of license or competence to spray weed killers.
 - Written confirmation that appropriate safety signage will be used to protect the public. This can be part of Risk Assessment responses in Section 3.
 - Written assurance that UK Health & Safety rules will be adhered to.
 - If relevant to the contract, an appropriate Pest Control license.
 - An undertaking that, wherever possible, employees will be sought locally.
 - Access to two prior clients who can provide written references.
 - 1.17 In completing the Invitation to Quote, the Bidder should be aware that the MPC decision will also take into account:
 - The Bidder's general understanding of the requirements.

- The right to investigate the financial status and viability of the Bidder.
- The clarity and completeness of operational proposals and intended methods of working, perception of risks to safety and how these can be mitigated.
- Any aspects of the delivery that improve or positively impact on economic and environmental sustainability.
- Staffing proposals.

1.18 Expectations:

- MPC expects the contractor to be diligent, trustworthy and, most importantly, proactive in the execution of the contract.
- The contractor will ensure that all pathways are blown clean of grass cuttings.
- The contractor will carry out all tasks ensuring minimum damage to grassed areas and paths.
- The contractor will ensure that all grassed edges are left properly cut, by means of separate 'Strimming' where this is necessary.
- Where relevant, contractors should carry out work in a way that respects the nesting season for birds.
- The contractor must not obstruct entries or exits to resident's property, the public highway, driveways or access to sewers, fire hydrants etc.
- If for any reason the contractor finds they are unable to fulfill the contract in any way at any part through the contract term, MPC reserves the right to terminate the contract forthwith and seek a new contractor at no additional costs to MPC. (Monies will only be paid to the contractor for work done and not for the remaining contract period).
- MPC will not be liable for any monetary loss by the contractor under any circumstances.
- An inspection of the areas to be cut and/or maintained will take place before the contract is issued to which the successful contractor will be invited. This inspection is to ensure that the contractor fully understands the contract scope and both contractor and MPC agree that any existing damage to stock, plants or village fabric is understood and documented clearly and not the fault of either the contractor or MPC. Non-attendance to meet or failure to agree the inventory process will see the contract null and void. MPC will then look for a new contractor. By default the contractor at fault will be excluded from bidding.
- MPC reserves the right to levy payment for reimbursement against the contractor, if it is found that the contractor or any employee of the contractor is found to have caused damage or loss to any of the tree stocks, planting etc. or the Village 'fabric', this includes tree guards, tree supports, fencing, gates, low level planting. This reimbursement will be payable immediately or the damage made good (to the satisfaction of MPC) whichever is the most convenient to MPC. MPC reserves the right to withhold any monies due to the contractor in lieu of damage not reimbursed.
- Any of the circumstances above that are left unresolved may result in the loss of the contract.
- MPC reserves the right to revise/alter the terms and conditions of the contract at any time if deemed necessary, having consulted with the contractor where necessary.
- Additional areas of work identified during the life of the contract will be separately negotiated.

SECTION 2: CONTRACTOR INFORMATION, QUOTATION AND COMPETENCIES DECLARATION

Send to: Melbourn Parish Council
Melbourn Community Hub
30 High Street
Melbourn
Cambridgeshire
SG8 6DZ

Company Name:
Your Name:
Date:
Company Address:
Telephone:
Email:

In order only to compare quotes from different bidders, you are required to provide quotation information using the following rules:

1. Multiply the individual visit costs under each job area specification in Section 3 by the number of estimated annual visits, also defined in each job specification. This will give the estimated annualised costs for each job area.
2. Total all the annualised costs from each job area to provide the total estimated contract cost for the year. Your Quote will be for the estimated total annual cost, based on individual visit costs and frequency.

Please enter this total in the box below.

There are two options for bidding.

Option 'A' If successful, you will be required to submit monthly invoices that reflect the number of actual visits made, as this will vary depending on the influences of weather and seasonal changes. For example, grass-cutting visits will be fewer in winter months and may be more frequent than anticipated in summer. Monthly invoices will be based on the individual visit costs shown in your quote, not a simple monthly division of the estimated totals shown in your estimated global quotation below.

Option 'B' If successful, you will submit monthly invoices that reflect one twelfth of the total bid price entered into the box below. This will commit you to carrying out the maintenance to the frequency standards as set out in the bid document but also to carry out extra cuts at no extra cost to the Parish Council should weather conditions make this necessary.

Please tick either box 'A' or 'B' below to indicate the bid basis.

Quotation for:

MPC-GC2024

I / We the undersigned, having examined the specifications and schedule of works set out in Section 3 are willing to execute the whole of the work required, based on estimated visit frequencies in this document, for the sum of:

£	A	B
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Declaration and Contractor Quotation Approval

I / We understand that:

- (a) This Quotation shall be returned by email or post provided so as to reach this office not later than 12 April 2024. Note: you can return sooner if you wish.
- (b) We accept the information and conditions set out in Section 1 of this document.
- (c) We accept the terms as set out above, namely that the Quotation value is derived from individual job-area visit costings and estimated visit frequencies defined in Section 3 of this document.
- (d) We understand that, should the finally agreed contract price exceed the budget value available to MPC, then the number of site maintenance visits will need to be reduced accordingly.
- (e) If successful, the bidder will invoice for work done by area visit as per the individual costings in this quotation. The number of such visits may be more or fewer than the estimate, depending on need, and by agreement with the Clerk.
- (f) There may be a further selection stage of this Quotation involving an interview or meeting.
- (g) Melbourn Parish Council will not necessarily accept the lowest or any Quotation, and no allowance or payment will be made for making any Quotation. All costs arising during the preparation of the Quotation are to be borne by the Bidder.
- (h) We have examined and agree to the Quotation, have submitted only one bid for this aspect of MPC contract requirements, and agree to the contract terms.
- (i) We understand that it is our responsibility to ensure that the contract documents have been completed correctly.
- (j) This is not an order. If your quotation is accepted, an official Purchase Order will be raised. The Order will be subject to the Terms and Conditions sent to you as a separate document titled Quotation Terms and General Terms and Conditions.
- (k) Volumes or values are not guaranteed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Competencies Declaration: Questionnaire

The following items match the award criteria specified on page 5 of this document. Please provide a simple written response to each question. The Council will look for a short statement confirming your response (short responses that are clear and concise are preferred). Your English and use of grammar/handwriting will not be assessed, but it needs to be clear enough to understand. Please use extra sheets, found in Appendix A, as necessary.

Question		Justification
2.1 (15%)	Who will carry out the work specified in Section 3, and how experienced are they at carrying out that work? For example, are staff members casual or permanent? Justify your answer, using a separate sheet if required.	
2.2 (10%)	What is the level of liability insurance held and can you confirm that your insurance is still valid? Enclose copy of certificate.	
2.3 (10%)	Can you confirm that the people concerned in the delivery of the specified services will be trained and competent persons?	Yes / No
	If Yes, do you have specific evidence of relevant training? Please enclose.	Yes / No
	Do you have a Health & Safety policy, if so please enclose.	Yes / No
	Do you carry out Risk Assessments for the types of work that is being quoted?	Yes / No
	State details of accidents, ill health or HSE involvement in the last 2 years. Use a separate sheet if required.	Yes / No
2.4 (20%)	Please provide the name and contact details of two recent clients for whom you have provided similar services and from whom we can, without further permission, seek references:	
Name: Address: Telephone: Email: Description of services provided:	Name: Address: Telephone: Email: Description of services provided:	

2.5 (5%)	Is it your policy as an employer to comply with your statutory obligations to staff and applicants for employment under the following equality and non-discrimination laws?	
2.5.1	The Race Relations Act 1976	Yes / No
	The Race Relations Code of Practice	Yes / No
	The Race Relations Act (Amendment) Regulations 2003	Yes / No
	Employment Equality (Religion and Belief) Regulations 2003	Yes / No
	Disability Discrimination Act 1995	Yes / No
	Equal Pay Act 1970 (Amendment) Regulations 2003	Yes / No
	Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Amendment) Regulations 2003	Yes / No
	Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003	Yes / No
	Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006	Yes / No
2.5.2	Does your organization have a formal equal opportunities / race relation policy? If yes, please enclose a copy	Yes / No
2.5.3	In the last three years, has any finding of unlawful discrimination been made against you or your organization by a court or industrial tribunal?	Yes / No
2.5.4	If you answered Yes to 2.5.3, please provide details of what steps were taken as a consequence of this finding.	

SECTION 3: SCHEDULE OF WORKS REQUIRED, METHODS OF WORK AND SAFETY**Grass Verges and Recreation Spaces: Schedule of works quotation**

Notes: Please refer to Appendix B – Grass Verges Schematic (referenced as below)

Grass Verges: Fortnightly – April to October			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass cutting to the whole of areas below. <p><i>Actual cutting frequency required for these designated areas will depend on speed of growth and weather etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daffodils to be allowed to die back so that leaves dry off before fully cutting bulb-planted areas. 			
Armingford Crescent	Ref GV1	Per visit cost £	Per annum cost (15 visits) £
Elm Way	Ref GV2		
Rose Lane / Dolphin Lan	Ref GV3		
Village centre - outside Leeches, war memorial, telephone box	Ref GV4		
Chalkhill Barrow	Ref GV5		
Clear Crescent Play Park	Ref GV6		
The Moor Play Park	Ref GV7		
Worcester Way - recreation space and grassed area	Ref GV8		
Greengage Rise – at road entrance, half way point and green space	Ref GV9		
Melbourn Community Hub – small grassed area to the front	Ref GV10		
Total annual cost: Grass Verges			£

Other Grass Spaces: Schedule of works quotation

Notes: Please refer to Appendix C – Other Grass Spaces Schematic (referenced as below)

Other Grass Spaces: Monthly – April to October			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass cutting to the whole of areas below. <p><i>Actual cutting frequency required for these designated areas will depend on speed of growth and weather etc.</i></p>			
Small grassed area adjacent to Bus Stop and Vicarage Close on High Street	Ref	Per visit cost	Per annum cost (7 visits)
	OGS1	£	£
Beechwood Avenue – central green area, grass on corners of Maple Way, Cedar Close, Elm Way, Water Lane	Ref OGS2		
The Moor – various	Ref OGS3		
Car Park – grassed area to the left of entrance	Ref OGS4		
Corner of Medcalfe Way and Orchard Road	Ref OGS5		
Royston Road to Melbourn Bury – both sides	Ref OGS6		
Church Walk to Community Hall	Ref OGS7		
Orchard Rd – opposite Orchard Gate (approx. 20ft)	Ref OGS8		
Mortlock Street	Ref OGS9		
Allotment walkways – St Georges' and Grays walkways	Ref OSG10		
Cambridge Road – both sides to Dobbies and Hot Numbers	Ref OGS10		
Total annual cost: Other Grass Spaces			£

Millennium Copse and Golden Jubilee Orchard: Schedule of works quotation

Notes: Please refer to Appendix D – Millennium Copse Schematic

Millennium Copse and Golden Jubilee Orchard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Millennium Copse: Cut existing path around perimeter of site regularly leaving wildflower area in centre of site uncut after (1) early season cut plus (1) following flowering and seeding of flowers and grasses at approximately end of August and (1) final cut end of growing season. 	Per visit cost	Per annum cost	Number of visits
	£	£	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Jubilee Orchard: Cut around and in between rows of trees as in an orchard and when season demands. 	Per visit cost	Per annum cost	Number of visits
	£	£	
Total annual cost: Millennium Copse and Golden Jubilee Orchard		£	

Village Entrances Grass: Schedule of works quotation

Notes: Please refer to Appendix E – Village Entrance Schematic (referenced as below)

Village Entrances Grass: Every 8 weeks – April to October			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass cutting to the whole of areas below from village boundary to A10 and A505 junctions. <i>Actual cutting frequency required for these designated areas will depend on speed of growth and weather etc.</i> 			
From A10 Cambridge Road to Hot Numbers – both sides	Ref VE1	Per visit cost £	Per annum cost (3 visits) £
From A10 Station Road to Village – both sides	Ref VE2		
From A10 (village sign) to Melbourn Bury entrance – both sides	Ref VE3		
From A505 New Road to village sign – both sides	Ref VE4		
Total annual cost: Village Entrances Grass			£

Method of work

Describe the methods and any tools / equipment to be used.

Notes:

- *All schedules to be taken into account.*

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Risk Assessment

Describe how you have assessed the safety and risks and what steps will be taken to safeguard the Health and Safety of workers and the public.

Hazards identified:

Planned actions to minimise risks:

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SECTION 4: EXCLUSIONS

MPC grassed areas and roads NOT covered by the scope of this Invitation to Quote:

- Vicarage Close
- John Impey Way
- Corner of Trigg Way and Fordham Way
- Russet Way opposite junction with Bramley Avenue
- Area on the Left Hand Side of Russet Way as the road joins Cambridge Road
- Hagers Close
- Anything in Medcalfe way beyond junction with Ogden Close
- Ogden Close
- Worcester Way (except areas specified in this document)
- Hinkins Close
- Bramley Avenue
- Rosemary Place
- Hopkins Homes Estate
- Piggott Close

These areas remain the responsibility of either Housing Associations or South Cambridgeshire District Council.

APPENDIX A

Justification – extra space

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APPENDIX B

Grass Verges Schematic

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APPENDIX C

Other grass spaces schematic

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APPENDIX D

Millenium Copse schematic

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APPENDIX E

Village Entrances schematic

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