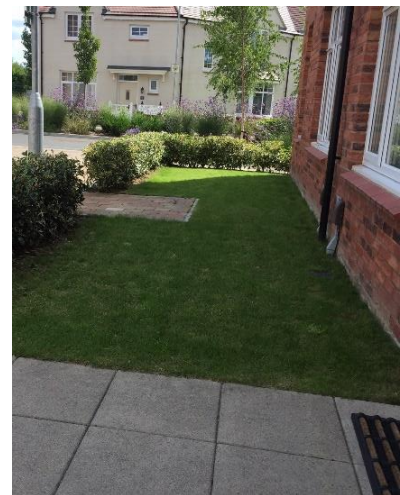




Pobl would like to thank Loftus residents for their co-operation with the recent garden inspections.

The new traffic light system to record the results has worked really well and I'm pleased to say we gave out mostly green cards, 122 in all, 42 ambers and 23 reds. The response we've had from the amber and red cards has been a very positive one and most residents have taken on board the advice on the card and have turned their gardens around within a week.

It's great to see more and more residents getting into gardening and experiencing the physical and mental wellbeing that makes it such a rewarding hobby. Whether you are into just neat and tidy where less is more or wonderfully floriferous, everyone has their own taste. And for those who are not green fingered themselves, we appreciate you getting someone else in to cut your grass.



All we ask now is that everyone keeps up the good work, this was not a one-off inspection as grass cutting and weed removal is an ongoing task. Paul, Jo and I feel your pain as we do this job day in, day out, weeds and grass just keep on growing. Aim to cut your lawn at least once a fortnight and don't cut too low. The biggest reason for red cards has been weeds. A few in your lawn are acceptable so long as the grass is mowed often enough, take care of tall weeds such as Dandelions, Docks and Thistles. These weeds should never be allowed to get big enough to flower and seed.



Weeds in beds however should be removed on first sighting as they can grow to seeding point in just a week. It is much easier to pull them out when small as the root is often removed wholesale, if the weeds have got a hold you end up just snapping off the stem leaving the root to regrow and become

stronger. With your help we would eventually have no weeds at loftus.

There is an old saying "one year's seeding, 7 years weeding" and it is so true. Eradicating all weeds is any gardeners dream, and though not a very realistic goal on a housing estate, reducing the amount is very doable if everybody helped keep their gardens free of them.

The only place where there is an exception to this way of thinking is around the pond and swale areas as this is purposely managed for wildlife. Weeds are food source and breeding ground for many insects so for the sake of biodiversity we tolerate them in these areas.

We are a Garden Village and should all be proud to be part of it so please take care of your own little patch of Loftus.

