

Dear Alberta St Resident,

As you are probably aware, the council stopped maintaining berms in July 2013 to save 3 million dollars of rate payers' money per annum. So it is now our responsibility to look after them. However, some of us don't have a lawnmower or, lack the time or inclination to do this I've been considering this situation and would like to offer some suggestions for our street because I see this as an opportunity!

Follow this Auckland City Council link for more information on berm maintenance and mowing.
<http://iknow/RFSPages/Transport/Pages/TutorialBermMowingPolicy.aspx>

Suggestion 1: Share a lawnmower between 2-5 houses and take turns mowing those berms. Share in petrol and upkeep costs. You will only have to mow every 2-3 months. *Please contact me if you do have a lawnmower you would like to share or if you want help with your berm. Leave your name, street number, contact information and your situation in my letterbox #44. I'll be in touch with you. Alternatively, approach your neighbor and discuss it directly with them.*

Suggestion 2: Hire someone to mow your berm for you, possibly share the cost between a few houses. There are plenty of people who need employment out there, possibly on our own street, a bit of pocket money for the neighbours kids...

Suggestion 3: Although this option is not officially approved by the council I am in support of planting on berms – a fruit tree or two, a garden, customize it to your creativity. Keep it tidy to avoid complaints to the Council and keep our street looking neat. *If you are inspired to plant your berm, you need to be aware of underground pipes (you can access maps of these through the council website), overhead lines that may be put underground and disturb your planting, choose plants that are suitable for the size of the space and don't require much maintenance. I can offer advice on trees and supply of these.*

If you are interested in any of my ideas I encourage you to get in touch with me or discuss it with your neighbour.

Kind regards,
Anna D. a fellow Alberta St Resident who's berm needs a mow.