

Pesticide Motion & Environmental Responsibility in Grounds Maintenance

Environmental Responsibility

- What we are doing already
- Future options



Green Waste and Composting

- 95% of in - house produced green waste is processed (mulched and composted) in FHDC Hawkinge depot.
- In place since 2010, this reduces our need to buy compost or mulch from external companies, reducing transport and waste costs.
- It reduces the need to water newly planted shrubs or bushes by providing a protective barrier.
- The use of mulch reduces the use of pesticides used to stop weeds competing with the new plants.
- In the last year localised composting units have been installed in key areas such as East Cliff. This reduces the need to move the green waste to Hawkinge to be composted.
- Investigating other local options, such as New Romney Depot, Kingsnorth Gardens and The Coastal Park.



Biodiversity

There are many locations within the FHDC with a high biodiversity rating.

- **The Royal Military Canal** has been managed to increase the species count for the last 15 years. A biological survey will be carried out this season to show the results of this management programme. The GM teams have been closely working with the BumbleBee and Butterfly and Moths Trusts and spent many volunteering hours planting moths, butterfly and bumble bee friendly habitat.
- **The Warren and East Cliff**, a nature reserve, is rich in biodiversity too, however detailed findings are held by White Cliffs Countryside project.
- **The Coastal Park** has its own wildlife zone, meadow and bee border.



Peat

- The GM department never use raw peat, when purchasing potted plants and other nursery stock including bedding plants, nurseries are asked to supply a certificate stating peat sustainability.
- 60% of summer 2020 bedding plants have been purchased in peat free growing media.
- Tree stock purchased from our preferred supplier has been peat free since autumn 2012.
- Aim to be 100% peat free by 2025.

Seasonal Bedding

- All seasonal bedding is grown in reusable trays, that are sent back to the supplier for reuse.
- All perennial seasonal plants are replanted in various herbaceous borders across the district.



Sedum Roofs

- Sedum matting has been trialled at the Coastal Park on the new operational depot roof. Its benefits include;
- Provision of important microclimate for insects.
- Reduction of the surface run off.
- Significant reduction of heat and the need for air conditioning & provision of insulation in winter (known as green roof insulation).
- Improvement of air quality due to the filtering mechanism of the plants and substrate.
- Installation is very simple - the sedums are grown into felt matting and form a thick blanket of plants that can be rolled out like grass turf on pre-prepared flat roof.
- Watering requirements are extremely low – sedums thrive in dry soils and hate being waterlogged.
- Using Sedum Roofing on the tiered beach chalet roofs as part of the refurbishment program.



Waste management in parks and open spaces

- Our main park are popular spots for family picnics and gatherings.
- Visitors are encouraged to either take their litter home or to use the tin & plastic recycling points and general waste points.
- Big Belly compactor bins (solar powered) - installed 2 years ago. All bins are connected to the selected smart phones and send notifications informing the park keepers it is time they are emptied resulting in less emptying trips.
- So far 190,444 litres of litter have been collected from Big Belly bins (62,573 litres in July).
- 3 double compounds (general waste & recyclables) have been installed to tackle excessive waste in the coastal park.



Tree Stock

- FHDC has 3873 individual trees found within its parks and open spaces.
- There are a further 22201 trees contained within groups and woodlands such as those on the Leas Escarpment and the Royal Military Canal.
- Last year GM planted in excess of 1000 new trees.
- Volunteer planting on the Canal (420 tree saplings supplied by the Woodlands Trust will be planted this October/ November) led by Cllr J Martin.
- Future planting - it is our intention to reduce the number of trees planted in our parks and open spaces over the coming years in order to ensure their establishment.
- We have limited resource available for the watering and aftercare of our newly planted trees and as a result we often end up losing trees due to drought.
- In order to overcome this issue, we will be planting between thirty to forty trees so that we can ensure all of them receive appropriate aftercare and hopefully end up with net gain over the next ten years or so.



Grass Cutting

- FHDC maintains open space on behalf of KCC, Hythe Town Council and FHDC.
- FHDC has no control over the KCC and HTC contracts. It does however increase the KCC cuts from 5 it is paid for by KCC to 12 to preserve the appearance of the District.
- GM maintains open spaces inline with their use and to ensure the character of the area. The total cuts per year can be dependant on many factors.
- Areas such as the Leas and Parks can be cut every two weeks, wild areas on the canal may be just twice per year.
- GM managers have been working on identifying areas where cutting regimes can be reduced to help increase biodiversity and reduce all environmental impacts.



Adobe Acrobat
Document



Adobe Acrobat
Document

- Bee Orchids have been located in the section of urban grass cut indicated on the attached plan. Grass cutting of this area was ceased immediately and KCC Highways removed this section from the UG maintenance agreement.

Churchill Avenue, Folkestone - Bee Orchid location



Equipment

- GM has invested in electric equipment where appropriate;
 - 1 long reach hedge cutter
 - 7 hedge cutter
 - 4 drills
 - 5 chainsaws
 - 2 pole saws

The 5 year capital investment plan is due to be rewritten this year, this will ensure environmentally friendly options are adequately investigated.



Pesticide Trial

- What we are doing already
- Future options



Current Use

- The grounds maintenance department use these products for a wide range of applications, they are as follows (but not limited too);
- Invasive Weed Application - Herbicides are essential for treating invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed (JK) and Giant Hogweed (GH). These plants can be stem injected if they are big enough, however small plants don't have hollow stems and therefore this method is not suitable. Small plants need to have a foliar herbicide application either by sprayer or can be brushed on if growing in a sensitive location. JK herbicide treatment has been reduced to one application per season (in autumn). This treatment is largely effective and JK on our land in the district has been significantly reduced (by around 80%) over last 5 years. Giant Hogweed needs to be on a more regular basis – up to 3 times per year to ensure that the plants do not reach maturity and disperse their seeds (each flower head holds about 10,000 seeds). There is no suitable alternative. GH is a serious hazard to human health and will spread voraciously if allowed to do so.
- Sports Areas - use selective weed killer (targets broadleaved plants) on bowls greens (i.e. Eland) – no known suitable alternative available. Use of fungicides on bowling greens if required, this depends largely on the weather throughout the season and if very wet fungal disease can be a problem and herbicide application will be required to maintain the quality of the playing surface. We don't use any pesticides on the football pitches.
- Housing Sites - applying glyphosate to hardstanding (washing areas, paths) – especially where paths are slabbed as opposed to tarmac. Physical weeding has proven to be ineffective in these areas. Treating bindweed in shrubs and hedges, where physical methods are largely ineffective as plants grow too quick and break off from the roots if pulled at the base causing the weed to regrow. Killing algae on paths with algaecide which is undertaken as and when required. This can be done mechanically, but is time consuming and the algae tends to return very soon.
- Parks - certain fence lines and play areas are treated twice a year which significantly reduces the labour costs in keeping these parks safe and visually appealing. Also used in ponds to control blanket weed.
- Cemeteries - applied to grave channels to minimise the weed build up and use of strimmer's.
- Trees - Eco plugs are applied to tree stumps to inhibit regrowth where stumps are in locations where they cannot be removed through grinding.
- Wasps/Rats - Pests are treated with pesticides and currently there are no cost effective alternatives.
- Usage of glyphosate has been minimal within Grounds Maintenance for a number of years, 50L in 2015, 70L in 2016, 30L in 2017, 75L in 2018 and 50L in 2019. The variance can be explained by the carryover from year to year.
- Glyphosate (this kills weeds) / Shakira (this stops seeds germinating) / Aminopyralid (Invasive species) / Bendiocarb (wasp nest killer) / Pyraclostrobin (the bowls greens/tennis etc) / Triclopyr (Stumps and invasive species)

CAPITAL:		TBC	£6K for small + Consumables	Already have equipment, just labour	£2400 + consumables	FREE	£1000 + consumables	Already have equipment + consumables	FREE	Already have equipment + consumables
LOCATION	TYPE	HOT FOAM	HOT WATER	MULCHING	MECHANICAL BRUSHING	HAND	HOT BURNER	MECH. WEEDING (STRIMMING)	DO NOTHING	PESTICIDES
WAKEFIELD WALK	BORDERS	8 VISITS	8 VISITS	YES	NO	16 VISITS	NO	NO	YES	2 VISITS
SPRING LANE	PATHS/HARD SURFACES	8 VISITS	8 VISITS	NO	YES	16 VISITS	8 VISITS	16 VISITS	YES	2 VISITS
HAWKINGE	CHANNELS	8 VISITS	8 VISITS	NO	NO	16 VISITS	NO	16 VISITS	YES	2 VISITS



Any questions?