

(20th Nov 19) This Council resolves to:

Move towards phasing out the use of all pesticides and weed killers in council owned parks, gardens and play areas. Trial pesticide-free alternatives to control weeds in these areas. These might include; biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds.

To report the outcomes of these trials to the Climate and Ecological Emergency working group for discussion and recommendation within 12 months.

Grant an exception to the above 'phasing out' regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. For these plants glyphosate will be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.

Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other means or where invasive plants are too small to be stem injected.

It is recognized that herbicides are required for the control of weeds in fine turf such as bowling greens and tennis courts. Any chemical use will be kept to an absolute minimum and alternative methods of control, trialled when and if they become available.

Write to the secretary of state for the environment to inform the government of this Council's opposition to glyphosate-based pesticides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out use once trials have been concluded and viable alternatives have been introduced for weed control across the District.

Current Position

Year	Litres
2015	50
2016	70
2017	30
2018	75
2019	17
2020	11
2021	14.5

Application type	Glyphosate (L) 2019 to 2021 Total use
Paths/hardstanding	17.92
Invasive weeds	13.15
Cemetery strips	8.93
Preparing flower beds	1.66
Sport Areas	1.2
Totals:	42.86

Alternative Options

- Hot Foam – machinery starts at £25k and needs an additional mule (10k for petrol, 15k electric) to move around effectively. Does not take into account cost to replenish foam materials and run mule. Expect at least 3 times more visits than pesticide application, plus increase in carbon footprint from running diesel mule and large diesel engine to run hot foam machine.
- Hot Water - machinery starts at £30k for diesel and 50k for electric plus mule. and needs an additional mule to move around effectively. Machinery is large and struggle to get into smaller footpaths. Does not take into account cost to replenish materials and run mule. Expect at least 6 times more visits than pesticide application, plus increase in carbon footprint from running diesel mule and large diesel engine to water machine. Water is dispensed at 2bar which may damage pathways.
- Mechanical Removal (hand) – considerable labour increase.
- Mechanical Removal (mechanical brush) - does not effectively kill roots, so needs considerably more visits. Can also cause considerable damage to paths, machinery is cheap. So may be a good low cost option for one off applications in tight spaces. HAVS implications as well as carbon footprint of running machine.
- Hot Burner – cheap and has been on the market for a long time, dangerous and proven to be ineffective on a industrial scale.
- Strimming – does not kill roots, so needs considerably more visits. It takes more time, uses extra petrol so increases carbon footprint and increases HAVS exposure to operator. Also risk of damage to components.
- Mulching – suitable only for flower beds and borders where current use is low, this is already used as appropriate.
- Electric Thermal – machinery starts at xk . A voltage of 8000-15000v is passed through the plant to effectively burn the root. Risks associated with this are considered to be very high, in a similar manner to the hot burner.
- Cemeteries –allow for naturalised areas within churchyards.

• **BEST OPTION – HOT FOAM – £67-£99K CAPITAL PLUS £20K REVENUE**

Trialled & Demos

Electric hedgecutter – limited power (new growth only) and battery life is still an issue.

Electric blower – limited power and battery life is still an issue. We do have a few of these for some teams.

Electric Chainsaw – limited power and battery life, we have brought a number of these for teams that use infrequently.

Groomer – cylinder mower and collector which would be good for fine turf (Kingsnorth and sports pitches).

Petrol version £7000 – Electric Version £13,000 (potential to replace 2).

Power Barrow - Petrol version £3000 – Electric Version £6,000 (potential to replace 2)

Zenith Ride Own Mower - Petrol version £23000 – Electric Version £33,000 (potential to replace 2)

Mule – Petrol/Diesel version £9000 – Electric Version £15,000 (potential to replace 3)

STIGA pedestrian mower Petrol/Diesel version £700 – Electric Version £1500 (early demos deemed not suitable).

ACS Pedestrian mower (to be trialled next week)

Vans – range and payload difficulties.