September 2023

Appendix C

Atworth Parish Council

Weed control policy on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides on public land maintained by the parish council

Why we need to treat weeds

Weeds growing on pavements and public land maintained by Atworth Parish Council can be unsightly as well as causing potential structural damage, trip hazards and slowing/preventing water drainage on roads. Weed growth typically surges during the spring and summer. In order to control such growth, the most effective and efficient way at present is to treat weeds with a herbicide, the resulting 'die-back' being removed a couple of weeks later through scheduled road cleaning.

On the use of glyphosate

Atworth Parish Council is committed to seeking alternatives to the use of glyphosate. However, until a suitable alternative can be identified which is effective (in terms of results, safety, cost-effectiveness etc) there will be limited occasions whereby it will be necessary to use a glyphosate-based herbicide to control weed growth (such as late spring and mid-summer). Where such action is required, the controlled application of a glyphosate-based herbicide will be done solely by the Parish Steward. This will be in accordance with the relevant Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Code of Practice (i.e. Guidance for those affected by the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012)[1]. In addition, such application will only take place where suitable weather conditions prevail i.e. it will not be undertaken during wet or windy weather conditions.

Phasing out the use of glyphosate-based herbicides

Atworth Parish Council recognises the concerns of parishioners in the use of glyphosate-based herbicides. It is actively working towards identifying other methodologies that can be adopted to control weed growth but which meet the criteria in being safe, effective and with minimal adverse effects to the environment. We are

References:

1. Codes of Practice Home (hse.gov.uk)
2. Agenda item - Notice of Motion - Herbicides | Wiltshire Council

therefore closely monitoring developments by Wiltshire Council on this subject[2]. At present, until a viable alternative(s) is identified, we cannot provide a timetable as to when the use of glyphosate-based herbicides will end.