

Boxted Parish Council

POLICY ON THE USE OF PESTICIDES ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND

1. Policy

The Parish Council supports a reduction in the use of glyphosate pesticides on Parish Council land, and their eventual elimination. Until effective alternatives are available, the Parish Council adopts a pragmatic and realistic approach by carefully managing their continued use in some areas, replacing them in other areas while continuing to work towards their eventual elimination. Where glyphosate pesticides are used, the Council will work towards the application of pesticides by a system which reduces spray drift and runoff (called a condensed droplet application) by 2030.

2. Policy Implementation

1. To use glyphosate pesticides to treat invasive weeds such as Japanese Knot Weed.

The application of Glyphosate would be by specialist companies contracted by the Council to treat the weeds and at an appropriate concentrate to be effective.

Occurrences of Japanese Knot Weed will be reported to Colchester City Council.

2. To replace the use of glyphosate pesticides on “soft” surfaces (grass/verge/hedging) with strimming and hand weeding by the Council groundsman. These “soft” surfaces are where the use of pesticides could potentially affect the environment.

3. To use glyphosate pesticides only on “hard” surfaces where the use of pesticides would have little effect on the environment. For example, concrete/rubber/plainings/tarmac.

4. Where glyphosate or similar pesticide is used, the application should only be undertaken by a qualified individual, on a minimum number of occasions in a year, and with the lowest concentrate to be effective, with appropriate records of application being maintained. At present, the Council only permits the use of these chemicals through its Grounds Contractor. They are responsible for meeting all legal obligations, qualifications, record keeping, and PPE, in the application of glyphosate. Whilst glyphosate or similar is used signage will be displayed saying men at work – spraying. Glyphosate is applied as a spray and is safe when dried.

5. Glyphosate will not be used on the Village Green.

6. The sports clubs that use Council owned land will not be permitted to use glyphosate or similar.