

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	13 th July 2023 7pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 Weed Control		
Background	<p>30th July 2020 a report on the use of glyphosate was taken to the former community and environment committee.</p> <p>Glyphosate, which is commonly known by brands such as Roundup, is the most widely used herbicide in the world used to kill weeds and other “undesirable” plants.</p> <p>Glyphosate has been the subject of several debates about its safe use in public spaces.</p> <p>The International Agency for Research on Cancer (I.A.R.C.), which is part of the World Health Organisation, coordinates and conducts both epidemiological and laboratory research into the causes of human cancer.</p> <p>Back On 13th November 2019, David McGifford, the Chief Officer, Ruth Burgess, the Streetscape Manager and Councillor Robert Douglas had a meeting with Mrs Lisa Miller about her concerns regarding the use of glyphosate.</p> <p>On 23rd January 2020, all present at that meeting had a follow-up meeting at which Cheshire East Highways and Ansa Environmental Services Limited also attended.</p> <p>During those meetings, Congleton Town Council gave a verbal commitment that glyphosate would not be used in future in children’s play areas and the fencing areas which surround them.</p> <p>On 18th June 2020, Ruth Burgess advised the Town Councillors at the Town Hall and Assets Committee Meeting that the use of herbicides by Congleton Town Council has now been reduced by about 75%. Furthermore, the remaining 25% is sprayed with a product which does not contain Glyphosate and the main ingredient is vinegar.</p> <p>Outcomes of the use of the new product:</p> <p>Our new weed spray is effective however requires two treatments and in some areas three treatments to have the same effect as the glyphosate weed spray. Which increases the costs, the product is a very similar price.</p> <p>We are aware of 48 councils that are Pesticides and/or glyphosate bans or phase-out commitments around the UK –</p>		

	<p>Pesticide-Free Towns - success stories - Pesticide Action Network UK (pan-uk.org)</p> <p>Ansa Environmental Services are also using the new product (New Way Spray) and have been for the last two years on all their areas which they are responsible for within Cheshire East.</p> <p>Cheshire easy highways use glyphosate-contained weed spray “We use Glyphosate to treat most weeds and we trim around street furniture. Glyphosate is safe if used under manufacturer’s instructions and by trained personnel.”</p>
Next Steps	<p>To recognise the Town Council has already reduced its use of the herbicide by 75% in the past few years, and also now stopped purchasing weed spray which contains glyphosate.</p> <p>To work towards eliminating the use of pesticides/herbicides in the near future.</p>
Environmental impact	<p>Glyphosate has been considered a relatively safe compound in the environment because of its rapid inactivation in soil by adsorption and degradation. However, owing to its extensive use, concerns and studies on the behaviour of glyphosate in plants and the environment are growing.</p>
Financial Impact	<p>Without the use of pesticides/ herbicides, more staff hours will be required to keep the same standards.</p>
Equality Impact	<p>Children playing may be particularly affected by glyphosate in parks and play areas, so will benefit the most from its removal.</p>
Proposal	<p>To recognise the Town Council has already reduced its use of the herbicide by 75% in the past few years, and also now stopped purchasing weed spray which contains glyphosate.</p> <p>To work towards eliminating the use of pesticides/herbicides in the near future.</p>