



GLYPHOSATE USE IN VENTNOR

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 49/22

13 JUNE 2022

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to decide on the use of glyphosate use in the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance contract.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council agreed at its meeting of 11 April to ban the use of Glyphosate for weed control in the non-ornamental areas of its Grounds Maintenance contract following an estimation of the costs of changing to a safe alternative.
 - b) The Clerk and Assistant Clerk met with the manager of the contract and requested a list of the areas within the contract in which glyphosate is currently used and the anticipated cost of changing to a safe alternative.
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2) COST IMPLICATIONS

- a) Glyphosate is currently used by the contractor in nine of the 19 areas included in the Town Council's contract: Eastern Gardens, Flowers Brook, Havens Bush, North Street playground, Salisbury Gardens, Steephill Down, Victoria Corner, the Cascade and Westcliffs.
 - b) The yearly charge for the use of Glyphosate in these areas is £129.
 - c) The cost of a safe alternative would be £260 per application but would require up to five applications per year compared with one for Glyphosate, giving a potential yearly cost of £1,300, an increase of £1,171.
 - d) The Grounds Maintenance for Ventnor Park is currently delivered within the Isle of Wight Council's contract with John O'Connor and recharged to the Town Council.
 - e) The current annual cost of Glyphosate use in the Park is £356 compared to the per application cost of the safe alternative of £1,068 giving an annual potential cost of the five times a year required application of £5,340, an annual increase of £4,984.
 - f) Members need to be aware that if the Isle of Wight Council moved to adopt the safe alternative that cost would be passed on to the Town Council and the same would apply if the Town Council took on the contract directly.
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3) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

- a) The Town Council is not responsible for and has no control over the control of weeds on road verges and footpaths in the town.
 - b) The Freedom of Information request by Councillor Mark Jefferies to the Isle of Wight Council has established that Glyphosate is specified within the Island Roads' contract documentation in the Method Statement area.
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4) RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- i) confirm the decision of its meeting of 11 April to ban the use of Glyphosate the areas within the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract; paragraph
 - ii) agree the estimated costs of changing to a safe alternative as identified in paragraph 2c of Report 49/22 for this meeting; and
 - iii) determine its approach to the use of Glyphosate in Ventnor Park.
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