

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20200615**
Date FOI Received: **26/10/2020**
Department: **Parks**
Title: **Glyphosate for weed control**
Description: **Mowing regime for road verges and weed control**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

1. On the road verge network you are responsible for maintaining, are you or your services contractor implementing a mowing regime to benefit wild flowers?
 - If yes, can you outline your management practices (e.g. cutting verges later in the year, cutting them less often, collecting the arisings).
 - If not, are you or your contractor planning on implementing one from 2021 or beyond?
2. If you or your contractor are implementing such a scheme, what has prompted you to do so (eg. cost savings, reduced CO2 emissions, the impacts of the pandemic)? What benefits, if any, have you seen? And what, if any, problems have you encountered?
3. If you or your contractor have not implemented one, what, if any, reasons are preventing you (eg, safety concerns, lack of information, resident views)?
4. What is your approach to using glyphosate for weed control?

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

1. No.
- 1c. No. Our wildflower areas are within are park and open space amenity areas.
2. In our parks, this is carried out for the promotion of habitat for insects, butterflies and bees. This is important as animals such as birds and bats feed off the insects and to increase the populations of bees and butterflies. This is an essential component of the food chain. Without pollination people would not enjoy many foods that have become vital in our daily existence. Nearly 75 percent of the food crops worldwide hinge on on these pollinators, consequently, their existence and health affect the food production.
3. Historically Hertsmere has focussed on wildflower areas being within parks and amenity open spaces which are larger areas that can benefit from wildflowers.
4. We use them on our lower profile shrub beds for control of weed growth. This is necessary in order to ensure all shrubs beds are maintained to a satisfactory standard across the borough. Glyphosate is also used on areas of footpath during edging operations of grass.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services

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