

# AMENDMENT TO AGENDA ITEM 12 (A) - PESTICIDE USE - PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

## PESTICIDE AMENDMENT

1. Pesticides
  - a. In Par 4, line 3, insert "including Portsmouth" after UK
  - b. Insert new paragraph 5, thus.

Council welcomes the work that has occurred since 2018 to cut their use. This includes:

- Stopping the use of the MMC pro chemical to treat areas of moss
  - Stopping the use of the Dicophar chemical to treat weedy grassed areas
  - Trialling the use of soda crystals in 2018 and Foamstream in 2019
  - Designing out the need to use any chemicals at all through:
    - Reducing over planting
    - Ensuring repairs are done well first time, so not allowing weeds to grow
    - Using bulk mulch as a natural suppressant while plants are growing
    - Using Westermann weed ripper machines and long-handled scrapers and as an alternative to pesticides
    - Using battery-operated equipment including hedge cutters, strimmers and blowers
    - Backing new wildflower meadows across the city, for instance at Tamworth Park and Lake Road
- c. Insert new paragraph 6, thus:

Council notes the work that has already been done to remove pesticides in total. It also notes the issues working with the alternative machinery required to do this pose, in particular the increased risk of manual handling injuries such as Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome. Council recognises the importance of keeping its workers safe.

- d. Insert new Par 7, thus:

Council notes that many of the pesticide 'bans' have been done over a period of time. For instance:

- Green-run Brighton and Hove taking three years;
- Labour-run Bristol and Cambridge taking two years;
- Trafford - when the Conservatives were the biggest party - and Lib Dem Colchester taking a year.

(Source: <https://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-towns-success-stories/>)

- e. Para 5 (to be new para 8) Delete all and including from the word " immediately" and replace with: "go further and support the banning of all forms of pesticides used on all areas of land under the authorities' control in principle "
- f. Insert new Par 9, thus:

Council asks Cabinet to report at the earliest opportunity on the practical implications of doing that, in particular:

- The cost of achieving this and from where the money can be found
- How we can maintain worker safety, especially through compliance with the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005
- The concerns those who would implement this scheme have raised around how to treat objects such as gravestones and Japanese Knotweed

Motion now to read

At last count, 38 different toxic pesticides were being used in UK towns and cities. They are sprayed in parks, playgrounds and other green spaces, road verges, pavements and around shopping centres, hospitals and schools. Almost all of the pesticides used are weed killers designed to do nothing more than keep places looking 'neat and tidy'.

These chemicals are linked to an array of health problems including cancer, asthma, birth defects and reproductive issues. Vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant mothers and the elderly are particularly at risk.

Wildlife such as bees, birds and hedgehogs are increasingly seeking refuge in our towns and cities. However, the overuse of pesticides in urban areas is contaminating the natural resources that they depend upon. Our pets can also be susceptible to pesticide poisoning.

But urban pesticide use is unnecessary. There are many viable and cost-effective non-chemical alternatives available and more than 60 towns and cities across the UK including Portsmouth have already taken action to end or significantly reduce their pesticide use.

Council welcomes the work that has occurred since 2018 to cut their use. This includes:

- Stopping the use of the MMC pro chemical to treat areas of moss
- Stopping the use of the Dicophar chemical to treat weedy grassed areas
- Trialling the use of soda crystals in 2018 and Foamstream in 2019
- Designing out the need to use any chemicals at all through:
  - Reducing over planting
  - Ensuring repairs are done well first time, so not allowing weeds to grow
  - Using bulk mulch as a natural suppressant while plants are growing
  - Using Westermann weed ripper machines and long-handled scrapers and as an alternative to pesticides
  - Using battery-operated equipment including hedge cutters, strimmers and blowers

- Backing new wildflower meadows across the city, for instance at Tamworth Park and Lake Road

Council notes the work that has already been done to remove pesticides in total. It also notes the issues working with the alternative machinery required to do this pose, in particular the increased risk of manual handling injuries such as Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome. Council recognises the importance of keeping its workers safe.

Council notes that many of the pesticide 'bans' have been done over a period of time, such as:

- Green-run Brighton and Hove taking three years;
- Labour-run Bristol and Cambridge taking two years;
- Trafford - when the Conservatives were the biggest party - and Lib Dem Colchester taking a year.

(Source: <https://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-towns-success-stories/>)

This council calls on the administration to go further and support the banning of all forms of pesticides used on all areas of land under the authorities' control in principle.

Council asks Cabinet to report at the earliest opportunity on the practical implications of doing that, in particular:

- The cost of achieving this and from where the money can be found
- How we can maintain worker safety, especially through compliance with the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005
- The concerns those who would implement this scheme have raised around gravestones and Japanese Knotweed.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Darren Sanders

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Dave Ashmore