

Reducing the Use of Pesticides on Council Land Scrutiny Review Questionnaire.

Milton Neighbourhood Forum

Please answer the following questions as far as you can. All responses are useful so leave questions unanswered if you need to.

- 1. Does your organisation have a policy about the use of pesticides? If so, please can you share it with us?**

no

- 2. Have you done any research into what works to manage vegetation/ gardens and other green spaces without using pesticides? If so, can we see them?**

no

3. What actions do you think organisations that own /manage land in Portsmouth should take?

	Actions	By when	Comments including evidence of what works
Reducing total amount of use of pesticides (including Glyphosate used).	yes	asap	
Reducing the dosage used.			
Reducing the places where pesticides are used.			
Reducing the frequency of use			
Using alternative pesticide free solutions	yes	asap	

4. Please suggest the principles that should guide any new policy that the council might choose to adopt. This could include any exceptional situations where pesticides might be necessary, the use of alternatives, the extent to which unmanaged green spaces should be extended etc.

Insect life is deteriorating so rapidly due to climate change, it is essential that steps are taken to cease application of pesticides, another reason for reduction in their numbers, from the City.

Swifts which feed solely on insects have deserted the city whereas they used to be in quantity on Milton Common.

The Council put pheromone traps in bramble bushes on Milton Common some years ago. This was to kill the Brown Tail Moth which was harmless unless touched and few people would come into contact with them. The Council ignored the fact that Brown Tail Moth was the food of the cuckoos which visited the Common every year. The year before the traps were put out, 7 birds were in occupation but none have been there since.

I therefore, ask that not only glyphosate and other chemicals are not used but **also pheromone traps**. The aim should be to preserve as many different species of insect in this city to allow birds to feed their young on caterpillars etc, allow butterfly eggs to pupate and provide flying insects for the existing bat population, swifts, etc.

Comments

We do not own or control any land as an association, so have no policy on management of such spaces, though I did start a discussion on our neighbourhood Facebook page and it is safe to say that with the exception of the control of Japanese Knotweed, no participant was in favour of the widespread use of pesticides/herbicides on public spaces.

There were concerns about harm to pets and to wildlife, especially insects, comments about leaving things to grow more than PCC has done in the past, wishful memories of the days when people maintained the space outside their properties themselves. Most of the debate related to herbicides for control of pavement weeds and the like – with strong reservations about their widespread use. There was little or no opinion on vermin control – so I would say PCC's current policies are not upsetting anyone in that area.

I know this is vague and anecdotal, but I hope it helps inform your policy. If you have specific suggestions or ideas that you need feedback upon, do let me know or, if you prefer, ask the community direct – just post your question on the Keep Milton Green Facebook page. I have copied Cllr. Barrett as she obviously has an interest in this area but is also one of the Admin's for Keep Milton Green so she can watch out for any relevant discussions.

Contact details

Redacted.