

Wiltshire Council

Council

25 February 2020

Notice of Motion No.19 – Herbicides

From Councillors Ian Thorn and Ruth Hopkinson

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with the constitution:

Introduction

Wiltshire Council controls weeds on its rural verges by flailing and pulling. Urban shrub beds and certain amenity areas are strimmed to control weed growth. The Sparkle Gangs and Parish Stewards all undertake manual weed removal.

The Council uses pavement and road sweepers to manually remove weeds. The council has purchased two weed rippers this year to enhance that service.

It also uses a glyphosate-based herbicide which is increasingly associated with several forms of cancer. It has been banned or restricted in many countries including France, Denmark and The Netherlands. Many UK local authorities are seeking ways to phase out the use of glyphosate-based herbicides. Others have voted to totally phase out its use.

Proposal

This Council calls on the administration to set out a plan that will actively consider alternatives and a timetable for the end of the use of glyphosate-based herbicides.