

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held via Zoom teleconferencing facility on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr P Clist (Chairman), Cllr P Bisset, Cllr J Deane, Cllr J Lees, Cllr Ms Z Parker.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Mrs L Farrow (Town Mayor), Cllr S Dewey, Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr D Budd (Grounds Manager) and Mrs S Fisher (Committee Administrator). There were 7 members of the public present and no members of the press.

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded and the recording would be retained until the minutes of the meeting had been approved. There were no objections.

G 1391 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

G 1392 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Matthews.

G 1393 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 1394 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

G 1395 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members agreed an amendment to item G 1321 as the minutes stated the working party would liaise with organisations regarding their comments. This was not what had been agreed, the working party was to look at their comments and publish a response. It was agreed that the minutes should be amended to reflect this. The wording of the final sentence should therefore be changed to: '... and it was noted that, as part of its remit, the Working Party should consider all responses submitted to the public consultation and tabulate its response to the comments made'.

RESOLVED that, subject to the agreed amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 14th January 2021 be received and approved

G 1396

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

A representative of the Petersfield Rugby Football Club gave an update regarding the club's plans to install static training stations at the club. One area would be covered with a tent for outside training and it was proposed that a shipping container be installed with a horizontal climbing wall and a rope climb. The facilities would be permanent and available for use by the community. The club will submit a pre-application to planning to explore feasibility and the matter will be considered more fully as an agenda item at March's Grounds meeting.

G 1397

GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and noted the Grounds report for February 2021 from the Grounds Manager (*see appendix A*). The Grounds Manager reported that visitor numbers to the Heath had decreased with the closure of the car parks although there were still some visitors using the car parks (other than staff of the Little School). Instances of anti-social behaviour were down, but CCTV had captured 2 teenage girls climbing over and through the football club's fence.

A question was raised regarding the preparation of a management plan for the Ramshill estate. It was noted that the previous plan was comprehensive although it requires updating and the issue of trees on the estate requires attention. The Grounds Manager is waiting for a response from East Hampshire District Council's planning department regarding the requirements for a new management plan, once this clarification is received a working party will be formed to look at updating the previous management plan and adding to it in relation to the trees on the estate. Andy Moffatt, tree warden, is a resident of the estate and could assist with this work.

It is unclear whether the football season will be able to resume, matches are unlikely to re-start for the Petersfield Town Juniors Football club but some training over the summer may take place and it is unlikely that their 6-a side tournament will be held. The summer maintenance schedule for the Grounds team is unlikely to be impacted.

G 1398

GOODYER MEADOW MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Town Clerk has approached Jenny Edbrooke regarding the preparation of a management plan for the Goodyer Meadow, she is available to carry out the work later this year. An initial biodiversity study has been carried out, the Town Clerk will share this with members. Cllr P Bisset has also carried out some research which will be shared with Jenny Edbrooke, as well as the plans for a memorial tree glade. The proposal for the memorial tree glade will be presented again to March's Grounds meeting.

G 1399

REVIEW OF CLOSURE OF HEATH CAR PARKS

The decision to close the car parks at the Heath was taken in order to deter visitors to the Heath and reduce visitor numbers, especially visitors from outside the local area. It is clear that the number of visitors has dropped but that there are problems with cars parking along Heath Rd and Russell Way in particular, causing difficulties for access. It would be very difficult to block off the car parks completely and it was noted that a small number of visitors were ignoring the car park closures. Staff of the Little School require use of the Heath Rd car park and that previous issues had been focussed on the Sussex Rd car park.

RESOLVED **members reviewed the closure of the Heath car parks and decided to maintain the closure of the Sussex Road car park but to re-open the car park at Heath Road; the decision will be reviewed at March's Grounds meeting**

G 1400

WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW THE POLICY FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND

The proposed terms of reference (*see appendix B*) suggested that membership of the working party should include Cllrs P Bisset and J Matthews and the Projects Officer.

RESOLVED **that the Terms of Reference of the Working Party to review the Policy for Council Owned Land be approved**

G 1401

TABLE TENNIS

Members were extremely grateful for the kind offer from a local benefactor to provide an outdoor table tennis table. However, the proposed location next to the Plump Duck café at the Heath was not suitable due to the slope and soil erosion and the draft management plan suggests planting trees in this area to address the problem. There were also concerns about increasing the urbanisation of the Heath and a possible increase of anti-social behaviour. Neither the Avenue nor Penns Place were thought to be appropriate either. Members therefore expressed thanks for the generous offer but concluded that a suitable location could not be identified.

G 1402

TREE WARDENS

Members received and considered the list of possible tree wardening activities (*see appendix C*). Standing Orders were suspended to allow Phil Paulo to address the meeting, he explained that the group hope to put together a strategy which dovetails with both the Town and District Council's work. Members thanked the tree warden group and volunteers and agreed that this was an excellent basis for the group's

work. The Town Clerk will contact the Town Council's insurers to extend public liability insurance to cover the tree warden volunteers.

G 1403

BELL HILL PLAY AREA FENCING

Members received and considered the quotations to replace the wooden fencing in the Bell Hill toddler play area with bow top fencing (*see appendix D*). The existing fencing is rotten and is being damaged, bow top fencing would be more permanent and fits in with the fencing at other Town Council play area sites.

RECOMMENDED that Contractor A be chosen to supply and deliver the bow top fencing for the Bell Hill toddler play area at a cost of £3,367,25 plus VAT with the funds coming from Capital Earmarked Reserves

G 1404

PESTICIDES POLICY

The Grounds Manager reported that, since the introduction of the Pesticides policy, 900ml of glyphosate had been used across Town Council sites. It has been used sparingly and only in locations of need. Signs are always put up to advise the public of the use of pesticides. Members congratulated the Grounds Manager on the reduction and thanked him for his hard work, it was noted that previously there had been 4 sprays per annum but this was reduced to 2. There have not been any complaints regarding weeds on Town Council land but it was noted that there had been complaints received about Hampshire County Council's use of pesticides. It was agreed that the Town Clerk will contact the District and County Councillors to advise them that they will be asked for an update regarding their pesticides policies at this month's Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the Pesticides Policy is approved (*see appendix E*) and is to be reviewed again in two years' time, in February 2023

Members agreed that the good news regarding the reduction in pesticide use by the Town Council should be communicated to residents by a press release.

RESOLVED that a Press Release be prepared to communicate the Town Council's reduction in pesticide use

The alternatives options to pesticides involve expensive equipment and their results are not conclusive nor was it clear that they justified the expenditure.

G 1405

UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATING TO RAMSHILL ESTATE

The issue with regard to Town Council grounds maintenance vehicles accessing Skinners Farm Lane is still ongoing. Members agreed that

completion of the transfer of ownership of the lane cannot take place until it has been resolved and agreed that the line being pursued by the Town Council was appropriate although the possibility of a deed of easement across a footpath for access should be explored. Taylor Wimpey have put forward a possible solution involving access via the Radian housing car park but this is being investigated. County Councillor R Oppenheimer has been involved and is trying to help resolve the issues.

It was noted that there were potential uses for the kick about area on the estate to be explored at a later date.

CONFIDENTIAL

There were no confidential matters to discuss.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.49 p.m.

Grounds Report February 2021



This report seeks to inform councillors of matters of interest affecting any of the public open space land which we own or manage. Members are reminded that its contents are not available for debate, but questions can always be asked and we will seek to answer them, however it should be borne in mind that if they involve the need for investigation or would be complex or lengthy, answers will need to be given outside of the meeting. If councillors consider that any matter on the report is in need of debate, the subject can be added to a future meeting's agenda for this purpose.

The Heath

- February maintenance schedule.

Love Lane Playing Fields

- February pitch maintenance rugby/football (conditions dependent)
- Skate park repairs.

Penns Farm Playing Fields

- February pitch maintenance schedule (conditions dependent).

Bell Hill Recreation Ground

- February maintenance schedule.
- Replace wooden fencing in play area.

Paddock Way

- February maintenance schedule.

Woods Meadow

- February maintenance schedule.

Ramshill

- February maintenance schedule

Borough Rd

- February maintenance schedule

High Meadow

- February maintenance schedule

Avenue

- February maintenance schedule

ASB

- Green for all sites.

Dugg Budd
Grounds Manager
7th January 2021

TOR for the PTC Grounds Policy Working Group

Aim: Write the policy for Council Owned Land in Petersfield to provide a framework to inform the Grounds Committee on managing council owned land.

This will provide guidance and justification of the aims of the Committee and define its role, provide specific guidance on how to achieve these aims and provide a means of controlling the work of the Grounds Committee.

The policy will also consider how PTC can influence green space management throughout the town.

The working group will consist of (Jamie, Steve, Peter?)

Draft to be presented to the March Grounds Committee and following consultation be presented to the April Grounds Committee for approval and forwarding to Council.

The working group will:

- look at existing policies and those developed by similar bodies and relevant local bodies like EHDC, HCC, SDNP and how ours will coexist
- look at how the policy will support implementation of the PNP
- incorporating up to date thinking on climate change, biodiversity, public health,
- incorporate ideas from the existing site specific management plans
- co-opt additional members on to the working group if it is considered beneficial
- consider how the policy will be implemented (employ countryside officer?)
- consider how the implementation of the policy will be monitored and how its effects will be evaluated
- consider provision for updating and revision

Tree Wardening for Petersfield - possible activities

Name:

Activity	Interested (Y/N)
1. Organising and/or participating in annual tree planting programmes; offering support and maintenance for the first years after planting; identifying sites for further tree planting	
2. Monitoring general tree health (e.g. ash dieback disease, fallen trees after storms) across the parish; reporting on damage to trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders or in Conservation Areas	
3. Mapping veteran and ancient trees in and around Petersfield parish	
4. Evaluating planning proposals for tree care or removal of trees in the Conservation area, or for trees designated with Tree Preservation Orders	
5. Giving talks to school children on the value of trees; taking townsfolk on guided walks	
6. Taking part in Citizen Science projects that are tree themed	
7. Generally enthusing people about trees and providing a conduit for tree information to share with parishioners. For example, contributing articles about trees to Petersfield Post, Petersfield Pulse, Shine Radio and other media, staffing stalls at Fayres and Fetes; making contact with other Petersfield Groups such as U3A, Allotment Associations, Gardeners' Club, etc.	
8. Any other activities – please list below.	



Grounds Committee

Bell Hill Play Area – Bow Top Fencing

Background

The wooden fencing to the toddler section of the Bell Hill Children's Play Area was installed in 2009 at the time the whole of the facility was refurbished. It is proposed to replace the current wooden fence with a more durable and long-lasting powder coated metal fence which should also reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

The existing fence has had a history of being vandalised with the wooden palings being kicked and broken on a regular basis. The posts are rotting in places and it is becoming increasingly difficult to be able to find secure nail holds when replacing the palings. Their condition has been picked up on the regular monthly equipment inspections undertaken, hence the need to replace them now.

There is expertise within the Grounds team to install the fencing, so quotations have been sought on a supply and delivery basis only.

Quote A

This company has not undertaken work for the Council previously although they have tendered for replacement play areas previously plus are well known & respected in the sector.

Their quotation is for the following:

- 14 sections of 2.75 metres length and 1.2m high bow topped fencing, galvanised with anti head entrapment and an intermediate post plus all bolts required.
- A 1.2m wide and 1.2m high orange premier spring assisted self closing gate for pedestrian access.
- A 1.2m high and 3m wide Premier safe self closing gate for vehicular access with lockable and removable centre post powder coated in orange.
- Delivery

The total cost quoted is **£3,367.25** plus VAT

Quote B

This company has done some work for the Council previously that was fully satisfactory and is well known and respected in this particular field.

Their quotation is for the following:

- 44.8 metres of bow top panels 1.15m high galvanised and powder coated in green, supplied in 16 panels with 16 posts plus 2 support legs per bay and all bolts required.
- An additional line/end post 1.7m long.
- Single leaf pedestrian gate 1.2m wide and 1.15m high with lockable side latch, curved handles with welded ball ends supplied with 2 gate end posts.
- Double leaf vehicular access gate 3m wide and 1.15m high with lockable side latch, curved handles with welded ball ends supplied with 2 gate end posts.
- Touch up paint tin
- Delivery

The total cost quoted is **£3,765.29** plus VAT

Quote C

This company is a new one to the Council that was located by the Grounds Manager. Within their letterhead they state that they are a Local Authority and Ministry of Defence approved contractor.

Their quotation is for the following:

- 14 bow top railings fencing panels including posts and bolts at 1.2m high.
- Self closing pedestrian gate at 1.2m high and 1.2m width
- Self closing vehicular double leaf access gate at 1.2m high and 3m width.
- Delivery

The total cost quoted is **£3,797.34** plus VAT

Financial Considerations

Funds to pay for this work are held in Capital Earmarked Reserves as part of the annual accrual to support the provision of play equipment. With this being an item of capital expenditure, the final approval of the work and the choice of contractor must be confirmed by Council following the recommendation of this committee.

The requirements of the Council's Financial Standing Orders has been met in seeking 3 quotations for this work.

No investigations have been made into the financial standing of any of the contractors in view of the relatively modest cost of the proposed works.

Recommendation

There is little to choose between any of the quotations on price. Having had discussions with the Grounds Manager the suggested contractor is 'Contractor A' based on price and also the style of gates which is preferred.

It is recommended that Contractor A be chosen to supply and deliver the bow top fencing for the Bell Hill Toddler play area at a cost of £3,367.25 plus VAT with the funds coming from Capital Earmarked Reserves.

Neil Hitch
Town Clerk
1st February 2021



POLICY FOR COUNCIL USE OF PESTICIDES IN PETERSFIELD

**Approved February 2021
Minute number G1404 refers
Review date: February 2023**

Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	2
2. Why do we still use pesticides at all?	2
3. Environmental Considerations	3
4. Alternatives to Pesticide Use	4
5. Pesticide Free Parks	5
6. What pesticides will we use	5
7. Glyphosate	6
8. How will we limit the effects of the pesticides that we do have to use	7
9. Who will apply pesticides	7
10. Legal Requirements	8
11. Grounds Maintenance Specifications	8

12. Third Party Owners	8
13. How will we monitor the use of pesticides on our sites?	9

Pesticide Policy - The use of Pesticides for Grounds Maintenance

1. Introduction

- i. Petersfield Town Council aims to provide a high standard of grounds maintenance for all of its sites.
- ii. These sites include Petersfield Heath, recreation grounds, sports fields, open spaces, play areas, commons, Nature Reserves and allotments.
- iii. To achieve these high standards, in the past a heavy reliance has been made on the use of pesticides. This included herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides, collectively known as "pesticides".
- iv. With the ever-increasing awareness of the environmental and undesirable effects of pesticides, both to the staff concerned with applying them, the general public and the environment as a whole, alternative methods are being identified and researched at all times, and strict controls are being made by the Council on those pesticides that are still being applied to our sites.
- v. It is the aim of the Council to stop using pesticides, by a phased reduction of use on its land, although at present it may not always be possible to cut out the use of pesticide control altogether. The amount of pesticide used in parks, recreation grounds and open spaces within the town's sites is already very limited, and chemicals used are considered, with our current knowledge, as those that will have least effect on the environment.
- vi. This policy for the use of pesticides identifies how we propose to reduce, monitor and control the use of pesticides, using alternative methods wherever possible.
- vii. This policy relates to pesticides used in Petersfield Town Council owned parks and open spaces, but does not include land owned and maintained by East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council. However, wherever possible we will encourage pesticide free / reduced pesticide use across the town.

2. Why do we still use pesticides at all?

- i. Although every effort will be made to use non-chemical control, there will still be some areas where alternative methods are not currently available or effective. Wherever this is the case, integrated control will be practised wherever possible, i.e., a combination of cultural and pesticide use, to resolve a problem with the least effect on the environment.
- ii. One of the main areas where pesticides will still be used will be for maintaining fine turf areas such as sports pitches. These areas are maintained to a high standard to allow the

games to be played to a good standard. However, this use will be minimised and alternative methods used as a first choice where possible.

- iii. The use of lumbricides (worm killer) will not be approved at any of our sites, due to its detrimental effect on the environment, unless future “environmentally friendly” control methods are developed.
- iv. The use of pesticides will be permitted for the control of tree stump regrowth to restore and maintain valuable ecological grassland habitats and to stop the spread of invasive non-native trees. This will usually be in the form of pesticide plugs inserted into the stump. This may also be carried out for poisoning stumps following scrub clearance and for areas where stump grinding is not viable.
- v. Fungicides, to prevent and remove fungal attacks on grass, will be permitted due to necessity. However, grounds maintenance improvements such as increased aeration/brushing have and will continue to be increased in our grounds maintenance activities to reduce the occurrence of fungal attack and therefore reduce the need for fungicide application.
- vi. Selective herbicides will be permitted for use on fine turf and sports pitches to control broadleaf weeds. Selective weed killing will only take place where there is weed growth affecting the use of the area for sports, and will not be applied when there is not a weed problem. However hand weeding where possible will always be encouraged.
- vii. The maintenance of hard surfaces such as paths, garage blocks, highway weeds etc, on a large scale, may still require the use of herbicide where other methods cannot be used. However, when this operation is carried out, weeds will be individually targeted (reduced – volume spraying) by the applicator, therefore considerably reducing the amount of herbicide used, and preventing any excess herbicide being lost into the environment.
- viii. The use of gas pellets and other pesticides to control moles on sports pitches has not been used for a considerable period of time. Alternative mechanical traps will be used where control is **absolutely** essential for Health and Safety of sports users.
- ix. The only other occasion where pesticides will be applied is for one-off tasks. This may include where there is a particular weed problem with a shrub bed, where an area of land has to be cleared of perennial weeds for a particular purpose, or where an invasive weed, such as Japanese Knotweed, Parrots Feather, Giant Hogweed, Hemlock Water Dropwort etc has to be controlled.

On all these occasions, a pesticide will only be used if no alternative non pesticide option is suitable.

3. Environmental Considerations

- i. The use of pesticides can have a devastating effect on our environment and its biodiversity.

- ii. When used on hard surfaces, such as pavements, there is a possibility of run off or residues which can contaminate water courses and contaminate aquatic wildlife. They may kill plants which are beneficial and relied upon by birds, insects and other wildlife.
- iii. When used on soft surfaces, such as vegetation or grass swards, there is a possibility of spray drift and contamination of adjacent areas.
- iv. Many pesticides are highly persistent, meaning that they stay around in the soil for a long time, raising the likelihood that they could enter watercourses or aquifers.
- v. Due to large scale habitat loss in the countryside, and large scale pesticide use in agriculture, wildlife such as birds, insects and bees are seeking refuge in our towns. This makes it very important that within our areas, we create safe, pesticide reduced, or ideally free, areas.

4. Alternatives to Pesticide use

- i. Non chemical methods of pest / vegetation control will be used as a first choice wherever possible. The number of alternatives are currently limited, however with a growing trend towards reduced pesticide use, and with current concerns over the use of Glyphosate based products, it is likely that the number of alternatives will increase significantly in the future.
- ii. A selection of alternative control methods is shown below:

Method	Use	Advantages	Disadvantages
Hot Foam	Weeds in hard surfaces Moss on hard surfaces and play area safety surfacing, Grass growth around trees, non chemical graffiti removal.	Foam holds hot water against plant. Pesticide free. Can be used in all weather. Kills 95% of targeted weeds.	New technology – needs refinement. Expensive to purchase Additional cost of plant oil extract, diesel consumption and pollution.
Hot Water / Steam	Weeds in hard surfaces, play area surfacing, non chemical graffiti removal.	Lower initial purchase cost.	Requires more treatments as heat is not held onto the plant. Diesel consumption and pollution.
Propane / Flame gun	Weeds on hard surfaces	Relatively cheap to purchase	Health and Safety Risks. Not particularly effective.
Manual Weeding	Weeds in general	Very effective if done well. Low set up costs (excluding labour).	Very time consuming. Requires large amount of labour

			which adds to the cost.
Mulching – bark and or membrane.	Weed control within shrub borders, under trees etc.	Improves appearance of the site and retains moisture in the soil to aid plant growth.	Can be labour intensive. May be expensive depending on supply of material.
Mowing and hand pulling	Undesirable weeds in sensitive natural habitats and on farmland	No licence required and no damage to the environment	Can be labour intensive to carry out and expensive for disposal of specific species
Nematodes	Control of pests such as slugs.	Can be very effective. Does not have the negative visual effect of slug pellets or potential harmful effect on wildlife.	Can be expensive.
Intensive grazing	Undesirable weeds in sensitive natural habitats and on farmland	Wildlife friendly with sufficient control	Not suitable for all ground conditions and can damage sensitive soils.
Vinegar based solutions	Weeds in hard surfaces	No licence required for application.	Has been trialled, but has not been effective. Strong smell, can give operator headache.

5. Pesticide Free Parks

- i. The reasons for wishing to go pesticide free are numerous, but include:
 - a. Contamination of local water supplies
 - b. The potential impact of pesticides on human health, the environment, biodiversity and bee populations
 - c. Public concern
- ii. The aim of creating pesticide free parks is to create areas which are safe for children, adults and wildlife. These parks will be sign posted as “Pesticide Free” so that everyone knows that they can use the parks safely. When weed or pest control is needed, only environmentally friendly solutions will be used.

As these parks will become safe havens for wildlife, wherever possible we will also promote the creation of wildlife friendly habitats and pollinator plants.

6. What pesticides will we use

- i. We will continuously review the pesticides that we have to still use, taking into account trade literature reports and advisory reports from various bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive.
- ii. We will refer to and use information provided by the Pesticides Action Network (PAN) and the e UK Pesticide Guide.
- iii. Instances where the use of a pesticide *may* still be required after non chemical methods have been found to be unsuitable will include:

Control of weeds such as Knotweed, Hemlock Water dropWort, and Hogweed
 Control of weeds where no other solution currently exists i.e. sports turf weeds
 Control of weeds inaccessible by other solutions
 Control of hazardous pests such as Brown tail moth caterpillar
 Control of weed growth on highways and some housing areas.

7. Glyphosate

- i. There is currently particular concern regarding Glyphosate weed killers, which are widely used on hard surfaces and to clear vegetative sites.
- ii. In April 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organisation, concluded that Glyphosate based weed killer was “probably carcinogenic to humans”. Other studies have linked glyphosate to birth defects and a rise in antibiotic resistance.
- iii. Glyphosate is a broad spectrum (non selective) weed killer that is an organophosphorus compound. It is supplied in many different forms, usually with other chemicals, such as spreaders, drift reducers, wetting agents etc added.
- iv. Glyphosate is absorbed through the plants leaf’s, and is absorbed into plant roots.
- v. All products containing Glyphosate have to be registered and approved by the European Pesticides Commission.
- vi. Glyphosate was re-registered and approved in June 2016, but for a limited period of 18 months (until the end of 2017). It has since had a further 5 year extension.
- vii. By removing vegetation so effectively, the herbicide indirectly affects biodiversity through changes to ecosystems and food sources. Where Glyphosate, and other pesticides, are used, there are fewer food sources for insects, birds and animals in the urban environment.
- viii. As part of this approval extension, the Commission also presented some recommendations to be considered by member states. One of these recommendations was to “*minimise the use of the substance (glyphosate) in public parks, public playgrounds and gardens*”
- ix. The Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK have a “precautionary principle” that states that “*When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary*

measures should be taken even if some of the cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically". In other words, although some evidence against the use of pesticides appears inconclusive, it is far better to work towards using less or ideally no pesticides.

- x. In August 2018, a land mark case in the USA agreed with a groundsman's claim that his rare form of cancer was caused by exposure to a glyphosate based weed killer, and the company was fined a significant sum of money. This may well lead to future claims, and potentially, an increased effort in finding more environmentally friendly products to market.

8. How will we limit the effects of the pesticides that we do have to use

- i. When approving and applying pesticides, we will:
 - Use a method that uses/applies the least amount of chemical, i.e. CDA(Controlled droplet application), weed wipes, targeted spraying.
 - Use the most efficient method of application.
 - Where possible, not apply a blanket cover of chemical.
 - Ensure that spare pesticides/containers are disposed of safely in an approved manner.
 - Ensure that spray equipment is washed out in a safe manner according to the approved method, to safeguard the environment.
 - Ensure that the application method is approved for the product used.
 - NOT use any pesticides in children's play areas unless there is no other suitable means of action or pesticide free parks.
 - Ensure that all pesticides are applied to the Council's specification standards.
 - Leave a "pesticide free" buffer zone around environmentally sensitive areas where appropriate.

9. Who will apply pesticides?

- i. Any person applying a pesticide to the Councils land will hold a Certificate of Competence (irrespective of age), as issued by the NPTC, appropriate to the type of equipment/spraying technique to be used.
- ii. Copies of these certificates will be made available to the Council as evidence of competence.
- iii. Pesticide applications, subject to approval, may be made by the following:
 - Directly employed staff

- Grounds Maintenance Contractors
- Specialist Contractors.

10. Legal Requirements

- i. Where it is necessary for pesticides to be applied on Council land, these will be applied in such a way that it conforms fully with the latest Health and Safety Legislation (primarily the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA)) and Pesticide Legislation (The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 & Control of Pesticides (Amended) Regulations 1997).
- ii. The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 states that:
 - all reasonable precautions are taken to protect human health and the environment;
 - the application is confined to the area intended to be treated; and
 - when used in public spaces that the amount used and frequency of use is as low as is reasonably practicable.
 - suitable alternative methods of control are considered and used where appropriate to help minimise your use of chemicals.
 - Pesticides will only be used in accordance with the statutory listings on the product label.
 - Prior to application, full Risk Assessments/COSHH Assessments will be carried out, and a data sheet for the pesticide will be read and complied with.
 - All those involved in approving/applying pesticides will be made aware of this Pesticide Policy.

11. Grounds Maintenance Specifications

- i. To ensure that our contractors comply fully with our council's requirements, all grounds maintenance specifications will include detailed information of the council's pesticide policy, the requirements for pesticide free / pesticide reduced areas and for the conditions for the use of pesticides where essential. The use of pesticides will not be permitted in any contract unless no other suitable alternative is available.
- ii. Any contracts issued in connection with any form of grounds maintenance will also always make reference to our Pollinator Strategy and its Environmental Policies.

12. Third party owners

- i. Where we work on behalf of third parties, we will ensure compliance with this Pesticide Policy and the creation of pesticide free parks.
- ii. Where weed control is carried out on behalf of a Highway Authority, we will continue to offer pesticide application services according to the clients requirements. This will allow us to:
 - Ensure that the minimum amount of pesticide is used
 - Ensure that the application is carried out by competent / trained staff
 - Discuss alternative options with the client with the aim of agreeing ways to reduce pesticide application where possible, or to change the methods of weed control as new research / options become available.
 - Monitor pesticide usage across the area.

13. How will we monitor the use of pesticides on our sites

- i. Detailed and accurate spraying records will be kept.
- ii. Contractors will be required to submit a proposed spraying sheet for approval to the client officer, prior to any pesticide being applied. This will describe the type of pesticide to be used, active ingredient, trade name, area where the pesticide is to be applied, rate of application, calibration, safety considerations, proposed date of application, operative who will be applying the pesticide etc.
- iii. A detailed report will also be supplied to the client officer after application, confirming the above details, and including additional information such as weather conditions.
- iv. The following records will also be kept and retained as required:
 - Environmental Assessments.
 - Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP).
 - COSHH Assessments.
 - Stock Control Records.
 - Disposal records.
 - Copies of certificates of Competence.