

Concerns about the Weed Killing works on Village Pavements

Three Concerns have recently been expressed to the Parish Council:

a) Concern that the Parish Council uses Glyphosate which some consider harmful to dogs

These concerns have been forcefully verbally expressed to the Council operatives causing some distress to the staff.

After careful consideration of the practices of the District Councils and Suffolk County Council the Parish Council has decided to:

- i) Continue to use Glyphosate
- ii) Publish the weedkilling schedule on Facebook (this has long been included in the weekly update to street cleaning published on the Parish Council website) advising that those with dogs may wish to make ensure that their dogs do not tread on wet Glyphosate in the two hours or so before it dries.
- iii) Make it clear that abuse of the Contractors staff is unacceptable.

This careful consideration is that:

- i) Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk District Council both trialled products not containing Glyphosate. In December 2024 West Suffolk reported:

‘In April 2023, West Suffolk Council took the decision to cease the use of glyphosate and other chemicals for the treatment of weeds or unwanted growth to promote better diversity. However, due to public dissatisfaction, the lack of viable alternatives, Suffolk County Council’s decision to resume chemical weed treatment, and evidence from other case studies, the proposal has been made to return to using glyphosate in very specific circumstances. The specific circumstances include controlling weeds growing into and around monuments, footpaths... limiting use to hard landscaped locations ensures that any negative impact to the environment is minimised’.

- ii) Babergh has advised that the weed suppressants currently used in Babergh are NewWay, which is vinegar/acetic acid based, and 2,4-D (Deputox), which contains dichlorophenoxyacetic acid. Some consider that this acid is also not good for dogs.

b) Lack of clarity concerning which areas are sprayed.

The Contractors do not spray the gutter between kerb and road. Contractors do spray both sides of the pavement up to the garden wall but not if the pavement has a decorative edge between it and the house. Such areas are often private land and complaints have been received in the that these areas contain private plants.

Suffolk County Council spray all of gutters and both sides of the pavement but that this is only twice a year. Babergh are responsible for the clearing of litter and vegetation from gutters i.e. street sweeping. Asking the Contractors to spray the gutters would lead to further need to consider Working in the Highway regulations.

c) A concern that the Contractors are insufficiently diligent

This has been passed on to the Contractor.
