

Council meeting: 29 October 2019
Motion: Cllr Jo Cooper
Stop using harmful herbicides in Barnet

Council notes:

- the growing body of scientific evidence showing a link between glyphosate exposure and an increased risk of cancer;
- the spraying of glyphosate in Barnet is causing concern among residents and elected representatives about its potential harmful effects on children, animals and wildlife on our streets, housing estates and parks;
- the contracting staff who carry out this work need to be protected from harm;
- The Mayor's commitment in the Environment Strategy to "reduce the use of pesticides and peat-based products, such as compost";
- the work of Transport for London (TfL) with suppliers and contractors to explore safer alternatives such as hot foam, for essential vegetation management and weed control; the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was the first council in London to cease the use of glyphosate, to support biodiversity and protect habitat against any long-term chemical effect;
- other London Boroughs such as Hackney and Croydon are trialling non-chemical weed removal and exploring alternatives; and
- in June 2019 the German state-owned rail operator Deutsche Bahn announced it would stop using glyphosate on its tracks and is looking for substitutes to replace the widely used glyphosate herbicide.

In light of the public and occupational health concerns about glyphosate exposure and the need to protect habitat and biodiversity Council instructs the Environment Committee to:

- bring forward an action plan and timetable for a major reduction, to zero over time, in the spraying of glyphosate on Council land
- to support any London Councils working group for London borough representatives, specialists and other key land managers in London to work towards the removal of this and any other harmful herbicides

Council notes that where there are problems with invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and where there is a duty to eradicate, then glyphosate may be used until an acceptable non-chemical alternative becomes available - but instructs that its use should be limited to stem injection rather than spraying.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.