

**Notice of a public meeting of
Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management
Committee (Calling In)**

- To:** Councillors Crawshaw (Chair), Fenton (Vice-Chair), Douglas (Substitute for Cllr Norman), Hollyer, Melly (Substitute for Cllr Musson), Orrell, Pearson and Rowley
- Date:** Monday, 7 February 2022
- Time:** 2.00 pm
- Venue:** The George Hudson Board Room - 1st Floor West Offices (F045)

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5.00pm on Thursday, 3 February 2022.**

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact Democratic Services on the details at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission.

The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts. During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

- 3. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting, held on 6 December 2021.

- 4. Called-in Item: Weed Treatment - Options** (Pages 9 - 78)
To consider the decisions made by the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change on 12 January 2022 in relation to the above item, which have been called in by Councillors Baker, D Taylor, K Taylor, Vassie and Warters in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

A cover report is attached setting out the reasons for the call-in and the remit and powers of the Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling-In) in relation to the call-in, together with the original report and relevant annexes, and the decisions of the Executive Member.

- 5. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services Officer:

Name: Fiona Young
Telephone: 01904 552030
E-mail: fiona.young@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

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Coronavirus protocols for attending Committee Meetings at West Offices

If you are attending a meeting in West Offices, you must observe the following protocols.

Good ventilation is a key control point, therefore all windows have been opened to allow adequate ventilation, they must be left as set prior to the start of the meeting.

If you're displaying possible coronavirus symptoms (or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms), you should follow government guidance. You are advised not to attend your meeting at West Offices.

Testing

The Council encourages regular testing of all Officers and Members and also any members of the public in attendance at a Committee Meeting. Any members of the public attending a meeting are advised to take a test within 24 hours of attending a meeting, the result of the test should be negative, in order to attend.

Test kits can be obtained by clicking on either link: [Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus-test-kits), or, [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

Alternatively, if you call 119 between the hours of 7am and 11pm, you can order a testing kit over the telephone.

Guidelines for attending Meetings at West Offices

- Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before the meeting is due to start.
- You may wish to wear a face covering to help protect those also attending.
- You are encouraged to wear a face covering when entering West Offices.
- Visitors to enter West Offices by the customer entrance and Officers/Councillors to enter using the staff entrance only.
- Ensure your ID / visitors pass and lanyard is clearly visible at all time and worn around the neck.
- Regular handwashing for 20 seconds is recommended.
- Please use the touchless hand sanitiser units on entry and exit to the building and hand sanitiser within the Meeting room.
- Bring your own drink if required.
- Only use the designated toilets next to the Meeting room.

Developing symptoms whilst in West Offices

If you develop coronavirus symptoms during a Meeting, you should:

- Make your way home immediately
- Avoid the use of public transport where possible
- Follow government guidance in relation to self-isolation.

You should also:

- Advise the Meeting organiser so they can arrange to assess and carry out additional cleaning
- Do not remain in the building any longer than necessary
- Do not visit any other areas of the building before you leave

If you receive a positive test result, or if you develop any symptoms before the meeting is due to take place, **you should not attend the meeting.**

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City Of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In)
Date	6 December 2021
Present	Councillors Crawshaw (Chair), Fenton (Vice-Chair), Hollyer, Musson, Orrell, Pearson, Rowley, Wann (Substitute for Councillor Baker) and Douglas (Substitute for Councillor Norman)
Apologies	Councillors Baker and Norman

Opening Remarks

The Chair expressed his personal concern at the continuing substitution of a Liberal Democrat Member for a Green one at meetings of this Committee. Whilst he appreciated that Full Council had approved these arrangements and had no issues with Councillor Wann, his strength of feeling was such that he wished his, in principle, objection to be recorded on the basis that the arrangement was, in his view, contrary to the spirit and purpose of the legislation relating to proportionality on committees and as such could only bring the council into disrepute. The Chair also wanted it to be formally recorded that he had written to the Chief Operating Officer and the Monitoring Officer reiterating these views. In concluding, he respectfully asked the Liberal Democratic and Green Groups to rethink their position on these agreed substitute arrangements.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal, disposable or pecuniary interests not included on their Register of Interests, which they might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

2. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been 6 registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

5 speakers spoke on agenda item 4, Called-In Item: Strategic Reviews of City Centre Access and Council Car Parking.

Anthony May spoke on behalf of the York Civic Trust and he confirmed he had been involved in providing advice to cities on parking strategy for over 50 years. He addressed the incompleteness of the current Strategic Parking Review, the failure to consider the wider requirements of the Local Transport Plan and the misunderstandings within the report. He felt the review, as it stood, was deficient as a basis for deciding on the proposed multi-storey car park on St George's Field.

Johnny Hayes, a local resident, expressed his concerns regarding the Strategic Parking Review which he felt was an asset management report. He felt the report was misinformed, light on accurate car parking data and full of spurious assumptions.

Christopher Copland, a local resident, responded to the three questions used in the tier two assessment of the parking review. He explained why he felt the questions and answers were flawed.

Jamie Wood spoke as one of the local residents identified as co-authoring a car park report. He raised his concerns regarding the quality of the evidence base that was made available to him. He felt there was no evidence base to indicate what the excess demand would be if Castle car park was closed without replacement and whether this demand could be met by existing stock.

Greg Marsden, a Professor of Transport Governance at the Institute of Transport Studies at the University of Leeds and a resident of York, explained why he felt the Strategic Review document was deficient and spoke on the shortcomings of aspects of the evidence base in which decisions were being proposed to be taken.

David Harbourne spoke on what he felt was the Council's failure to comply with the constitution and statutory requirements before and at the 8 November 2021 scrutiny meeting and the failure to consider all options regarding blue badge holder access to the city centre. He addressed the governance arrangements and the response he had received to his freedom of information request. He felt that the meeting on the 8

November contravened statutory provisions relating to the public provision of information and should not have taken place and consequently called upon the decisions taken by the Executive to be set aside to allow the meeting to be rerun. The Chair agreed to pass his comments onto the Monitoring Officer.

It was also noted that 2 written representations had been received regarding agenda item 4, as follows:

J Trythall raised concerns about the proposal to construct a multi-storey car park on the St George's Field site, particularly addressing the loss of amenity and that more work should be undertaken to understand the consequences of erecting the car park. She also noted that it was misleading to state that access to St George's Field did not pass through a residential area.

K Ravilious was greatly concerned by the standard of the Strategic Review. She felt the quality of the data was poor and that it considered car parks in isolation and was not informed by the policy directions in the forthcoming Local Transport Plan.

3. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments and then signed by the Chair.

To replace the existing paragraph 4 of minute number 17 (Called In Item: Make it York – Impact of Covid-19) with:

“Whilst Councillor Douglas was addressing the Committee on behalf of Calling In Members, the Chair had to call for a short adjournment to the meeting to receive advice on the presence of Make It York representatives who had made themselves available to join the remote meeting but had not expressly been invited.”

To replace the word “proceed” in paragraph 6 of the minute number 17 with “continue.”

4. Called-In Item: Strategic Reviews of City Centre Access and Council Car Parking

Members considered a report which set out the reason for the call-in of two decisions made by the Executive on 18 November

2021 in respect of the Strategic Review of Council Car Parking and associated Action Plan and the future report on whether to re-commence the paused procurement of a contractor to build St George's Field multi-storey car park, which would be brought to Executive as part of a wide delivery update on the Castle Gateway project in February 2022.

The decisions were highlighted in the Decision Sheet at Annex A to the report. The original report to Executive was attached at Annex B to the report. Resolution (iii) and (iv) on the Decision Sheet had been called in for review by Councillors Melly, Kilbane and Looker, for the following reasons:

- The review failed to provide accurate data on parking use across council managed car parks over a reasonable period of time post lockdown, making strategic decisions on car park investment in the future premature;
- A decision on whether or not to develop a new multi-storey car park at St George's Field was delayed to establish how people are using car parks following Covid lockdowns, yet this data was inadequate in the review report;
- The Executive's approach is solely asset-based, coming as it does long before the fourth Local Transport Plan has been drawn up and agreed, meaning strategic decision making on transport is completely absent;
- The review fails to factor in private car parking in reviewing York's parking activity and needs, other than to suggest any reduction in council car parks could result in private operators filling a supposed gap, without any supporting evidence.

Under the provisions of the Council's constitution and the requirements of Local Government Act 2000, the following options were available:

- a) To decide that there were no grounds to make specific recommendations to the Executive in respect of the decisions called in. If this option was chosen, the original decisions taken on the item at the Executive meeting on 18 November 2021 would be confirmed and would take effect from the date of the Customer and Corporate

Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling-In) meeting; or

- b) To make specific recommendations to the Executive on the decisions called in, in light of the reason given for post-decision call-in. If this option was chosen, the matter would be considered at a meeting of Executive (Calling-In).

The Chair then invited Cllr Kilbane to proceed in representing the calling-in Members. He explained in more detail the reasons for the calling-in, and then responded to questions put by Members.

The Executive Member for Transport and the Executive Member for Finance and Performance then outlined the reasons for the original decisions, and responded to Members' questions.

The Corporate Director of Place, the Director of Transport, Environment and Planning and the Head of Regeneration and Economy then responded to questions which had been raised during the meeting, particularly in relation to the technicalities of the report and data gathering, including the hierarchy of council car parks, the identified gaps within the data, the Action Plan, the proposed multi-storey car park on St George's Field and the future strategy to inform decisions on car park investment or alternative uses.

Members went on to debate the options in full and to consider whether they wished to make any additional observations or recommendations arising from the call-in.

A proposal to refer the decisions back to the Executive, including a recommendation that acknowledged that the data gaps would be filled to the best extent possible in a timely manner in order to make a robust decision on any future car park decisions, was moved and seconded. The motion was lost 5 to 4. A motion to endorse and reaffirm the original Executive decision was therefore moved and seconded. That motion was carried 5 votes to 4.

Resolved:

- (i) That the original decisions made by the Executive at its meeting on 18 November 2021 in relation to the strategic reviews of city centre access and council car parking be re-affirmed.

- (ii) That the future report on whether to recommence the paused procurement of a contractor to build St George's Field multi-storey car park be considered through pre-decision scrutiny.

Reason: To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

Cllr J Crawshaw, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.32pm and finished at 8.17pm].



Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In)

7 February 2022

Report of the Director of Governance

Called-in Item: **Weed Treatment - Options**

Summary

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decisions made by the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change on 12 January 2022 in respect of the above item. The report also sets out the powers and role of the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling-In) in dealing with the call-in.

Background

2. An extract from the Decision Sheet published after the Executive Member Decision Session on 12 January 2022 is attached as Annex A to this report. This sets out the decisions taken on the called-in item. The original report to the Executive Member, together with the annexes relevant to the called-in decisions, is attached at Annex B.
3. The decisions have been called in for review by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling-In) by Cllrs Vassie, Baker, D Taylor, K Taylor and Warters, in accordance with the Constitutional requirements, for the following reasons:-
 - a) *That [the decisions] fail to demonstrate any commitment to the aims of the council's adopted Pollinator Strategy, namely aim 2.3: 'reduce the impact of pesticides on pollinators and other wildlife'.*
 - b) *The decisions of the Executive Member deliver no action whatsoever on reducing pesticide use until at least 2024, and possibly 2026, seven years after Full Council voted unanimously to call for action to protect pollinators and to reduce the use of pesticides;*
 - c) *The Decision Session report included no performance appraisal of the existing contract, or detailed options of alternatives to allow a meaningful comparison and confidence the local taxpayer is securing good value for money;*

- d) We believe that any weed control contract continuing the use of glyphosate must include annual glyphosate reduction targets (year on year for the period of the contract), including through reducing the number of sprays from the current 3 times a year to twice a year in the first year of any new contract;*
- e) City of York Council should be joining more than 80 other UK councils – including Hackney, Glastonbury, Doncaster, Brighton, Bristol, Guilford, Chichester, Folkstone, Chelmsford and Trafford – who've already committed to end pesticide use;*
- f) To recommend that if the council cannot find a contractor to agree to targets and changes of weed management that are consistent with the council's Pollinator Strategy, such as the use of strimming, weed brushing, and thermal lances or other methods that reduce or eliminate pesticide use, that an option is considered to bring the weed control programme back in-house.*

Consultation

- 4. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the calling-in Members have been invited to attend and/or speak at the Calling-in meeting, as appropriate.

Given the cross-party nature of this particular call-in, the Calling-in Members have been invited to submit written comments ahead of the meeting if they wish. The comments submitted are contained in Annex C to this report.

Options

- 5. The following options are available to the CCSMC (Calling-In) in relation to dealing with this call-in, in accordance with the constitutional and legal requirements under the Local Government Act 2000:
 - a) To decide that there are no grounds to make specific recommendations to the Executive in respect of the decisions called in. If this option is chosen, the original decisions taken by on the item by the Executive Member will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the CCSMC (Calling-in) meeting; or
 - b) To make specific recommendations to the Executive on the decisions called in, in light of the reason given for post-decision call-in. If this option is chosen, the matter will be considered at a meeting of Executive (Calling-In).

Analysis

6. Members need to consider the reasons for the call-in and the original report to the Executive Member and form a view on whether there is a basis to make specific recommendations to the Executive in respect of the decisions called in.

Council Plan

7. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2019-23.

Implications

8. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in relation to handling the call in of the issue under consideration.

Risk Management

9. There are no risk management implications associated with the call in of this matter.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to consider the reasons for calling in these decisions and decide whether they wish to confirm the affected decisions or to refer it back for reconsideration and make specific recommendations to the Executive on the decisions called in.

Reason: To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

Contact Details

Author:

Dawn Steel

Head of Democratic Services

dawn.steel@york.gov.uk

Tel: 01904 551030

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Janie Berry

Director of Governance

Tel: 01904 555385

Report Approved Date:

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Extract from the Decision Sheet produced following the Executive Member Decision Session on 12 January 2022, setting out the decisions made on the called-in item.

Annex B – Report of the Director of Transport, Environment and Planning to the Executive Member Decision Session on 12 January 2022.

Annex C – Written comments submitted by the Calling-in Members.

Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

Wednesday, 12 January 2022

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment held on Wednesday, 12 January 2022. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democratic Services no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting. If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact the Democracy Officer, Joseph Kennally.

4. Weed Treatment – Options

Resolved:

- i. That the Chief Operating Officer be recommended to approve the continued use of glyphosate based treatments as the principle method of weed control.

Reason: To ensure the most effective weed control

- ii. That the Chief Operating Officer be recommended to approve a two year contract, with an option to extend for two years, with that decision being brought back to a future decision session.

Reason: To enable the future treatment option to be reviewed having considered changes in product availability and any trials, whilst allowing the council to obtain value for money

- iii. That the Chief Operating Officer be recommended to request a report for a future decision session, detailing discussions with a range of external organisations to obtain extra information on the feasibility of additional weed control trials.

Reason: To gather information on a new method which will inform future decision making.

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Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change **12th January 2022**

Report of the Director of Transport, Environment and Planning

Weed Management of Highways and Associated Areas

Summary

1. This report examines options for weed treatment to inform how the Council's in house service and external contractors manage weeds for the next two years.

Recommendation

2. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - i. Approve the continued use of glyphosate based treatments as the principle method of weed control.
Reason: To ensure the most effective weed control
 - ii. Approve a two year contract, with an option to extend for two years, the decision being brought back to a future decision session.
Reason: To enable the future treatment option to be reviewed having considered changes in product availability and any trials, whilst allowing the council to obtain value for money
 - iii. Approve a further trial namely the heat method.
Reason: To trial a new method which will inform future decision making.

Background

3. In common with most local authorities the Council has used the herbicide, glyphosate as the basis for weed treatment for many years, primarily to control weeds on the highway network.

4. In recognition of the concerns being raised about the environmental impact of glyphosate in the Pollinator strategy, the Executive in March 2021 asked for alternative treatments to be trailed in the 2021 season.
5. The majority of the highway spraying is carried out on behalf of the Council by an external contractor through a fixed term contact. The current contract has now expired and the decision taken in this report will inform the award of a future contract commencing for the 2022 growing season. The contractor uses a quad bike to access all areas of the city and this is the industry standard form of treatment.
6. Glyphosate is also used to treat a number of injurious weeds and invasive plants, such as Creeping and Spear Thistle, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. It is proposed glyphosate remains the treatment of choice for such weeds.

Current situation

7. In house use: Public realm staff spray around obstacles in verges e.g. lampposts, street signs, trees, around communal drying areas and some parks and garden path edges. This takes place in March / April and at ad hoc times later in the year as the need arises. Delivery is by knapsack spraying and uses some 260 litres of glyphosate annually.
8. The contracted service covers kerbs, footpaths / pavement joints, wall bottoms and back lanes, the bar walls upper footpath, bridges and supporting structures. Weed killer is delivered using quad bikes, supported with knapsack spraying. This takes place 3 times a year - April, July and September (subject to weather conditions), and uses on around 200 litres of glyphosate per spraying round.
9. This contract has now expired and needs to be re-tendered in time for the 2022 growing season.
10. In 2021, the weed spraying regime was broadly successful. However, the last spray of the season was delayed by a few weeks as a result of vehicle and parts issues experienced by the contractor (supplies were affected by the covid pandemic). It has emerged that there are a couple of locations on South bank which were not captured on the spraying rounds and these will be updated prior to any contract being awarded.
11. Problem weeds. The authority is also required to address specific weeds which can be dangerous e.g. Giant Hogweed or cause

problems to property e.g. Japanese Knotweed. These have traditionally been an option with the contacted service. Going forward the treatment of such weeds either in house or externally provided will continue to use glyphosate

Weed treatment Options

12. The options for weed control fall into three broad areas

Chemicals e.g.

- Glyphosate
- Acetic Acid applied at 20% strength, also known as vinegar (for human consumption is usually 5% strength),
- Nonanoic acid (or Pelergaonic acid), a naturally occurring fatty acid)

Heat e.g.

- Hot foam – boiling water with added foam (see more detail below)
- Burning – using a portable propane torch

Manual e.g.

- Wire brush / hoe

York Trials of alternative weed treatment

Acetic Acid and Nonanoic Acid

13. As part of the first 2021 treatment three areas of terrace housing were selected for alternative treatments in Bishophill, off Scarcroft Road and off Heslington Road. In early April these area were treated with acetic acid and Enclean (a biocide or hard surface cleaner Nonanoic acid).
14. Areas treated with acetic acid and Enclean showed less weed die back than glyphosate. Site visits with the external advisor in mid-May found several properties had large weeds growing where the pavement meets the property. The weeds had survived the treatment and continued to grow. Complaints from the test area were more frequent than non-test areas and visually the areas were weedier at the time of the second spray in July 2021.
15. For the second treatment the trial was moved to a new area within the council's Hazel Court depot. The Trail tested Glyphosate, Acetic Acid and Nonanoic Acid along with no treatment in four identical areas.

16. In this second trial glyphosate was again the most effective chemical treatment. Annex 1 contains photographs from Hazel Court. Similar results were observed on a larger section of rough ground on the opposite side of the depot car park.

Other Alternatives to Glyphosate that have not been trialled in York

17. The heat method (hot foam) has evolved out of more general street cleansing operators (e.g. chewing gum removal), where a combined heater unit and water tank is mounted on the rear of a flatbed truck and driven to site. Water is heated to between 60 and 100°C and mixed with a biodegradable foam which is applied through a lance onto the weeds or area being treated. The foam helps concentrate the heat on to the plant by reducing heat loss to the atmosphere. A minimum temperature 57°C is required to kill the plant, spores and seeds. No data has been found on what this does to any insect life in the vicinity of the treatment.
18. In 2016/17, Bristol City Council undertook a year-long ward based trial glyphosate-free weed treatment together with a desk top assessment of alternatives. The outcome favoured the short term continued use of glyphosate whilst at the same time exploring alternative treatments and / or reduced use. Full details can be found at <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=149&MId=375&Ver=4>
19. In 2017, Hammersmith and Fulham Council began trialling new non-chemical alternatives – with hot foam and hot water being the chosen treatments being used across the borough. Initial details can be found at <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/articles/news/2017/07/hf-unveils-new-chemical-free-weeding-treatments>
20. North Yorkshire County Council have tested hot foam in 2021. This has taken place predominantly in Harrogate and in Scarborough on a limited basis. *They have found that foamsteam requires 2 to 3 treatments and in the rest of the County they undertake 1 weed spray per year with glyphosate (this is done in June).* Broadly they have found the treatments to be of success but they do not have any current plans to roll the provision out any further across the County. The main reason for this is that it is essentially a machine more suited to urban areas and NYCC do not believe the system to be suitable for more rural and disparate areas. Additionally, the

set up costs for the trial have been high and with the move to Local Government Reorganisation they are not progressing any further.

21. The London Borough of Hounslow has switched from using Glyphosate to a manual based approaches. The budget spent on glyphosate has been reused to employ more operatives to manually remove weeds as part of the two weekly ward based cleansing schedule. A dedicated teams with trimmers to support the ward based teams See for more information https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20006/environment/2229/greener_borough/3
22. Annex 2 details a how a range of other local authorities treat weeds.

Options and analysis

23. The principal options open to the Executive Member are :
 - a) The choice of principle treatment
 - b) The length of contract
 - c) The frequency of treatment
 - d) The area to be treated
 - e) Any further trials

Principle Treatment

24. From the limited York trial, glyphosate is the most effective chemical treatment currently available and on performance alone officers would not recommend acetic or nonanoic acid.
25. Additionally acetic acid is not recommend as this has additional health risks to both the applicant and the public. The recommend strength to kill weeds can also burn the skin.
26. For this reason it is recommended that the principle treatment needs to remain as Glyphosate.

Contract Length

27. Contracts of this nature are usually let on a minimum 2 year basis with the option to extend the contract.
28. The benefit of a shorter contract is that it allows the treatment options to be reviewed in light of trials or new products reaching the market.

29. The benefit of longer contracts is that they offer more certainty for suppliers which may lead to a better price.
30. For this reason it is recommended that the contract is tendered and awarded for two years, with an option to extend for two years pending the results of any further trials and the developments in the market place.

The Frequency of Treatment

31. Traditionally the external contract has had three treatments per year - April, July and September (subject to weather conditions).
32. This could be reduced to 2 occasions which would reduce the volume of glyphosate used by about 20-25% (it is not possible to be precise as a more glyphosate may be required on each treatment). There may also be a small cost saving which could fund the effects of inflation on any future contract. It is anticipated however, there would be a decrease in effectiveness and an accompanied increase in resident complaints.
33. For this reason it is recommended that the treatment frequency is three times per year commencing approximately April, July and early September.

Area to be treated

34. Many of the 'weeds' that are sprayed from standard practice are useful to many pollinators e.g. dandelions. By reducing the total area sprayed we would be supporting the pollinator population. However, allowing weeds to grow would be contentious for this reason no change is recommended.

Additional Trials

35. Additional trials of acetic or nonanoic acid are not recommended at this stage, but new products are likely to be developed so new trials will be considered in the future. Trials that could be considered for the 2022 season include:

Hot Foam

36. Of the non-chemical treatments which could be considered hot foam does have potential. Given the apparent lack of significant adoption across the country there are risks associated with this choice and concerns over the practicalities of how long it would take to treat a city's road network.

37. If this method of hot foam was applied to CYC operations this would require significant investment in new equipment and training coupled with an additional vehicle. To allow time for procurement and training this would come into effect in 2023. If applied to contacted services this could form part of the 2024 highway weed treatment tender.
38. The weedsteam machine would cost £30k to purchase, plus a vehicle on which the petrol / diesel powered hot water boiler sits. It would require a two person crew to operate the vehicle due to the temperature the machine uses water at (at least 60 degrees C) and the risk to pedestrians in built up areas.
39. The machine uses on average 1,000 litres of water per day but this can rise to 1,500 litres in heavily soiled/weeded areas. Using a 1,000ltrs/day equates to around 0.5tCO2 emissions.
40. Whilst there are concerns about glyphosate and the impact on pollinators applying heated foam to plants will have negative impacts.

Manual Weeding

41. Manual weeding is also possible, it will require additional staff and additional investment in vehicles to transport operatives to and from their work.
42. The current contractor travelled 1,250 miles to carry out the three treatments. Manually hoeing 450 miles of highway network would be an onerous task. Although this could be combined with other tasks such as the in house treatment of highway obstacles this option would require more detailed consideration to accurately forecast labour costs and vehicle costs but it is estimated to be around £100k. Assuming 450 miles of road per treatment at 0.5 miles an hour, for 6 hours a day it would take 1 person about 32 weeks to manually weed the highway once.
43. Whilst labour intensive, this method would have the least impact on Pollinators. It will require additional investment together with more staff which, given the current recruitment difficulties may be hard to resource. Therefore officers would recommend that a trial of the hot foam method could be undertaken or alternately more work undertaken on the viability of a trail and to continue to scope out options for future years.

Council Plan

44. This proposal supports and contributes to the following Council Plan priority - a greener and cleaner city. The proposed way forward allows the Council to establish the costs and effectiveness of other alternatives treatment options to glyphosate and supports the Council's aims in relation to Biodiversity and the Pollinator Strategy.

Implications

45. **Financial** - The funding for the existing service is within current budget provision. A trial of an alternative method will have minimal costs and will also be met from existing budgets. Any alternative delivery methods that are likely to permanently increase costs could not be met from existing budgets and would therefore need to be considered as part of a future budget process.
46. **Public Health** A 2015 review by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded on the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance glyphosate. It was concluded that glyphosate does not meet the interim criteria for endocrine disrupting properties concerning human health, and that apical studies in the area of mammalian toxicology did not show adverse effects on the reproduction. However, EFSA noted a data gap which a 2017 review addressed. The conclusion was that the weight of evidence indicates that glyphosate does not have endocrine disrupting properties.
47. A recent review (Aug 2021) in the European Food Safety Authority, concluded the following on the use of nonanoic acid "In the area of mammalian toxicology and non-dietary exposure, no critical area of concerns or data gaps were identified.
48. There are no Legal, Property, Human Resources, Crime and Disorder, or Information Technology implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

49. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified in this report are that a decision is not made on a proposed weed treatment option which could in turn damage the Council's image and reputation. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk score has

been assessed at “Low”. This means that the risk level is acceptable.

Annex 1 – Hazel Court trial site photographs.

Annex 2 – Other local authority approaches.

Contact Details

Author:	Chief officer responsible for the report:
Dave Meigh Operations Manager Public Realm	James Gilchrist Director of Transport, Environment and Planning

Report Approved	√	Date: 22.12.21
Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A		
Wards Affected:	All	√
For further information please contact the author of the report		

Background Papers:

None

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Annex 1

Photographs from Hazel Court trial plots

Treatment date July 15th – photograph date 7th October

	
<p>Control (untreated area)</p>	<p>Glyphosate</p>
	
<p>Acetic Acid</p>	<p>Enclean (Which is)</p>

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Annex 2

Sample spraying frequencies c/o Association of Public Service Excellence
(Oct 2021)

Local authority	How often	When and comments
North Hertfordshire	2	May then Sept – Oct
Rochdale	3	March / April June / July September / October
North Ayrshire Council	2	Unknown
Dundee	2	April / May then August.
Caerphilly County Borough Council	1	Unknown
Falkirk Council	2	June and September
North Warwickshire Borough Council	1	To fit around Warwickshire County Council
Warwickshire County Council	2	Unknown
Surrey County Council	2	Unknown
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	2	Unknown, town centre has 3 treatments
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	3	Unknown, has option for 4 th spray
Swansea City & County	3	Unknown
Reading Borough Council	4	March, June, August, October
Aberdeen City Council	2	Unknown, 3 times in 2020
Kent County Council	2	May / June, Sept / Oct
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	2	Unknown
Exeter City Council	2	Unknown. <i>“We have trialled foam stream, hot water and costed out pelergaonic as treatments but they are not currently cost effective alternatives”</i>
Birmingham City Council	1	Unknown
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	3	Unknown
Derby City Council	2	April – October 3 is core standard.
London Borough of Hounslow	0	Have moved to hand weeding as part of integrated ward cleaning - <i>Additional operatives to manually remove weeds as part of the two weekly ward based cleansing schedule.</i>

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CCSMC Calling-in Meeting 7 February 2022

Written comments of Calling-in Members, comprising:

- **Comments submitted by Cllr D Taylor**
- **Series of email exchanges submitted by Cllr Warters**

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Comments from Cllr D Taylor:

It makes a mockery of decisions reached by Full Council, particularly those supported by 100% of elected members, if their vote in favour of a Pollinator Action Plan to protect bees is undermined by a Council commitment to continue the use of glyphosate (trademarked as "RoundUp") which research suggests is contributing to the global decline in bees, along with the loss of habitat.

Sources:

Glyphosate perturbs the gut microbiota of honey bees.

<https://www.pnas.org/content/115/41/10305>

The Herbicide Glyphosate Negatively Affects Midgut Bacterial Communities and Survival of Honey Bee during Larvae Reared in Vitro.

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.jafc.8b02212>

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From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>

Date: 23 March 2021 at 12:40:51 GMT

To: "Cllr. C. Vassie" <cldr.cvassie@york.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Hull Road plans

Thanks Christian,

Glad for your continued involvement in all this.

As for Glyphosate I've used gallons of the stuff over the years and accept it will remain in use by local authorities on pavements/roads etc but it should have no place when trying to promote schemes like this as other councils have decided;

<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50065107/Pollinators%20Action%20Plan%20and%20Grass%20Verge%20Pollinators%20Maintenance%20Report.pdf>

I look forward to confirmation from officers that the plans to spray off the roundabout and cultivate it are dropped, This is what it looked like last summer;



This was the second summer after the initial sowing of what I assume was an annual mix, it will look very much the same this year as the natural dispersal of seed and germination will have taken place last autumn, all it needs is overseeding with a perennial Mix.

No extra labour needed for spraying or cultivating.

Regarding the rest of Hull Rd and other verges across York the most important factor as you correctly refer to is having the right machinery to remove the arisings, officers have ignored for some years now my promptings to at the very least hire the machinery that Lincolnshire CC have for a trial.

If the central verge on Hull Rd is to receive attention I would also suggest that all road signs are looked at - if they aren't necessary remove, if they have to be there look to relocate onto lampposts and in the case of the sponsorship signs get them onto lampposts as well - they are a huge maintenance liability and even more do when on an infrequently cultivated wildflower Verge.....and we don't want brown circles spraying around them!

Look forward to the revised thoughts for Hull Rd.

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters

T: [01904 413370](tel:01904413370)

On 23 Mar 2021, at 09:52, Cllr. C. Vassie <cldr.cvassie@york.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Mark,

I share your concerns about using Glyphosate and I too noticed that the arisings had all been left.

As I expressed to executive last week when our pollinator strategy was adopted, the city council has a fantastic opportunity to form a partnership with the wildlife trust, the Wheldrake Ings National Nature Reserve team, and the Internal Drainage Board to jointly purchase a suction flailing machine that would enable us all to remove arisings and send them to a biodigester.

I hope that we will make full use of that opportunity. Having spent several hours with a team of volunteers raking the arisings from 7,000 square metres of verge in Wheldrake Ward, it is clear that if we are to make a serious job of wildflowering we cannot rely on teams of

volunteers. Our rural verges, those strips of central reservation, the land alongside watercourses, the new wildflower meadow that CYC wishes to plant on the land recently acquired for a new forest, and other open spaces managed by YWT, CYC, IDB and the nature reserves can all benefit from a mechanised process for removing arisings. I know that Cllr Widdowson is as keen as we are to see genuine progress on enhancing biodiversity.

Cheers,

Christian

From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>
Sent: 22 March 2021 22:12
To: Meigh, Dave <Dave.Meigh@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Hull Road plans

Thanks for this Dave,

After many years of nagging the 'abandoned' section of the central Hull Rd Verge is to have some welcome attention - I noted the recent cutting although the arisings were left.

I would however query why the roundabout (2) needs such a drastic treatment - I understood it was simply to be oversown with a perennial seed mix, this would complement the ongoing annual mix that will have seeded itself from last year and was lightly cut at the end of last year, the California poppies in the original annual mix (although not a really suitable wildflower mix on an English Verge) will be well established and ready to flower relatively early.

I would just spot treat any thistles visible on the roundabout and oversow with a perennial mix when conditions are right - probably at the end of this week when it's set to rain.

I really think spraying the roundabout with glyphosate and then rotovating would be not only a waste of time and resource but a likely PR disaster.

I'll support and publicise the rest but doing what you propose to the roundabout I won't support.

Thanks,
Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters
T: [01904 413370](tel:01904413370)

On 22 Mar 2021, at 15:14, Meigh, Dave <Dave.Meigh@york.gov.uk> wrote:

Hello Mark,

This is what is planned for Hull Road.

Area 1 will have four new plots in-between the carriageways approx 300m² in total. The first plot is where the cycle path cuts through the central reservation near Springfield Cottages. Travelling towards York there are four gaps in the trees. We are not seeding the first gap due to the amount post and signs, the next three gaps are good to use.

No action is planned to the area between the access road to the Park and Ride site and the B&Q roundabout.

Area 2 is the existing roundabout which will be refreshed.

Area 3 will have one new single length on the inbound section of the road, approx. 2m x 180m.

Areas 4 & 5 are the TCV beds.

Our supplier is providing a seed mix that will last for two years and has a high pollinator value. The nature of seed mix will be akin to that which we had on Area 2 two years ago. The mix may vary between areas and have varied height for effect. Given the nature of the plants after two years we will need to start again otherwise later germinating weeds take over.

In preparation all areas will be sprayed with Glyphosate in the next few weeks, then turned over and levelled.

Over the next 18 months we will be using Wheldrake verge scheme for comparison (which has not been sprayed and has the arising's removed).

Best wishes

Dave

Dave Meigh | Operations Manager - Public Realm (Strategy and Contracts)
t: 07923 217442 | e: dave.meigh@york.gov.uk

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From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>
Date: 4 April 2021 at 09:25:58 BST
To: "Meigh, Dave" <Dave.Meigh@york.gov.uk>
Cc: "Cllr. P. Widdowson" <cldr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>, "Grabham, Ben" <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>, Parish Council Osbaldwick <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>, murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com, Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Parish Council Holtby <jonathankay@sky.com>, Jill Edwards <"Cllr. C. Vassie" <cldr.cvassie@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. M. Pavlovic" <Cllr.MPavlovic@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Hull Road plans

Dear All,

So where are we now with this?

Are you spot treating the few thistles and oversowing the roundabout or are you pursuing carrying out a PR disaster and weedkilling the lot before starting again which is totally unnecessary?

Interesting information;

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/map-shows-areas-plymouth-city-5240639>

On a related matter I note the 'brown circle brigade' have been out and about blasting weed killer on verges around lampposts and street clutter including on Meadlands - again!

As I've said many times in the past Meadlands is in the Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward where CYC have been expressly instructed not to carry out this practise in this ward so why have you strayed into Meadlands again.

As you have then let's open up the debate city wide as to this practise.

Instead of concentrating weedkiller spraying where it's needed - on the footpaths and kerb edges CYC spray ridiculous sized circles around Verge obstacles supposedly to make it easier for the grass cutting operatives.

But what is the result of this? Verges with horrendous brown patches (in many cases complimenting the mud patches and craters that CYC tolerate by allowing vehicles to drive and park on verges but that's another story) just as the verges come to life in the Spring - what a mess.

What would be the result of not carrying out this spraying operation? - by May certain areas would see tufts of grass growing around lampposts and other obstacles in the verges - no more offensive on the eye than the brown circles - but if this has to be dealt with simply strimming the offending long grass would suffice - then the combination of the usual dry mid summer weather and dog urine around many of these obstacles would naturally keep the grass growth down until another trim was needed in the Autumn.

I would suggest that in terms of labour cost strimming around the obstacles twice a year (once if cost cutting) would only be the equivalent of spraying around them twice a year as currently happens and all without creating the hideous brown circles.

Whatever CYC decide please confirm the often repeated request for no Verge spraying to take place in the Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward INCLUDING Meadlands and provide an update on the Hull Rd roundabout works.

Thanks,
Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters

T: [01904 413370](tel:01904413370)

On 24 Mar 2021, at 14:04, Meigh, Dave <Dave.Meigh@york.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi sorry for any confusion here. We are not using contractor for the work it is being done by CYC staff. The “company and their specialist advisor” is the seed supplier.

So no need for your assistance

Thanks

Dave.

Dave Meigh | Operations Manager - Public Realm (Strategy and Contracts)
t: 07923 217442 | e: dave.meigh@york.gov.uk

Please note I work part-time 29 hours a week – this can be from home, office or on site and I will respond to you as soon as practical

City of York Council | Directorate of Economy and Place
Hazel Court, James Street | York YO10 3DS
www.york.gov.uk | facebook.com/cityofyork | [@CityofYork](https://twitter.com/CityofYork)

From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>

Sent: 24 March 2021 13:58

To: Meigh, Dave <Dave.Meigh@york.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr. P. Widdowson <cldr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>; Grabham, Ben <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>; Parish Council Osbaldwick <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>; murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com; Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>; Parish Council Holtby <jonathankay@sky.com>; Jill Edwards <Cllr. C. Vassie

<cldr.cvassie@york.gov.uk>; Cllr. M. Pavlovic <Cllr.MPavlovic@york.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Hull Road plans

This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Dave,

First question is why do we need a contractor into do such things?

If the contractor is able to suggest actions which are then readily accepted and not challenged hasn't the contractor a vested interest in creating work which will then be paid for out of the public purse?

Do you want me to order a perennial wildflower mix from Boston seeds and put it on?

Labour cost £0

Because that's all that's needed on that roundabout.

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters

T: [01904 413370](tel:01904413370)

On 24 Mar 2021, at 12:05, Meigh, Dave <Dave.Meigh@york.gov.uk> wrote:

Hello Mark, the treatment to the roundabout is based on the advice I received on site last week from the company and their specialist advisor.

Best wishes

Dave

Dave Meigh | Operations Manager - Public Realm (Strategy and Contracts)
t: 07923 217442 | e: dave.meigh@york.gov.uk

Please note I work part-time 29 hours a week – this can be from home, office or on site and I will respond to you as soon as practical

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From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>
Sent: 22 March 2021 22:12
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Cc: Cllr. P. Widdowson <cllr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>; Grabham, Ben <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>; Parish Council Osbaldwick <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>; murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com; Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>; Parish Council Holtby <jonathankay@sky.com>; Jill Edwards Cllr. C. Vassie <cllr.cvassie@york.gov.uk>; Cllr. M. Pavlovic <Cllr.MPavlovic@york.gov.uk>
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Thanks for this Dave,

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Cllr. Mark Warters
T: [01904 413370](tel:01904413370)

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Best wishes

Dave

Dave Meigh | Operations Manager - Public Realm (Strategy and Contracts)
t: 07923 217442 | e: dave.meigh@york.gov.uk

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From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>

Date: 12 May 2021 at 10:25:57 BST

To: Ben Grabham <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>, James Gilchrist <James.Gilchrist@york.gov.uk>, Dave Meigh <dave.meigh@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Widdowson" <cldr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. M. Pavlovic" <Cllr.MPavlovic@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. C. Vassie" <cldr.cvassie@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. D. Taylor" <cldr.dtaylor@york.gov.uk>

Cc: Louise Pink <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>, Alastair McFarlane <murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com>, Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>,

Subject: CYC Pollinator policy.

Dear All,

Further to ongoing correspondence on CYCs efforts on 'dead flowering' the central Hull Rd verge this is the result, in the middle of May of your actions;



A few patches of weed killed off patches, brown and dead - a completely alien scene in the English springtime.

Contrast if you will with the scene on an Osbaldwick residents back lawn of a large area of wildflowers that were sown last Autumn;



It's all well and good CYC having a 'pollinator policy' if officers don't want to implement it or haven't the capability to implement it but it's not 'rocket science' to actually implement such areas.

All involved should be ashamed of the mess created on Hull Rd, I'm unsure yet if the roundabout has been weedkilled off but that will no doubt become clear following the recent rain.

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters.
T:01904 413370

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From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>

Date: 25 May 2021 at 22:26:43 BST

To: Parish Council Osbaldwick <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>, Alastair McFarlane <murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com>, Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Parish Council Holtby <jonathankay@sky.com>, Jill Edwards Steve Galloway <m>, Gwen Swinburn <

Cc: Ben Grabham <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>, James Gilchrist <James.Gilchrist@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Widdowson" <cldr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. C. Vassie" <cldr.cvassie@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. D. Taylor" <cldr.dtaylor@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. M. Pavlovic" <Cllr.MPavlovic@york.gov.uk>

Subject: CYC Pollinator policy?

Dear All,

Up and down the UK local authorities are initiating verge management regimes to improve both the aesthetic and bio-diversity value of the verges under their control;



← Tweet



Plantlife [#roadverges](#) campaign manager [@katefr](#) reports that Bath and surrounding areas is really embracing [#NoMowMay](#). The parks and verges a little bit wilder and that's good news for [#wildlife](#)



4:35 pm · 22 May 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Don't miss what's happening

People on Twitter are the first to know.

Here in York on a major route into the city CYC are, in late May, rotovating up the dead sections of verge they killed off with glyphosate presumably to sow with an annual flower mix when simply initiating a sensible management regime for the verges was the sensible and cost effective option.

Likewise the large roundabout that had been a colourful feature for the last two years has had the same treatment today;

22:11 Tue 25 May

Done

20210525_095036



All this roundabout needed was over sowing with the perennial wildflower mix last Autumn that CYC had previously committed to do which would have complimented the existing seed that had built up over the last two years.....but of course when there's public money to be spent.....let's spray it off, rotovate it up and start again!

Ludicrous.

Keep watch though because those in charge of this project will likely be trying to present this as some sort of triumph in mid/late August when in flower when the reality is this roundabout if left alone would have been ready to flower in the next few weeks at little or no cost.

How 'pollinator friendly' can it be go about things in this way?

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters.
T:01904 413370

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From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>
Date: 12 August 2021 at 09:56:34 BST
To: Louise Pink <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>, Alastair McFarlane <murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com>, Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Parish Council Holtby <jonathankay@sky.com>, Jill Edwards < Gwen Swinburn <, Steve Galloway <Steve.Galloway@btinternet.com>, "Cllr. A. D'Agorne" <cldr.adagorne@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. C. Vassie" <cldr.cvassie@york.gov.uk>
Cc: Tony Clarke <Tony.Clarke@york.gov.uk>, Ben Grabham <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Spraying.

Dear All,

And of course what makes this practise worse in York;

<https://twitter.com/GeorgeMonbiot/status/1425342704997871616>

Is that in many locations the sign posts they are spraying around are redundant signs that could have been removed years ago if the council maintained an up to date audit of its street clutter.

Time, money and resource wasted on spraying around signs that needn't be there as well as potential environmental consequences!

Perhaps that same resource could be directed to keeping the footpaths clear of weeds and leaving the verges alone - note NO weed killer spraying on verges in Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward after many representations over the years.

As I've said many times in the past instead of spraying around obstacles in verges twice a year (whether the obstacle should be there or not) it would be just the same Labour cost to strim around those same obstacles May/Sept.

Meanwhile the roads and footpaths in many areas are back to the same state they were in back in 2019;



Church Lane, Dunnington yesterday, could be anywhere else across the ward.

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters.
T:01904 413370

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From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>

Date: 27 August 2021 at 08:20:15 BST

To: Ben Grabham <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Widdowson" <cllr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>, cllr.adagorne@york.gov.uk

Cc: Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Parish Council Osbaldwick <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>, Alastair McFarlane <murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com>, Jonathan Kay >, Jill Edwards >, Gwen Swinburn , Steve Galloway <

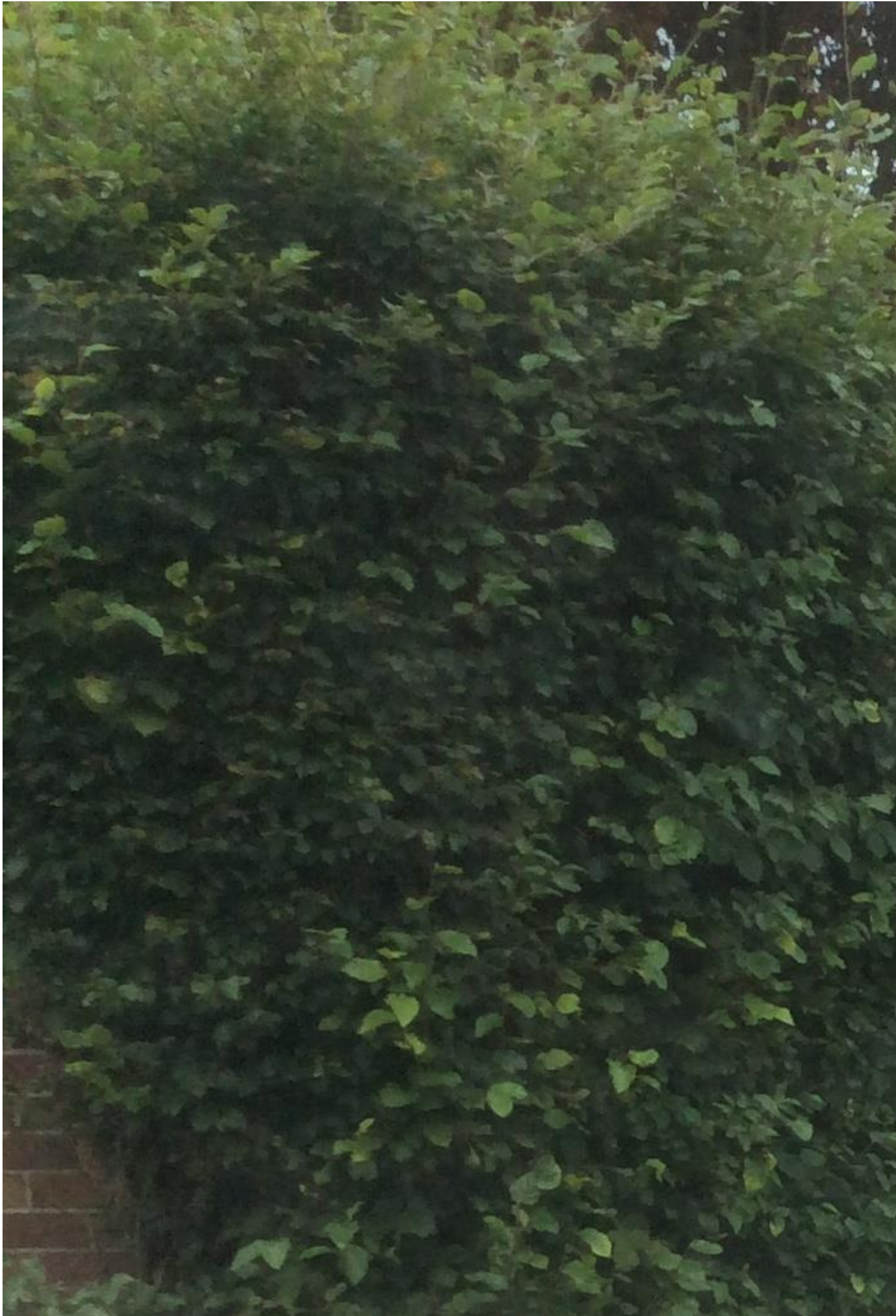
Subject: Weed control.

Dear All,

Leaving aside the ignored requests for actions to clear blocked footpaths and cyclepaths from encroaching verges I wonder how long it will be before the weeds in the road gully's join in the 'party' to block paths as well.

In so many areas of the city we have reached the same low levels of maintenance as Summer 2019.

I saw the 'In Bloom' volunteers in the centre of Dunnington the other day clearing weeds and if they weren't active more of Dunnington would be like the photo below.



The traffic islands on Hull Rd, Bore Tree Balk, Kexby are now starting to match the road gully on the A1079 that's blocked up with debris again.



When is the last weed spray of hard surfaces taking place and what chemical is being used in this ward?

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters.

T:01904 413370

From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>

Date: 17 September 2021 at 21:39:36 BST

To: Ben Grabham <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Widdowson" <cldr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>, cldr.adagorne@york.gov.uk

Cc: Julie Bone <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Parish Council Osbaldwick <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>, Alastair McFarlane <murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com>, **Subject: Re: Weed control.**

Dear All,

No answers then?

Do I take it spraying of hard surfaces has ended for the year, that is if it ever started in some places?

What do CYC intend to do to mechanically clean the gullies, traffic islands etc before the Winter then.

Similarly when is CYC flail hedge cutting to start?

Only today Dunnington Parish Councillors had to go out alongside the A166 to clear a large road sign in danger of being blocked by hedge growth again - last year a private contractor had to be paid to do CYC work.

We are now back to the hopeless standards of Summer 2019 in so many respects of weed growth, overgrown hedges, graffiti in so many places.

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters.
T:01904 413370

On 27 Aug 2021, at 08:20, Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk> wrote:

Dear All,

Leaving aside the ignored requests for actions to clear blocked footpaths and cyclepaths from encroaching verges I wonder how long it will be before the weeds in the road gully's join in the 'party' to block paths as well.

In so many areas of the city we have reached the same low levels of maintenance as Summer 2019.

I saw the 'In Bloom' volunteers in the centre of Dunnington the other day clearing weeds and if they weren't active more of Dunnington would be like the photo below.

<IMG_4658.JPG>

The traffic islands on Hull Rd, Bore Tree Balk, Kexby are now starting to match the road gully on the A1079 that's blocked up with debris again.

<image0.jpeg>

When is the last weed spray of hard surfaces taking place and what chemical is being used in this ward?

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters.

T:01904 413370

From: Mark Warters <mark@markwarters.co.uk>

Date: 5 December 2021 at 17:02:38 GMT

To: Ben Grabham <Ben.Grabham@york.gov.uk>, Dave Meigh <dave.meigh@york.gov.uk>, James Gilchrist <James.Gilchrist@york.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Widdowson" <cllr.pwiddowson@york.gov.uk>

Cc: Parish Council Osbaldwick <osbaldwickparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk>, Alistair <murtonyorkparishclerk@yahoo.com>, Parish Council Dunnington <parish.clerk@dunningtonparishcouncil.org.uk>,

Subject: Weed killing.

Dear All,

I wrote recently expressing my concerns as to how late in the year the last hard surfaces weedkilling was to take place when the contractors would be battling the Autumn weather.

As I expected and there are numerous examples all over, I am seeing when the practise of spraying off the back of quad bikes is made even more inaccurate by windy weather/speed of operation or just idleness.

The first photo shows weed killer damage on the side of a verge on Hull Rd just off Canham Grove, minor damage you might say - but not when it's on a verge maintained to a high standard by the residents in the area, I very much doubt incidentally whether those residents would have allowed any weeds in the kerb line anyway.



This is a photo on the corner of Baysdale Av. I took the other day when replanting a tub nearby, weed killer damage both sides of the verge.



On the opposite corner on a section of verge and road that is a private highway the contractor shouldn't have even been down what is to be seen weed killer damage caused by the quad

bike driving over the verge with weed killer on the tyres.



I will continue to say that this function needs to be brought 'in house' ASAP.

I note from a recent FOI response from Dave Meigh to a resident that the weedkilling of the hard surfaces - roads/footpaths has the contract up for tender/renewal next year.

About time to resource the CYC department appropriately and bring this under tighter control with ALL spraying in residential areas undertaken by operatives on foot using knapsacks or CDA methods - controlled droplet application ought to reassure residents concerned over Glyphosate use that chemicals aren't being used unnecessarily and with a less than targeted approach as at present.

As regards the current CYC 'Nomix' CDA spraying that takes place around obstacles in verges prior to grass cutting commencing every year (that does not take place in the Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward following complaints by myself) has anyone taken on board the issue of the use of chemicals unnecessarily around the redundant sign poles that litter so many verges in York?

I've made the point many times in the past and if I see the 'brown circle brigade' out spraying around redundant signs and poles I'll photograph as many as possible next Spring as I don't feel spraying around council obstacles that shouldn't be there constitutes a sensible use of public money nor is consistent with the requirement to only be using herbicides in public areas with the minimum amount of chemical and with as low a frequency as possible.

I understand there is to be a report on herbicide treatment issues in the new year going to Executive, I can't honestly think many of the methods likely to have been trialled to be very effective or cost effective and would much prefer to see a sensible and targeted approach of the currently used herbicides, including use of the 'Diamond' glyphosate formulation to rid paths in certain areas of Marestail.

Look forward to an apology to the residents on Hull Rd off Canham Grove to the damage to the verge they maintain and to residents on the corner of Baysdale Av whose road, verge and path have been similarly damaged despite part of it being a private road - with a sign on the verge saying that.

Mark.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters.
T:01904 413370