



Weed Control on Council-owned Land Policy

Speldhurst Parish Council (SPC) aims to provide a high standard of ground maintenance on council-owned land through its weed control policy.

SPC is currently assessing alternatives to pesticides, particularly glyphosate – the only pesticide currently used by the parish council – for weed control. It should be noted that there are situations where potential trip hazards are caused by fast-growing weeds that push up through rubber matting in play areas, and concrete surfaces on footpaths. In these instances, when the growing season is at its peak the Council will operate a limited and controlled use of pesticide.

The Council will ensure that any weed control work is carried out safely, legally and in line with government codes of practice, which can be viewed online at the following location: [Plant Protection Products \(Sustainable Use\) Regulations 2012 \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/plantprotection/)

A summary of the council's interpretation of these codes of practice is listed below:

1. Application of pesticide will only be undertaken by the Groundsman, who holds a City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides;
2. The Groundsman will mix and prepare the pesticide in an appropriate location, in a safe and legal way, or purchase ready-mixed;
3. The Groundsman will wear suitable personal protective equipment for the job;
4. The Groundsman will only carry out pesticide application before 8am, and signs will be erected to inform passers-by;
5. The pesticide will be applied using a knapsack sprayer applicator in accordance with industry "best practice" for rate and method of application;
6. The Council is suitably equipped to deal with any spillage or similar incident
7. The pesticide will be stored in a locked storage container;
8. A record of applications and areas treated will be kept by the Groundsman and monitored by the Parish Clerk.

For information on the Parish Council's wider environmental policy, please [visit our website](#).