

## **Leisure & Amenities Committee**

### **1. Glyphosate Information Request**

- 1.1 Cllr Philpot requested that an enquiry be made to Streetsmart regarding the ongoing use of glyphosate chemicals. The Parish Council has received the following response from Mr Martin Hambidge, Swindon Borough Council, Streetsmart:

*Streetsmart use Glyphosate in a number of areas of work:*

- *To control weed growth in planted areas such as shrub beds etc. as required*
- *To spray around obstructions within grass verges / open spaces to facilitate mowing without the need for additional follow-up hand work (additional labour and Hand/Arm Vibration issues)*
- *To control weed growth on the public highway*

*The Parish Council funds the first two operations through the SLA with Streetsmart but Swindon BC undertake the work on the public highway in order to avoid trip hazards and to protect the highway infra-structure.*

*Although there has been a lot of press coverage in the media concerning glyphosate, the use of this chemical was approved in Europe in 2017 for another 5 years. Glyphosate is a very effective chemical and alternatives are at best limited and more costly as well as coming with their own pros & cons.*

*The Parish Council could stop the use of Glyphosate for weed control in planted areas etc. and around obstructions but there would be significant implications on this decision, mainly around more complaints and visual untidiness. Strimming and hand weeding are other options but will come at a cost to the Parish Council.*

*SBC will be continuing to use Glyphosate to control highway weeds but if the Parish Council wish to consider the on-going use on planted areas and around obstructions in 2020, please let me know by the end of the year as the obstruction work is undertaken by an external contractor under a contract and we will need to let them know in advance of starting work in February.*

### **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 Possible implications. The Parish Council has budgeted for work within the existing Service Level Agreement to cover grounds maintenance work some of which includes the use of chemicals. There is no direct cost implication at the current time but any changes to the existing contract may result in increased costs.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 For the Committee to review the statement from Streetsmart and determine any action required.

Paula Harrison  
Parish Manager