

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning & Environment Committee

Disposal of Non Native Invasive Plants

1. Weed Spraying – Borough Wide

1.1 Volunteers working in the Parish raised a query about how best to dispose of non native invasive plants. The most commonly found invasive, non-native plants include:

- Japanese knotweed
- Giant hogweed
- Himalayan balsam
- Rhododendron ponticum
- Variegated yellow archangel

1.2 The Environment Agency has advised that land owners should follow the guidance for the control and prevention of Japanese knotweed when dealing with any invasive non native plants set out in Appendix A.

1.3 Public Power Solutions at Waterside have advised that they cannot receive or dispose of any contaminated soil or plant material. The nearest receiver would be Hills Waste Solutions in Purton. Material would need to be transported as set out in Appendix A.

2. Proposed practice

2.1 Where invasive, non-native plants are found within Parish Council maintained public open spaces, and present a risk of spreading, that the Parish Council uses an approved herbicide to tackle the problem. This will require repeated applications.

2.2 There are greater risks and threats associated with removal and transportation than with a treatment applied to the location of the plant. If the Parish Council considers that there are no options other than removal, it should advise Swindon Borough Council as the landowner accordingly.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 As Swindon Borough Council is the landowner, it should make its own assessment and deal with any requirement to arrange specialist removal and disposal. There are no requirements in the Deed agreement that relate to the Parish Council for this responsibility.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the Committee notes the information and approves the proposed practice set out in 2.1 and 2.2 of this report

Appendix A

Prevent spread of Japanese knotweed (www.gov.uk)

You must prevent Japanese knotweed on your land spreading into the wild.

Soil or plant material contaminated with non-native and invasive plants like Japanese knotweed can cause ecological damage and may be classified as controlled waste.

You do not have to remove Japanese knotweed from your land, but you could be prosecuted or given a community protection notice for causing a nuisance if you allow it to spread onto anyone else's property.

Many non-native plants cannot be composted because:

- they're usually persistent
- they'll survive the composting process
- they usually infest areas where the compost is used

Spray with chemicals

Spraying with chemicals can be an effective treatment to stop invasive plants from spreading. You must only use [approved herbicides](#).

You'll have to re-spray. It usually takes 3 years to treat Japanese knotweed until the underground rhizomes become dormant.

You may need to do any or all of the following when using chemicals:

- make sure anyone spraying holds a certificate of competence for herbicide use or works under direct supervision of a certificate holder
- carry out a [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health](#) assessment
- get permission from [Natural England](#) if the area is protected, for example sites of special scientific interest
- get [permission from the Environment Agency](#) if the plants are near water

Use a waste carrier to take Japanese knotweed off-site

You must use a [registered waste carrier](#) and an authorised landfill site or suitable disposal site.

You must follow the law if you've been employed to transfer goods or material by road and you're disposing of any waste that has or might have Japanese knotweed in it.

You must dispose of Japanese knotweed waste off-site by transferring it to a disposal facility that's permitted, such as a landfill site that has the right environmental permit.

You must not:

- dispose of Japanese knotweed with other surplus soil
- sell soil contaminated with Japanese knotweed as topsoil

You can only reuse knotweed-contaminated soils after treatment, on the site where they were produced.

You cannot get a waste licensing exemption for the use of Japanese knotweed.

Before you transfer Japanese knotweed waste you must:

- check with the waste site in advance to make sure it's got a permit to accept material containing invasive plants - the waste site may also need time to prepare
- tell the waste site that you're transferring Japanese knotweed waste

When you transfer the Japanese knotweed waste you must cover or enclose it in the vehicle so that no waste can escape.

After you transfer Japanese knotweed waste

After you've transferred the Japanese knotweed waste at the disposal site you must:

- brush vehicles down vigorously or jet-wash them to clear them of any Japanese knotweed
- inspect your vehicles to check there's no trapped pieces of plant or rhizome

Paula Harrison

Parish Manager