



## CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### PESTICIDE USAGE POLICY

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It is the intention of Chesham Town Council to keep the use of chemicals to an absolute minimum and, where possible, eradicate their use altogether and to observe the following:

- Always look for an environmentally friendly alternative;
- Use only chemicals approved under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986;
- Use only trained and qualified staff; PA1 and PA6 qualified
- Maintain an up-to-date pesticide usage register;
- Ensure that contractors observe this policy and oversee such operations;
- Complete a risk assessment before hazardous substances are used in different situations

Chesham Town Council will observe the following regulations, and all subsequent guidelines and regulation amendments as they come into force:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 (Risk Assessment)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulations 1992
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (1994) (COSHH)

To protect the environment, Chesham Town Council will use the following methods to control annual and perennial weed growth:

**Physical** – hoeing, digging, hand weeding, strimming

**Suppression** - use of mulch, both natural and artificial

**Preventative** - good horticultural practices, including careful soil preparation prior to



planting. Careful selection of plants, and size/shape of beds/borders to ensure minimum exposure of bare soil to wind-borne weed seeds.

Under no circumstances shall chemicals be applied at the following locations:

- on or near to any river, lake or watercourse of any kind\*
- where it is likely to have a detrimental effect on non-target flora or fauna

\*An exception to this is the use of pesticides for the control of invasive species, e.g. Japanese Knotweed. In these cases, the required permit will be applied for from the Environment Agency and their strict guidelines will be adhered to.

Where chemical applications are necessary they shall be applied:

- at optimum times and suitable weather conditions, to reduce the dangers of spray 'drift'
- confined to metalled paths and roadways only;
- Using a CDA (controlled droplet application) with no mix dual

Chesham Town Council will observe the following procedures in storing and handling of chemicals:

- chemical concentrates will remain in the Authority's approved store
- only chemical solutions will be allowed on site
- chemical solutions will be transported in locked, transit boxes, displaying warning signs

Chesham Town Council will continue to strive to find alternative, methods of weed control for hard areas.

At no time will any person, employee, contractor or member of the public be allowed to use chemical pesticides of any formulation upon the Town Council's property without the express permission of the Town Clerk or Parks and Premises Manager, excluding the allotments for which further guidance is detailed below.

## **ALLOTMENTS**

All allotment holders are encouraged to co-operate in the use of chemical pesticides by ensuring that:

- the chemical is applied in suitable weather conditions
- the chemical does not encroach onto neighbouring allotments through either 'spray drift' or seepage
- the chemical does not harm persons, animals or birds, nor encroaches u



- on neighbouring property, public footpaths or the public highway
- all chemical containers must be stored safely and securely while on the Town Council's property
- chemical containers must not be dumped at the allotments

This Policy in its entirety is subject to change following any alterations to Health and Safety legislation, or as deemed necessary by the Council.

Adopted: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Due for review: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021

