

**WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Planning & Environment Committee**

**Obstacle Weed Spraying**

**1. Weed Spraying – Borough Wide**

- 1.1 In previous years, as part of using Streetsmart as its contractor, the Parish Council has bought into the spraying of street furniture, obstacles and edges as part of a Borough-wide commission of the service e.g. cable boxes, benches, bins, lamp columns.
- 1.2 The purpose of the weed spraying around obstacles is for visual reasons as it helps deter weed/long grass growth around obstacles in public open spaces. Without the spraying areas may look unkempt where mowers cannot cut/reach.
- 1.3 This work was reviewed in January 2020 by the Parish Council as part of a review of glyphosate use. The Borough wide spraying programme in 2021 will most likely use a glyphosate type product. These are commonly regarded as the most effective products.

**2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 It has been suggested that the cost to the Parish Council would be in the region of £2,200. It is advised that a single commission (outside of the Borough-wide contact) would be charged in the region of double the price. If £2,200 were allocated, it would be charged to the Parish Council's maintenance budget. It represents 0.24% of the overall precept or 1.1% of the outdoor maintenance budget.
- 2.2 The Parish Council could instruct Swindon Borough Council to remove annual spraying on the public highway in West Swindon from its existing plans and manage any additional unwanted growth via a Parish-based service. This could be through the use of other product spraying, hand cutting/removal, or other techniques. Any of these would be reliant on team capacity and have not been delivered in previous years.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 For the Committee to review the options and make a decision as to whether to purchase the service for the Parish.

Paula Harrison  
Parish Manager