Yarpole Group Parish Council

Herbicides and Kerbside Weed Management

The Parish Council recognises residents' concerns about herbicide use and its potential environmental impact, particularly given the importance of protecting the River Lugg and its tributaries. Whilst mechanical removal might be preferred, it is less cost-effective, more labour-intensive, and often allows regrowth if the root systems are not completely removed.

To support practical highway maintenance, the Council may wish to consider a targeted kerbside weed-control programme based on the approach used in neighbouring Orleton Parish. The aim is to reduce vegetation growth along kerbs where it traps debris, which in turn may obstruct gullies and drainage channels. Vegetation reduces the effectiveness of road sweeping.

The frequency of treatment would be agreed with the contractor, potentially involving applications in May and August. The objective would be to minimise herbicide use while helping to maintain effective drainage and enable twice-yearly road sweeping, ideally including a sweep after autumn leaf fall.

Any treatment would be limited to spot-spraying weeds along the kerb line. Only roads scheduled for sweeping would be included, namely Green Lane and, if feasible, Croft Crescent and James' Close.

Proposal

To use Roundup ProVantage 480, a professional glyphosate-based herbicide, for the targeted control of weeds growing along kerbs where they impede drainage or reduce the effectiveness of road sweeping. The product is approved for use in or near water when applied in accordance with all relevant instructions and regulatory requirements.

This proposal is for targeted treatment only and does not involve widespread spraying.

Consultation

The Council welcomes residents' views on whether this targeted approach provides an appropriate balance between environmental considerations and the need to maintain roads, drainage systems and highway infrastructure. All comments received will be considered before any decision is made.

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