Broughton Parish Council

Use of Pesticides Policy

Broughton Parish Council (BPC) has ownership responsibility for various public areas around Broughton. For some of these areas this includes the maintenance and management of the land.

From time to time weed control may be needed in order to maintain the areas, for which BPC has maintenance and management responsibility, to the standards the Council considers appropriate; for health and safety reasons; or to comply with legislation if there is an infestation of injurious or notifiable weeds.

Maintenance of the public areas is undertaken by both paid contractors and volunteers.

This policy applies to both paid contractors and volunteers, using either commercial / professional use products or those bought from a garden centre / similar retail outlet.

In the first instance non-chemical controls should be considered, including but not exclusively, mowing, strimming, hand weeding, the use of weed matting, or bark mulching.

In certain instances, it may not be possible to carry out effective non-chemical treatment, in order to maintain areas to the expected standards.

Certification

The use of chemicals, such as herbicides and pesticides, is controlled by legislation which must be followed by anyone undertaking any spraying on behalf of BPC, whether as a contractor or a volunteer. Only a contractor or a volunteer with the appropriate pesticide certification (currently PA6, and if near a watercourse PA6W), may carry out the application. A copy of this certificate must be sent to the clerk and will be held on file.

Advance permission

Should spraying be necessary then the relevant contractor or volunteer must gain advance permission to do so from BPC, via the clerk (clerk@broughtoncambspc.org.uk).

It is the responsibility of the person carrying out the spraying to undertake and record a risk assessment prior to starting to spray, and if that risk assessment deems it is safe to undertake the spraying, then appropriate warning signs must be displayed. The signs should be displayed at least until the chemical has dried.

Any person undertaking the spraying must complete a spray record for any spraying undertaken. This must include the date, time, area sprayed, reason for treatment, wind speed and direction, product used and rate of application.

Copies of the risk assessment and the spray record must be sent to the clerk, so they are available for any Councillor, upon request.

Depending upon the location of the spraying, and what chemicals have been used, the Parish Council may decide to close the sprayed area to public access for a period of time. The clerk will notify the person undertaking the spraying, once the Parish Council has approved the use of the pesticide and confirmed whether or not the area will need to be closed.

Unless the product used has a longer statutory waiting time, signs will be displayed and the area closed until the product has dried. For the play area the area should be closed for a minimum of 24 hours.

Approved at Broughton Parish Council meeting on **6th January 2025**.