**FRENSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**POLICY ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES ON COUNCIL LAND**

**It is the policy of Frensham Parish Council to eliminate the use of chemical weed-killers and** pesticides **in the management of all public spaces for which the Council is responsible.**

**Its employees, contractors and all those responsible for the maintenance of sports grounds and other open spaces owned by the Council are required to use non-chemical and mechanical alternatives.**

The term ‘pesticides’ is intended as a generic term to include herbicides, insecticides and fungicides

# Aim of the Policy:

To reduce public exposure to the potentially harmful effects of chemical pesticides in all public spaces owned by the parish council.

**Rationale:**

There is growing evidence that the increased use of chemical pesticides,herbicides and fungicides can be linked to contaminating water supplies, harming biodiversity and causing serious health problems and diseases.

Glyphosate, the most commonly used systemic weed killer, was identified as being a probable carcinogen in April 2015 by the World Health Organisation after conducting extensive research in the area. Other studies have demonstrated that the use of glyphosate has been linked to:

* acute poisoning, kidney & liver damage;
* neurological damage;
* imbalances in intestinal microbial function;
* immune system dysfunction;
* reproductive health & developmental problems.

Effects of exposure are more likely to be suffered by the most vulnerable members of society: **children & infants, the elderly & pregnant women.**

The council is also mindful of the potential effects of pesticides on **wildlife.** There is extensive evidence linking pesticide exposure to a sharp decline in our UK bee population and other pollinators and of their harm to both local biodiversity and the wider natural environment.

It is important to note that if a pesticide is **approved** for use it does not automatically follow that it is **safe** to use. In the light of growing evidence and in recognition of our **duty of care** to parishioners, the Council intends to apply the **precautionary principle:** *“When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established."*

This policy will not effect the council's obligation to eliminate the presence of Japanese knotweed or other invasive species where there is a duty to do so and where there is no other known means of control. In this instance only stem injection rather than spraying will be permitted to avoid wider contamination. Prior written permission must be sought from the Council.

Contact point for information about this policy: clerk@frensham-pc.gov.uk

Further information about chemical pesticides: [www.pan-uk.org](http://www.pan-uk.org)

Policy last reviewed: July 2018