

Agenda item 54.2

Car Park and Market Weed Control

History

STC resolved not to use glyphosate on council land and various trials have been carried out as alternative.

Foamstream and Mirco droplet spraying has already been discarded by the council.

Work carried out in 2023

All areas have been hand weeded with the exception of the King Street car park which has been sprayed twice, using handmade made weed killer

All car parks and Market Square hand weeded

Church Street Car Park – stones cleared from 2 beds and sown with Wild Flower seeds.

Costs

Market square 3 x 10hrs x 3 = 90 man hours (m/h) Cost = £1575

Car Parks – Church Street x 2 x 7.5 x 3 = 45m/h Cost = £787.5

Kings Street x 1 x 4.5 x 3 = 13.5 m/h Cost = £236.25

Homemade weedkiller has also been trialled but this did not completely kill the weeds and they were soon growing again =

Cost 2 x 2 = 4m/h Costs = £ 70.00 + spray cost of £65.00 = £135.00

Constantly weeding on the Market is causing more problems as the hoes are losing the cobbles which need to be refilled with dry sand and compacted. To date the ground staff have borrowed the compactor but if this continues it will be necessary to purchase or hire .

Church Street Car Park – stones cleared from 2 beds and sown with Wild Flower seeds.

A new natural spray is on the market for the council to consider – details below

New Way Weed Spray



Key Points:

- First natural herbicide formulated for hard surfaces in the UK.
- Very fast-acting- effects are shown 1-2 days after treatment
- the treated area can be sown as soon as the weeds have die

New Way Weed Spray is the first natural herbicide for hard surfaces in the UK.

The active ingredient, acetic acid, has been formulated from the highest food grade product and developed to produce a formulation suitable for controlling a wide range of weeds, grasses and hard surface mosses.

Made from naturally occurring ingredients, New-Way Weed Spray is fast acting with weeds & moss dying 1-2 days after treatment.

Unlike other moss killers for hard surfaces, New Way Weed Spray will also control weeds and grass as well, eliminating the need for a separate application.

Perennial weeds will need more than one application to control them, as the product leaves no residual effects in the soil, sowing and planting may be undertaken as soon as the weeds have died.

Proposal to Use the Natural Herbicide New Way Spray on Hard Surfaces in the following areas

Church Street Car Park – beds of wild flowers to be increased

Kings Street Car Park

All Market Square and shed area

To remove stones from alternate beds on Church Street Car Park and seed with Wildflowers.

Costs New Way Spray 18 x 5 litre = £160 + 18m/h £315.00

Cost for m/h for sprays in Car Parks and Market Square =£475.00

Total cost £315.0

Savings

Total costs for 2023 = £2733.75

Estimated costs using New Way = £475.00

Total cost savings = £2288.75

Prepared Lesley Wright