

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Heulwen Hulme, Portfolio Holder for Environment**

**SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan**

**In view of the increasing concerns about the use of Glyphosate as a weed killer within our communities, and the fact that there have been a number of high profile successful multi million pound litigation cases against Monsanto, and a reported 18,400 pending legal cases against Bayer, due to reported health concerns as result of using glyphosate, and the concerns about the effect of the use of glyphosate on the environment, will the portfolio holder undertake a urgent review of the use of glyphosate by the authority and any of its contractors and look at best practice alternatives and report back to Council in due course with firm recommendations?**

**Response**

Welsh Local Government Association have recently issued the attached information from APSE on the topic of glyphosate use by local authorities.

The Trunk Road network is managed by the North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency through a Service Delivery Agreement with Powys, where they specify one herbicide treatment of kerbs and channels during May and also one herbicide treatment of filter drains sections, again during May. Welsh Government are reviewing this process and I know a trial was carried out in North Wales with a hot water system this summer, but we have not seen the results from this trial as yet.

As far as Powys' treatments on our own network are concerned, we limit herbicide treatment to the bare minimum. This is to a large degree this is due to the reduced available budget, but also in consideration of the balance between the environmental impact and our duty to maintain the highways. The core areas of town centres and housing estates receive one routine treatment in May, with any other area only receiving treatment on a reactive needs basis. Currently this herbicide application is the 'Nomix Total Droplet' system.

We do have an issue with the presence of Japanese Knotweed and other invasive weeds in some areas of Powys, and these are treated with glyphosate via a stem injector where possibly or with a knapsack sprayer for the larger clumps; whilst all ragwort is removed by hand.

As part of a demonstration of an Infrared system back in August, we treated an urban area in Brecon town, which proved quite successful, so are evaluating this as a viable alternative to adopt.