



PESTICIDE POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Thornbury Town Council (the Town Council) acknowledges its responsibility to maintain and manage open spaces under its jurisdiction while ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents. This Pesticide Policy outlines our commitment to minimizing the use of pesticide and promoting alternative, environmentally-friendly methods for weed management.

OBJECTIVE

To eliminate the use of pesticide in the management of all open spaces for which the Town Council is responsible, where possible, and to explore and implement alternative measures for effective weed control.

PESTICIDE USE REDUCTION

Past pesticide use

To date, the Town Council has used pesticide at its open spaces for weed management.

Transition to alternatives

The Town Council aim to eliminate the use of pesticide for weed management, wherever possible. We commit to identifying and implementing alternative methods that are environmentally sustainable, effective and safe. Where time and budget allow, alternative measures will be trialed and reviewed. Successful alternatives shall be implemented where possible.

EXCEPTIONS AND SPECIAL CASES

Sports pitches, tennis courts and splash pad surfaces

If alternatives to pesticide are not viable, exceptions to use pesticide will only be considered when weeds are causing health and safety and quality issues for public use.

Invasive species

This Policy will not affect the Town 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 such cases, the Town Council will act responsibly and efficiently to eradicate these invasive species while minimizing the use of pesticide.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Town Council will actively engage in public education and awareness campaigns to inform residents about the Town Council's commitment to reducing pesticide use and the importance of environmentally-friendly weed management practices. Residents will be encouraged to participate in this effort and adopt sustainable practices in their own gardens and green spaces.

MONITORING

The Town Council will regularly monitor the progress of this Policy and assess the effectiveness of alternative methods.

REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This Policy will be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, amended to incorporate new, safer, and more effective methods for weed management. The Town Council will remain open to suggestions and innovations that align with our commitment to pesticide reduction.