

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 29

Subject: Weed Removal

Date of meeting: 11 July 2024

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group Amendment

That deletions are made as shown with ~~striketrough~~ below and additional recommendations are added as shown in ***bold italics*** below:

This Council:

- 1) Acknowledges the ***targeted and limited*** use of glyphosate ***that*** was agreed ***by Council*** in February 2024;
- 2) Notes the high volume of complaints Councillors in ~~north~~ ***many parts of Brighton and Hove*** receive ~~had previously received~~ about lack of weed removal; the danger of not cutting verge sightlines; the hazard of broken pavements; the risk dogs are exposed to by seeds in long grass; ~~the risk to hay fever sufferers;~~ ***reports from residents regarding*** the unsightly state of ***verges in*** the city; ***the need to strike a balance between supporting biodiversity and keeping our neighbourhoods maintained to the satisfaction of residents;***
- 3) ***Notes that in March 2022, the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee agreed to begin a 3-year trial in which the previous 11 verge mows per year would be reduced to 6;***
- 4) Notes that mowing is inadequate ***some mows scheduled for spring 2024 did not take place;*** and that insufficient resources have been allocated to this key election pledge ***available in City Parks following substantial and successive budget cuts to local authorities; that conditions have been such that grass growth is around 20% increased compared to the same period in 2023;***

This council therefore resolves to call for a report to Cabinet which considers options in relation to the following issues:

- 5) Regular ~~The~~ ***The*** grass-cutting ***regime, including*** sightlines ***and*** verges ~~and~~ ~~twittens;~~
- 6) Clear ~~Clearer~~ ***Clearer*** timelines for weed removal so residents know when their streets will be cleared;
- 7) Prioritizing ~~Prioritising~~ ***Prioritising*** residential areas where elderly ***residents*** live who are ***may be*** at risk of tripping over weeds and broken paving slabs;
- 8) ~~The prioritisation of the elderly, the disabled, and hay fever sufferers ahead of an ineffective rewilding policy.~~

Proposed by: Cllr McNair

Seconded by: Cllr Meadows

Recommendations to read if carried:

This Council:

- 1) Acknowledges the targeted and limited use of glyphosate that was agreed by Council in February 2024;
- 2) Notes the high volume of complaints Councillors in many parts of Brighton and Hove had previously received about lack of weed removal; the danger of not cutting verge sightlines; the hazard of broken pavements; the risk dogs are exposed to by seeds in long grass; reports from residents regarding the unsightly state of verges in the city; the need to strike a balance between supporting biodiversity and keeping our neighbourhoods maintained to the satisfaction of residents;
- 3) Notes that in March 2022, the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee agreed to begin a 3-year trial in which the previous 11 verge mows per year would be reduced to 6;
- 4) Notes that some mows scheduled for spring 2024 did not take place; that insufficient resources have been available in City Parks following substantial and successive budget cuts to local authorities; that conditions have been such that grass growth is around 20% increased compared to the same period in 2023;

This council therefore resolves to call for a report to Cabinet which considers options in relation to the following issues:

- 5) The grass-cutting regime, including sightlines and verges;
- 6) Clearer timelines for weed removal so residents know when their streets will be cleared;
- 7) Prioritising residential areas where elderly residents live who ~~are~~ may be at risk of tripping over weeds and broken paving slabs;