



Weed Control on Council-owned Land Policy

Speldhurst Parish Council (SPC) aims to provide a high standard of ground maintenance on council-owned land through its weed control policy.

Speldhurst Parish Council has completed trials throughout 2023 and 2024 replacing the pesticide glyphosate with a natural weed killer to control weeds. This was used in 2025 and has proven to be an effective approach so this will continue to be the preferred system for weed control.

It should be noted that Speldhurst Parish Council may still allow the limited but controlled use of glyphosate in very specific situations. As examples (but not restricted to) trip hazards cause by excessive weed growth in areas or through concrete surfaces where the natural weed killer may not be as effective as required.

The Council will ensure that any weed control work is carried out safely, legally and in line with government codes of practice, which can be viewed online at the following location: [Plant Protection Products \(Sustainable Use\) Regulations 2012 \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/plantprotectionproducts/)

A summary of the council's interpretation of these codes of practice is listed below:

1. Application of pesticide will only be undertaken by the Grounds Keeper, who holds a City & Guilds Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides.
2. The Grounds Keeper will mix and prepare the pesticide in an appropriate location, in a safe and legal way, or purchase ready-mixed.
3. The Grounds Keeper will wear suitable personal protective equipment for the job.
4. The Grounds Keeper will only carry out pesticide application before 8am, and signs will be erected to inform passers-by.
5. The pesticide will be applied using a knapsack sprayer applicator in accordance with industry "best practice" for rate and method of application.
6. The Council is suitably equipped to deal with any spillage or similar incident.
7. The pesticide will be stored in a locked storage container.
8. A record of applications and areas treated will be kept by the Grounds Keeper and monitored by the Parish Clerk.

For information on the Parish Council's wider environmental policy, please [visit our website](#).