



Department for Environment and Community Services

Date: 01/05/18

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Dear Parish council and Town council,
RE: chemicals

South Gloucestershire council is a member of the Greater Bristol Pollinator Forum*, the local delivery partnership for DEFRA's national pollinator plan which is aiming to try and safeguard the nations pollinating insects and reverse recent dramatic and worrying declines. One action is to reduce chemical use on public land. This will benefit biodiversity generally, plants and insects specifically.

2016 trials in one ward and 2 parks in Bristol matched the experience of Pucklechurch parish which opted out of herbicide use 3yrs ago; both with no increase in public complaints. South Gloucestershire has therefore decided to stop using any chemicals on its open space or verges. However if you feel strongly that your parish would like to opt back in to having chemicals please let us know. Any problems please report to StreetCare@southglos.gov.uk. If you want to talk to Pucklechurch parish council about their experiences please get in touch with Pucklechurch Parish Clerk parish.council@pucklechurch.org.

Many thanks for your help and support,
Sally Pattison, Biodiversity, Open Spaces Team, Streetcare

N.B. Our highly skilled contractors, Total Weed Control, will continue Japanese knot weed spraying and will also continue with the usual spraying of footways and highways twice a year in-line with best practice.

You can find out more about the herbicide debate anywhere online but you may like to look at www.gardenorganic.org.uk/glyphosate-debate

*The Greater Bristol Pollinator Forum is made up of Bristol University, UWE, Avon Wildlife Trust, Buglife, Friends of the Earth, South Gloucestershire Council, Bristol City Council.