
Report To: Full Council **Date:** 19 May 2025

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Road Sweeper/Weed Control

1. Road Sweeper

- 1.1 West Swindon Parish Council commissioned Idverde to conduct a single sweep of residential roads funded by the Parish Council, alongside a sweep of main roads to be reimbursed by Swindon Borough Council.
- 1.2 Idverde deployed an HGV sweeper for 14 days to complete this work. Over 41 tons of debris was collected from the roadside; the equivalent of 50 builder bags or 25 small cars.
- 1.3 The result is that roads are cleaner than before and the lack of debris should inhibit the ability for new weeds to take hold. The road sweeper was not able to remove all presence of established weeds in the kerb line and as result, an option for weed control is detailed below.

2. Weed Control

- 2.1 The most effective approach to weed control is a combination of chemical spraying and mechanical removal. A single spray to the kerb lines of a suitable herbicide would tackle the established weeds on pavement edges and in the roadside. Ideally this would be followed by a mechanical sweep at least two weeks later to remove the vegetation and keep the area clean and clear.
- 2.2 From a practical perspective, using a contractor is the most efficient way to introduce weed control this year. Parish Councils such as Haydon Wick and St Andrews have recently used a contractor. This contractor, is estimating that West Swindon would take two workers, six weeks to complete, at a cost of approximately £12,000.
- 2.3 The best timing for the application of a herbicide is when plants are in a season of active growth although it will be effective outside of that.
- 2.4 For 2025-26, if the Parish Council was minded to tackle all established weeds in the outside pavement edges and kerb sides, it is recommended that the following approach be taken
 - May 2025 – First roadsweep
 - August 2025 – First spray
 - September 2025 – Second sweep
 - Review February 2026

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Weed control and sweeping the public highway is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, however, a budget was set for 2025-26 of up to £30,000 for this purpose. The cost of two sweeps and one spray is estimated to be in the region of £24,000 (with the exclusion of main roads) confirmed quotes to follow.

4. Recommendation:

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Council confirms its commitment to implement weed control across the Parish and commits funding to a deliver a Parish-wide spray of herbicide with a follow up HGV roadsweep.