

Labour amendment to the Making Cambridge a Pesticide-Free City motion proposed by Councillor Thornburrow to Motion and seconded by Councillor Hadley 1

(Received by Wednesday midday additional text underlined and deleted text ~~struck through~~ in black type).

(Revised amendment to motion in red, additional text underlined and deleted text ~~struck through~~)

Cambridge City Council notes that:

- ~~- Pesticides are currently used by the City Council to control plant growth within Cambridge, including in our open spaces.~~
- ~~- City Council teams also use pesticides for the management of grass areas associated with highways under a Service Level Agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council.~~
- Pesticides are substances that are designed to control pests, including weeds. The term, pesticide, covers a broad range of applications, including herbicide, fungicide, insecticide and rodenticide. The most commonly used pesticide are herbicides, which account for a very large percentage of all pesticide used by the City Council.
- ~~- Exposure to pesticides is associated with human disease, harm to wildlife and contamination of our natural resources.~~
- ~~- Safe and effective alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides exist and are in use by other local authorities who have committed to becoming pesticide-free.~~
- ~~- Trials this year of stopping herbicide use in a number of parks in Cambridge have been successful without significant negative impact on either the quality of the area or the Council's resources.~~
- Understanding that our biggest use of pesticides is herbicide applications, the City Council, Streets and Open Space team has ceased to use herbicides ~~pesticides for~~ in the management of council parks and city council open spaces; and only will apply these in exceptional circumstances.
- The City Council does not operate in isolation and engagement from with the wider community and with other bodies will be necessary to phase out the use of pesticides within the city, including ending use on highways ~~under the Service Level Agreement~~ with agreement of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Cambridge City Council therefore:

~~1) Commit to stopping all use of pesticides on Cambridge City Council's open spaces within the next year~~

~~2) Bring a report to the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee defining a strategy for the complete phase out of pesticide use by the end of 2022~~

~~3) Establish a stakeholder forum including Cambridgeshire County Council, members of the public and local landowners to assist in implementing the strategy~~

~~- Commends the Streets and Open Spaces team for having stopped the use of herbicides unless special circumstances warrant their use ended pesticide use on the Council's parks and open spaces. from July 1 2019, within three months of having committed to do so.~~

~~- Supports the Streets and Open Spaces team in their work with Cambridgeshire County Council to reduce and remove the need to use herbicides end the use of pesticides by the City Council on highway footpaths and verges, and their continued efforts to find viable and effective alternatives. under the service level agreement that governs these areas.~~

~~- Will continue the process of discussion and consultation with other interested parties and public realm landowners to work to eliminate the use of pesticides on publicly accessed land in Cambridge, the aim that Cambridge becomes pesticide-free.~~