



Date of Issue: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

**To All Members**

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the **Community & Environment Committee** on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024** in the **Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee, SR8 2PH** at **6.30pm**

Mr I Hall  
Town Clerk

**A G E N D A**

Members of the public are very welcome to attend our meetings. We have a limited number of designated public seating in our Council Chamber and so any members of the public wishing to attend to observe the meeting are advised to contact the Council in advance so that we can reserve a seat for you: [council@peterlee.gov.uk](mailto:council@peterlee.gov.uk) or (0191) 5862491.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

Members are reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Please seek advice from the Town Clerk or Democratic Services Manager prior to the meeting if in doubt.

**3. Eden Hill Skatepark Project - Update**

Report from the Town Clerk (attached)

**4. Council Use of Glyphosate Review**

Report to follow.

- Report to:** Community & Environment Committee
- Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Report of:** Ian Hall, Chief Officer & Town Clerk
- Subject:** **Eden Hill Skatepark Project, Update**
- Report Purpose:** To update members on the Skatepark project following Council decision not to approve a request from the contractor for a staged payment agreement.
- Background:** Council, at its meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024, refused a request from the contractor, Wheelscape/Active Legacy Ltd, to agree to a staged payment arrangement for the construction of the skatepark. (Minute no C.30/24 refers).
- Detail:** Further discussions have taken place with the contractor, who has requested that a counter offer be put to Members.
- The Contractor has stated that they will not be able to undertake the project without a staged payment due to the initial capital outlay. They have offered a two-part payment arrangement with the first instalment of £54,000 being due at week 4 and a final instalment of £56,000 at the completion of the project.
- As members were advised in the report considered on 24<sup>th</sup> June, the project is being funded from s106 monies, which will not be released by Durham County Council until the project is complete.
- The Town Council would therefore need to fund the project until it is complete. If, for whatever reason, the project is not completed the Council will not be reimbursed from s106 monies. The Council would therefore be at a financial risk.
- Shortfall in funding**
- The project was to be funded via s106 monies and other grant funding if available. S106 funding of £90,000 has been secured, however it has not been possible to obtain further grant funding for the project.
- There is therefore a shortfall of £20,000 in funding the project. This would need to be drawn down from reserves if Members wished to continue with the project.
- Recommendation:** That Council consider the contractor's further request for a two-part payment agreement and implications of a £20,000 funding shortfall.

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

- Finance**                    Although the project is being funded from s106 monies, the Town Council would need to fund the staged payment until the project was complete. This opens the Town Council to risk should the project not be finished for any reason.
- In addition the Council would need to fund a shortfall of £20,000 from reserves if the project is to go ahead.
- Staffing**                    No direct implications
- Risk**                         See finance section above.
- Equality and Diversity, Cohesion and Integration** – No direct implications
- Crime and Disorder** – no direct implications
- Consultation & Communication** – Public consultation will be undertaken prior to the work commencing.
- Procurement**            A procurement process was undertaken to award the contract.
- Legal**                        No direct implications

**Report to:** Peterlee Town Council

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Report of:** Wayne Harriman Acting Neighbourhood Services Manager

**Report Title:** Council Use of Glyphosate Review

**Purpose:** This report is intended to provide members with a summary of the current ban of Glyphosate products used within the Neighbourhood Services Department and for it to be reviewed again for the general maintenance across our sites.

**Background:** As members will be aware, the Town Council implemented a blanket ban on the use of the product Glyphosate in December 2018 whilst also agreeing that the strimming could be done 3 times a year as an alternative.

The neighbourhood services department have continued to try and source a suitable replacement over the past years and have struggled to find a product that provides the same results as Glyphosate based products, all other alternatives are far more expensive and provide less protection over the period of application compared with Glyphosate.

Glyphosate is still used in many well-known household products around the world, including the agriculture company Monsanto's 'Roundup' Herbicide range.

With regard to glyphosate and human health, the most recent ruling in the US pertains to levels of exposure and practices that are not experienced and employed by the town council, and it should be noted that the composition of Roundup, the most common commercial name for Glyphosate, is composed of binding agents in the US that are banned in Europe and therefore would not feature in any spraying undertaken in our Neighbourhood services department.

Several local authorities have also considered the banning of glyphosate. However, they have stated that there has been no suitable replacement found that does not cause other environmental impacts and they have deemed glyphosate safe for use as it has been fully licensed for the UK. Durham County Council still use glyphosate and continue to spray this product in and around Peterlee including in areas adjacent to Peterlee Town Council Land.

After substantial research by the Acting Neighbourhood Services Manager, it can be said with some confidence that there has been no suitable alternative herbicide found to use that does the same as Glyphosate and that does not have its own impact on the environment.

With no suitable replacement been found this is now influencing the services we provide. Our recently tarmac carparks are now showing damaged caused through weed growth.

**Proposals:** This is a topic that has split views not just over the country but the world. The current view of the Acting Neighbourhood Services Manager is that to reintroduce some use of glyphosate-based products for herbicide treatment that are safe and risk-free (provided proper practices and equipment are used).

However, the Acting Neighbourhood Services Manager is aware that Members may wish to consider the matter carefully and has therefore identified options for Members consideration.

1. To continue the blanket ban on the use of Glyphosate within Peterlee Town Council. This option however will have a visual and budgetary impact in and around Peterlee, areas to consider are our recently tarmacked carparks and extensive driveways, which are now in need of attention.
2. Re-introduce using glyphosate where practice needs across Peterlee Town Council assets. Areas that will not be treated are, play areas, proximity to sports facilities, water ways and parks.

**Recommendation:** Members are recommended to note the contents of this report and provide feedback to the Acting Neighbourhood Services Manager on Glyphosate use proposed for the summer season.

## **APPENDIX 1: IMPLICATIONS**

**Finance** - Additional cost regarding replacement of hard services.

**Staffing** – no direct implications.

**Risk** – no direct implications

**Equality and Diversity, Cohesion, and Integration** – no direct implications

**Crime and Disorder** – no direct implications

**Consultation & Communication** – no direct implications

**Procurement** – no direct implications

**Legal** – no direct implications

**Data Protection** – no direct implications