

Council – 17th October 2024

Notice of Motion:

To phase out the use of Glyphosate

In September 2019, the then Southend Borough Council declared a climate emergency and has already gone so far as to ban the use of Glyphosate from its parks and open spaces due to the associated risks and potential damage to human and animal health.

The potential damage to human health, wildlife, insects and aquatic life has led to the European Union banning its use in 2023.

However, in the UK it is still permitted, and Glyphosate-based products are still used as a weed killer on our streets. It is now time to find another solution.

We are seeing a significant decline in butterflies, bees and other pollinators and we need to be doing everything we can to ensure their prosperity which includes banning the use of harmful pesticides and weedkillers.

Therefore, Southend-on-Sea City Council resolves:

1. Notes that the published joint administration agreement commits this administration to “explore alternatives to the use of herbicides in public spaces as soon as possible” and this is being looked at proactively.
2. To continue to work on finding an alternative method for removing weeds in a sustainable way that does not affect wildlife or human health.
3. To trial new methods for removing weeds on the highway next season, to help phase out the use of Glyphosate products as soon as practicably possible.
4. To actively promote to residents about creating ‘weed/wildflower patches’ in their own gardens where insects such as butterflies and bees can thrive.

Proposed: Cllr Stuart Allen

Seconded: Cllr Susan Badger