



Peacehaven Town Council

Use of pesticide policy

This policy outlines the commitment to minimizing chemical use and ensuring safety in grounds maintenance.

Pesticide Use & Management Policy

1. Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the responsible use of pesticides, prioritizing the health of the community, the protection of local biodiversity, and the long-term health of the soil.

2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

We follow an IPM approach, which means chemical intervention is the last resort. Before using any pesticide, we must:

- **Prevent:** Use mulch, native plantings, and proper aeration to reduce pest/weed pressure.
- **Monitor:** Identify the specific pest or weed and assess if the damage exceeds acceptable levels.
- **Mechanical Control:** Prioritize hand-weeding, hoeing, heat treatment (steam/flame), or mowing.

3. Prohibition of Glyphosate

The use of **glyphosate-based products** (e.g., Roundup) is strictly prohibited on all company/organization grounds.

- No staff member or external contractor may bring glyphosate onto the premises.
- Alternative weed control methods, such as acetic acid-based products, fatty acids, or manual removal, must be used in its place.

4. Restrictions on Chemical Use

If a non-glyphosate pesticide is deemed absolutely necessary:

- **Neonicotinoids:** Use is prohibited to protect bee and pollinator populations.
- **Application:** Spot-treatment is preferred. If the use of vehicle sprayer (i.e. on sports fields) is used this must have spray drift protection/ shrouds fitted.
- **Weather:** No spraying during high winds (>10mph) or immediately before heavy rain.

5. Safety & Notification

- **Licensing:** Only certified professionals may apply regulated chemicals.
- **Signage:** Clear signage must be posted 24 hours before and 48 hours after application in public areas.
- **Storage:** All products must be stored in a locked, ventilated, and bunded area with up-to-date **COSHH** (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) sheets.

6. Contractor Compliance

All third-party landscaping contractors must sign an agreement to adhere to this policy, specifically acknowledging the **glyphosate ban**, before commencing work.

7. Exemptions and Special Authorisations

While this policy mandates a **pesticide-free approach** where reasonably practicable, certain critical situations may require a temporary departure from the standard prohibition, including the ban on glyphosate. [1]

7.1 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

A targeted exemption is granted for the management of highly invasive or dangerous plant species where manual removal is ineffective or poses a greater risk to the local ecosystem. [2, 3]

- **Target Species:** This includes, but is not limited to, **Japanese Knotweed**, **Giant Hogweed**, and **Himalayan Balsam**.
- **Methodology:** For Japanese Knotweed, **stem injection** must be prioritized over spraying to eliminate drift and protect non-target flora.
- **Plan Requirement:** Any contractor or staff member seeking this exemption must submit an **Invasive Plant Management Plan** detailing the location, treatment timeline, and long-term monitoring strategy. [4, 5, 6, 7]

7.2 Public Health and Safety Emergencies

Pesticides may be used in rare, time-limited circumstances where there is an immediate danger to public health or property that cannot be contained by any other reasonable means. [8, 9]

- **Structural Integrity:** Control of pests or weeds directly threatening the stability of critical infrastructure.
- **Vector Control:** Management of pests that are proven carriers of disease in high-density public areas. [9]

7.3 Approval and Duration

- **Authorisation:** Any use under these exemptions requires written approval from the Town Clerk.
- **Time Limits:** Emergency authorisations are granted for a maximum period of **120 days**.
- **Evidence of Alternatives:** The applicant must provide evidence that all non-chemical and "lower-risk" methods (such as steam, acetic acid, or mechanical pulling) have been considered and found insufficient for the specific danger. [8, 10, 11, 12, 13]

7.4 Statutory Requirements near Water

If any exempted herbicide is to be used in or near watercourses, the **Environment Agency** (or relevant national body like SEPA) must be notified, and all necessary permits must be secured prior to application. [14, 15]

CLIMATE INVENTORY LIST

Type	vehicles	year	life expectancy	fuel type	Recommended best practice renewal dates	Current mileage / hours	Comments	Planned Replacement Year	Replacement Cost	lease
Ride on Mower	Cramer optimus electric mower	2025	5 years	electric/ battery	5 years when battery warrenty expires	12 hours	purchased in 2025	2030	£27,000	£250 p/m
Mower	allet C24 bowling green mower	2008	>10 years	petrol	2018		Newer version should be able to take cassetts we already have. No battey version avaiable yet so will keep it going for now	2026	£11,000	
Vehicle	Kawasaki mule	2016	2026	petrol	5 years 2021	1100 hours	Replace with electric powered system (basically a golf cart)	2026	£19,000	£100 p/m
Vehicle	Kubota tractor	2024	2034	diesel	10 years or 2000 hours	160 hours		2034	£39,000	
Vehicle	Ford transit	2016	2031	diesel	2021 5 years	19000 miles	Possibly replace with Hydrogen powered or Electric to ensure carbon neutral by 2030.	2030	£50,000	£450p/m
Other	groundsman aerator	2006	2025	petrol	could last longer as little used.		Use until end of life and then hire as not used much		£8,700.00	
Other	generator 7kva	1998	2025	petrol	could last longer as little used.		Use until end of life		£600.00	
Other	pro eliet chipper	2021	2026	petrol	high wear item		damaged in accident and will be discussed at L&A on the 24th March 2026	2026	£11,000	
Other	generator 4kva	2017	2025	petrol	could last longer as little used.		Use until end of life		£500.00	
handheld	hedgecutter	2022	2028	Battery	5-7 years	n/a		2027	£500.00	each
Hand held	Chainsaw	2022	2028	Battery	5-7 years	n/a		2027	£500.00	each
Hand held	long handled hedge cutter	2022	2028	Battery	5-7 years	n/a		2027	£500.00	each
Hand held	pole saw	2022	2028	Battery	5-7 years	n/a		2027	£500.00	each
Handheld	Strimmers x3	2022	2028	Battery	5 years	n/a		2027	£300.00	each
Handheld	blowers	2022	2028	Battery	5-7 years	n/a		2027	£200.00	each
handheld	pedestrian rotary mower	2022	2030	Battery	5-7 years	n/a		2027	£700.00	each
other	8 x batteries	2022	2026	electric	4-6 years	n/a		2027	£300.00	each