Skipton Town Council

Policy Name:	**Herbicide / Pesticide Policy**
Date of Last Review:	**14 May 2026**
Version Number:	**v1**
Responsible Officer:	**Chief Officer**
File Location:	**Skipton Town Council\ADMINISTRATION\POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**
Next Review Due:	**May 2027**
Added to Policy Register:	**Yes**

1. Introduction

Skipton Town Council has adopted a transparent and honest herbicide and pesticide policy, that aims to eradicate, where possible, the use of all harmful chemicals. We aim to become a biodiverse Council, that has the health and wellbeing of our residents, visitors, and wildlife at the forefront of our work. Having measures in place to eradicate the use of herbicides and pesticides in the green spaces, memorials, and cemeteries that we manage, encompasses our biodiversity goals. These include a wildflower strategy, bee keeping, tree planting, composting and the use of green vehicles.

2. Weeds

A weed is defined as *'any wild plant that grows in a garden or field where it is not wanted'.* As many studies now clearly show that weeds provide pollinators with crucial habitat and resources, we have stopped our weeding practices and no longer intervene with their growth. Where weed removal is essential for accessibility or aesthetic reasons (such as with the maintenance of our memorials and burial grounds), these are manually removed from the areas to prevent re-growth.

3. Exceptions

Due to the high number of allotment plots and sites we manage, it is imperative for the health and safety of both allotment tenants and surrounding residents that we have pest control monitoring and measures in place at these sites. These services are conducted by a professional, qualified company on both a Rota and pest demand basis.

Giant Hogweed is invasive and highly poisonous, and Japanese Knotweed grows aggressively and is also invasive. Due to the nature of these plants and the health and safety of the public, we have a duty of care to ensure these plants are removed. For a targeted and precise approach, this will be done by stem injection method to remove and destroy these species as efficiently as possible.

We are currently working to phase out the use of chemicals in the removal of moss and tree sap from our recreational grounds' floor surfaces. We currently use a biocide product, however, throughout 2023, we will trial the use of chemical free, natural moss killer. This is with the goal of phasing out our previously used substance.

4. Herbicide and Pesticide Control Measures

Where the use of herbicides, pesticides or chemicals are essential for reasons outlined above, these are stored and used following the products care instructions and the general 'Controls of Substances Hazardous to Health' (COSHH) legislation.