



COUNCIL UNDER INVESTIGATION

WHAT A BUNCH OF WEEDS.

No we're not taking about the human ones, but we are talking about the Councils lack of attention on the actual green weeds left unattended to, in our shared areas of Balerno.

Around Schools, Paths, Large paved / slabbed areas, parks, garages and car parks.

In certain parts of Balerno, these areas seem to have been largely ignored by CEC. PFB Team are escalating this. PFB acknowledge both tidiness and safety is important to the Balerno community.

Why do CEC , year after year , refuse to invest (our money) in effective safe weed removal - such as successful Foamstream or Hot water systems. Many other U.K. councils have dealt with the weeds safely using Foamstream or hot water systems maintaining the areas aesthetic and most importantly Pesticide Free !

CEC have spent a ridiculous £80,000 + on trimmers. But are reluctant to spend on effective hot water machines or even try the machines that they have already purchased!

Yes trimmers can be used as a Pesticide Free alternative , in conjunction with other means BUT the issue is , allocating such a substantial amount of funds on one product that cannot be used alone and cannot be used in all areas for weeds . Result is , many weeds are completely left because trimmers cannot reach etc...

Staffing changes internally within the council , may give the impression , that this issue will finally be sorted.... However , we Balerno residents know this certainly isn't the case, this has been going on (in Balerno) since 2017 .



Council had meetings to discuss the dangers of Glyphosate use in 2016!

The faces may change , the names may change but the issue remain the same - weeds need removed but safely and effectively, without harmful chemicals - causing irreversible harm to our health or the environment.

So let's leave the Council to busily arrange their fake 'failure' situations, whilst we get on with protecting our families from this toxic chemical!

Glyphosate is of course completely unacceptable in Balerno KNOWN to be dangerous. From 2017 Balerno dog walkers reported serious illness, sickness , itchy paws in-line with CEC glyphosate applications , glyphosate drifting being used in windy weather , mothers noting worsening of their child's health conditions and reports of bee deaths ...

Glyphosate is still bought and used citywide and the cities weeds are huge (except from a list of streets in the Edinburgh who have specifically petitioned or requested no more chemicals and for only safe alternatives to be used)

This dangerous unnecessary chemical is linked to everything from sore throats , asthma , hayfever to epilepsy and well know for Cancer lawsuits. World Health Organisation named Glyphosate a probable carcinogen in 2015.

Following this study, international change came for the better , especially when it came to ending use of this chemical for weeding in shared community areas. Many councils worldwide and even in the U.K. immediately took the precautionary decision to stop Glyphosate use for weeds and switch to safe affective alternatives like Foamstream or hot water systems...

CEC have not seriously changed to Safe Alternatives. Current investments have been too much money spent on the wrong products with failure more or less the inevitable result.

Following the Balerno petition , due to serious health concerns in humans and animals, fear of biodiversity loss , Transport and Environment Committee officially made Balerno , Pesticide Free in 2020 and agreed to stop applying harmful chemicals.

Residents weed outside their homes with support of a volunteer group, council were to see to the public shared areas.

Parents reported chronic coughs in their children were reduced or completely disappeared and 'hay fever' like symptoms stopped or lessened , dogs paws were not inflamed after a walk, biodiversity increased by 80%!

These important indicators are worth reminding us that by simply taking a few weeds away, from the small strip infront of our property, we support the health of each other, not to mention the amazing difference we make to biodiversity, wildlife and pets.

The very simple task we do, of all removing a few weeds in front of our own house, perhaps helping a neighbour or contacting us, makes such a huge difference, stops the need for harmful chemicals on our doorstep or street.

CEC are supposed to play their part too , by using **EFFECTIVE** safe weed removal in Balerno's public shared areas such as paths , school perimeters , slabbed paving. Following questions, collected from residents ...

CEC is now under investigation by the Scottish Commissioner

PFB submitted an FOI based on residents queries, which CEC are evading to answer.

Logically many want to know, why our money is so easily available for ineffective methods of weed removal , which anyone can see will lead only lead to a bad result.

The Commissioner has decided CEC has FAILED TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS and is also dissatisfied with the Councils inadequate responses.

It's positive to see such a highly respected third party , clearly agree on the councils failure to deliver proper answers to the Balerno community.

Ultimately we all just want to protect our loved ones, our most vulnerable, kids, elderly and pets and want to see our money spent on safe weed removal, **NOT ON KNOWN HARMFUL TO HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT CHEMICALS** or to have them sprayed all over the city we love and frequent.

It's surely not too much to ask!

HOW TO HELP :

- Manually remove the strip of weeds infront of your property
- Help less able neighbours
- Report a weedy area in Balerno 'Let us know' section of PFB website



CONTACT:

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