

Local Newsletter

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In 2019, concerned residents of Balerno signed a petition asking the council for the weeds to be removed - but safely-without using glyphosate or any other harmful chemicals.

Mounting concerns from residents reporting incidences of declining health and sickness in their pets, bee deaths and property damage after applications of Glyphosate were made, made this matter incredibly urgent.

Why:

- Huge lawsuits reported worldwide against Glyphosate
- Dog sickness / illness / sore paws /bee death following applications of Glyphosate
- 2015 WHO said glyphosate was a definite carcinogen in animals and a probable carcinogen in humans
- Scientific studies now linked Glyphosate to many common illnesses and diseases
- Balerno residents reported feeling ill and unwell after Glyphosate applications
- Children reporting unresolved coughs near Glyphosate applications
- Worsening of asthma/hay-fever/allergies following applications
- Reports of Glyphosate being used on windy rainy days (threat of drift/run off to waterways)
- Speedy quad bike applications, making it impossible to avoid (especially difficult for the elderly & disabled)
- Concerns for children out playing in areas where Glyphosate is being, or has recently been applied
- Concerns for local wildlife & biodiversity

In 2020 agreement was made with Transport and Environment committee that the Precautionary Principle should be applied to end the use of Glyphosate or any other harmful chemicals for weed control in Balerno, and to introduce safe alternatives to remove the weeds.

In 2021, Foamstream, safe alternative trial took place in selected areas of Balerno.

During the trial the equipment was not used to its full capacity by the Council and a 'non-viable' result was their conclusion.

Thankfully others, including ourselves do not share this conclusion. Other councils who presently use Foamstream and Global company Foamstream were also bewildered to where CEC got their figures from...**This year PFB submitted an FOI to try and find the answers.**

FOI

Made up of unanswered resident questions/remaining unanswered questions from PFB:

- We are curious to find out exactly why the council deemed Foamstream safe alternative 'not viable'.
- We understand Foamstream costs money but so does Glyphosate -quoted to be around £200,000 a year!
- The city has £200,000 for Glyphosate use wouldn't this be better spend on a £20,00 Foamstream machine?

It is clear from the FOI response, that Edinburgh Council claim to want to protect health, have admitted they know the environmental risks, but... they actually have no hard evidence to back up their claim that safe methods are 'non viable'

Fortunately there were many positive results during 2021 trial.

The success of large slabbed communal areas, tackled safely and effectively. Successes like these were not shared in the councils report...

