

Chris Lee
Director of Environment &
Regeneration
London Borough of Merton
Crown House
MORDEN



27 August 2021

Dear Chris,

The Use of Pesticides (in particular Glyphosate) in the London Borough of Merton – a follow up

I am writing to ask for a response to my letter of 25 September 2019 (copy attached) which was a response to your e mail of 13 June replying to my letter of 10 April.

This topic has recently been brought to our attention again and we would like to know what progress has been made in taking the necessary steps to eliminate the use of glyphosate in all but exceptional circumstances?

As mentioned in our letter of 25 September 2019, on 4 July of that year the London Assembly unanimously backed the setting up of an action plan and timetable to eliminate glyphosate use by Councils except in very limited circumstances.

We mentioned in our letter of 10 April 2019 that several London Boroughs were already reducing pesticide use as follows:

“The London Boroughs of Croydon and Lambeth are amongst those who are taking steps to achieve this. Also, we understand that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has introduced the use of steam foam to replace the use of glyphosate.”

We understand that Southwark have joined Hammersmith & Fulham in using the Foamstream system for weed control.

In addition, the London Borough of Hackney has recently announced that over 200 green spaces across its council estates would be going glyphosate-free in 2021, combined with a commitment to plant more wildflower meadows.

Given the known health risks of pesticides* and their effect on the ecosystem, it is difficult to see any good reasons for their continued use when alternatives are available, especially when the Council has declared a Climate Emergency and should be taking steps to promote sustainability and diversity in its green spaces.

As requested, please confirm that Merton Council will be following these recommendations and let us know when the action plan and timetable will be available.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Goodair
Chair, Wimbledon Society Planning & Environment Committee

Please send all correspondence by email to chairmanpc@wimbledonsociety.org.uk

Cc: Martin Whelton Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency.
Councillors: Peter Southgate, Ed Gretton and David Dean

*In 2015, the World Health Organization’s cancer agency, IARC declared that, based on observational studies, animal studies and test tube studies, glyphosate is a ‘probable human carcinogen’