

Question 1 from Sarah Butcher:

It has been discovered through FOI that WHBC uses nearly 200 litres of pesticides within the Borough to control weeds. The chemicals used contain glyphosate which has been identified by the WHO as a probable human carcinogen. Many urban areas in Europe have been managed without pesticides for years now (including every town and city in France and Belgium). In the UK Lewes, Brighton & Hove, Hammersmith & Fulham and Lambeth, Trafford and Devon County Councils have all adopted non-chemical alternatives, ranging from high-tech solutions such as hot foam machines to traditional methods including hand weeding and mulching. We would like to ask if Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will commit to phasing out harmful pesticides in the Borough and use alternative, chemical-free weed removal methods for the health of residents, especially children, and to help biodiversity flourish?