

The management of our public realm – use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides & fungicides) and overall attitudes to vegetation.

This Forum believes that traditional methods of management of vegetation in our urban environment should be changed.

- Concerns about the effect of pesticides on wildlife and on human health continue to grow. Whilst some of these concerns are contested the precautionary principle dictates that use of pesticides should be largely discontinued.
- Our wildlife continues to seriously decline. This highlights the need for all of us to adjust our attitudes to urban vegetation. Leaving weeds in place, mowing less and actively increasing wild flower areas will help in the recovery of our urban biodiversity. It will also strengthen the connections between people and wildlife, now known to be beneficial to our own health and well-being.

We ask that the Council adopt and implement these principles as a matter of urgency.

We commit to work with the council and other partners to actively support the communication required to effect a wider change of attitudes.

References & supporting information:

https://www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk/leisure/view,feature-the-story-behind-rotherhams-bloomin-lovely-river-of-colour_32425.htm

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/apr/05/uk-councils-weedkiller-cancer-link-monsanto-roundup>

<https://www.localgov.co.uk/The-cost-of-glyphosate-based-weed-killers/43505>

<https://www.bc-legal.co.uk/bcdn/854-270-british-local-authorities-re-evaluate-glyphosate-herbicide-use-amid-french-farmer-ruling>

<https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign>

<http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free-workshop-resources/>