

CABINET – 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

Written Question from Stephen Davis of Merstone to Cllr John Hobart Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage.

QUESTION

I attended the recent IOW Environmental Conference at which it was clearly stated a clean and well cared for environment was of paramount importance to the Island's economy and its future as a place to live. The application for the Isle of Wight to be a UNESCO Biosphere gave some hope that these sentiments would translate into the proactive development of environmentally friendly policies for the care and maintenance of the Island's lands and habitats.

The mainstays of the Island economy are tourism and agriculture both of which require that our environment is sensitively cared for, preserved where possible and worked in a sympathetic and sustainable manner

I have listed below some key questions for discussion at the forthcoming cabinet meeting - please can you add these to the agenda?

1. Please can the council instigate a policy of prohibiting the use of Glyphosate and other harmful herbicides/chemicals in parks, verges, hedges as well as other public/municipal spaces?

There are now decent options for herbicide free weed control some of which have already been adopted by local authorities, Jersey is a good example of this.

RESPONSE

“The council uses a number of methods to control weeds on and around roads; footpaths and other public spaces and these include the use of glyphosate based weed killers. The council been advised that it is safe to use these herbicides and the European Chemicals Agency’s (ECHA) committee for risk assessment has stated that herbicide glyphosate should not be classified as a carcinogen, ahead of a potential 15-year renewal of consent for its use. Public and environmental safety is a high priority for the council and these matters are kept under continual review.”