

Agenda item 77

Ratification of Scheme of Delegation Decision Town Environment Committee 25/07/24

History

Since the council made the decision to stop using glyphosate, the ground staff have used several methods to try and control the weeds, eg

Homemade weed killer

Proprietary non glyphosate weedkiller

NSDC trials on foam spray

Hand weeding

All the above have been unsuccessful with the exception of Hand Weeding, which is very time consuming.

Under the instruction from the events and market working group Ivan has been investigating hand weed rippers.

Ivan and I went for a demonstration yesterday for SFA Westerman WKB660, please see link.

<https://spapowermachinery.com/products/westermann-honda-weed-ripper-wkb660>

This machine is ideal for use in the Market, all Car Parks and which areas need weeding. It can also be hired out to the community. if the council agreed and with the appropriate paperwork.

Cost Analysis

Presently 1 clean of the market by a contractor costs £450 , with 2 cleans per year and involves the market being dismantled and re built

Cost £900 for cleaning Market dismantle and re build 6 man hours @ £15 per hour x 2 = £180

Total cost per year £1080 per year

Therefore the costs will be paid back in 2 years just for the market, if the car parks are added it will be a further cost saving in staff time.

The costs

£1945 plus VAT and £55 delivery

£105 for service kit and extra braid sets.

This has been discussed at the Events and Market working group this morning and Working group are in favour of purchasing the ripper on the proviso that an alternative fuel is discussed at the next Town Environment meeting .

Scheme of Delegation Decision Required

To purchase a Westerman

£2000 from Market Reserves

£105 from Equipment Maintenance