



Town Clerk: Caroline Leet

EDENBRIDGE
TOWN COUNCIL

Weed Management Policy

Adopted by the Open Spaces Committee on 15 September 2025

To be read as part of the Council's environmental management policies.

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the Town Council's approach to weed control on council managed land. It aims to ensure that all weed management activities are carried out safely, transparently, and in compliance with current legislation and best practice, including the latest DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) Code of Practice for amenity use of pesticides.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all council owned or managed land where weed control is necessary, contractors engaged by the Town Council to undertake herbicide application, and council staff responsible for monitoring contracts and responding to public enquiries.

3. Approved Herbicide and Use

The council currently uses Mircam Plus, an amenity-approved herbicide. It is applied by qualified external contractors who hold the appropriate certification for herbicide use in public spaces. Mircam Plus contains approved active ingredients and complies with national safety standards for amenity use.

Herbicide application must follow all manufacturer guidelines, legal requirements, and DEFRA best practices. Contractors are required to conduct all spraying under appropriate weather conditions to minimise drift.

4. Health and Safety

Contractors are responsible for compliance with COSHH regulations (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health), including safe storage and transport of herbicide, provision and use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and training and certification of operatives. The Council will require evidence of COSHH compliance, qualifications, and risk assessments as part of its contract monitoring.

5. Public Information and Signage

While not legally required, the Council supports the use of courtesy signage to inform the public of herbicide use. Signs will be placed on or near the treatment site and may include product name, purpose of spraying, date of application and contact information for further queries.

6. Contract Management

All weed control contractors must use only amenity-approved herbicides, hold valid qualifications, adhere to safe working practices, provide method statements and COSHH documentation upon request, and use signage in line with council guidelines.

Officers will carry out periodic spot checks and request contractor documentation as necessary. Contracts will include clauses to ensure compliance with DEFRA guidelines and this policy.

7. Complaints and Escalation

Complaints regarding herbicide use will be reviewed by the Town Clerk and relevant officers. No formal breach has occurred to date; however, all correspondence will be taken seriously and responded to calmly and proportionately. If required, the Town Clerk will consult legal support and update Councillors on any significant developments.

8. Policy Review and Communication

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to changes in DEFRA guidance or public concern. Committee members will be briefed on any updates or procedural changes. Policy documents will be made available to the public upon request.