

Use of Glyphosate in Exeter, Open letter to Cllr Pete Edwards, Leader, Exeter City Council



2nd September 2017

Dear Cllr Edwards

We the undersigned are deeply concerned that Exeter City Council continues to use toxic glyphosate to kill weeds in parks, on roads, around trees and along walkways in Exeter. We believe the Council should cease using this suspected carcinogen and explore alternative treatments available, which are already used by other councils, utilities and housing associations.

Furthermore, we believe the Council should back almost 1.5 million European citizens who have signed a petition for an EU-wide ban on glyphosate [1].

The French government has recently voted against the renewal of an EU Commission license for the controversial pesticide [2]. The opposition of France could block the qualified majority of EU member states needed to renew the licence.

Fresh evidence has emerged of the risk of birth defects caused by exposure to pesticides [3] and previous studies suggesting a link between glyphosate and birth abnormalities [4]. In 2015 the World Health Organisation's (WHO) classified glyphosate as a probable carcinogen [5].

In the interests of the health, safety and wellbeing of present and future generations, we believe Exeter City Council must immediately cease using toxic glyphosate and back the campaign for an EU-wide ban.

Yours sincerely,

Name	Address and postcode	email	Please tick if you'd like Exeter Green Party to keep you in touch with this campaign

Notes
[1] EU petition (citizen's initiative) for an EU-wide ban on glyphosate: <https://act.wemove.eu/campaigns/eci-glyphosate-int>
[2] <https://phys.org/news/2017-08-france-vote-eu-renewal-weedkiller.html>
[3] <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/pesticides-birth-abnormalities-linked-pregnancy-study-san-joaquin-valley-california-farms-a7918636.html>
[4] <http://earthopensource.org/wp-content/uploads/RoundupandBirthDefectsv5.pdf>
[5] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/21/roundup-cancer-who-glyphosate->

