

14th AUGUST 2012

JAPANESE KNOTWEED CONTROL – HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the current position relating to Japanese Knotweed (JK) control measures following instigation of a programmed control regime in 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In summer 2010 following requests from Members, the Streetscene Service instigated a programmed regime to attempt to control JK at selected priority sites across the area.

- 3.2 Sites selected in Helensburgh and Lomond were as follows:

Victoria Hall Car Park, Helensburgh
Shore Path, Garelochhead
Church Road, Kilcreggan
Cove road verges

- 3.3 A variety of control methods were proposed and following initial treatments and dialogue with other authorities and organisations it was quickly decided to proceed with twice yearly chemical applications using either Picloram or Glyphosate based compounds as circumstances dictate.

- 3.4 Cutting of stems was carried out in some circumstances but became used as a last resort due being excessively labour intensive, resulting in very limited areas being treated. Stem injection was also unfavoured, being too labour intensive given the size of areas being tackled.

- 3.5 Generally, where repeat chemical applications have been carried out, JK regrowth is extremely limited, although the department is aware that further monitoring and chemical applications will be required.

- 3.6 We are now part way through the third year of this programme and the process will be reviewed in the autumn to determine how best to deal with the issue in subsequent years
- 3.7 The department will consider meeting with third sector groups in future to determine if there options for partnership working and possibilities for attracting external funding, although none have yet been identified. In exceptional circumstances it may be possible for the council to assist with training groups to enable them to carry out work directly where formal management agreements are in place.
- 3.8 Further integration of Roads & Amenity Services will allow operatives who currently cut verges with tractor and flail to undertake further training in the application of chemical to allow the treatment of verges to be programmed along with cutting cycle.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Control measures appear to be working in that JK regrowth is greatly diminished at those sites so far treated and in some places is almost eradicated.
- 4.2 Further works will continue to priority sites, with new locations being brought into the schedule as resources permit.

5. IMPLICATIONS

POLICY:	None
FINANCIAL:	Cost of works absorbed by existing revenue budgets
PERSONNEL:	None
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:	None
LEGAL:	Duty to prevent spread of JK onto neighbouring land

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6th August 2012

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