

TITLE: Japanese Knotweed Control Bute & Cowal area

1. SUMMARY

The Japanese Knotweed (JKW) Control Demonstration project commenced on August 2010 with a number of sites in B&C identified by members as priority in their area.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) Note the content of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Streetscene Manager had agreed to treat the areas identified to allow a 3 year follow up programme to be initiated to assess whether the spraying programme would eradicate the JKW on the areas chosen, namely:

Cowal Area:

- Clachaig
- Bullwood Rd
- Kilmun village
- Red Bridge area
- Kames, Royal Terrace

Bute Area:

- Argyle Terrace
- McNab's Brae
- Bannatyne Mains Rd
- North Bute Cemetery
- Kames Bay

- 4.1 The Bute & Cowal treatment was put out to contract in August 2010 and the results of this treatment proved to be very successful, a follow up treatment in year 2 has meant that areas treated have shown very little regrowth, albeit small pockets of JKW are evident, It is the intention of the Streetscene team to re-treat these areas in coming weeks.
- 4.2 Further to the initial list of areas identified, other areas were treated in 2011 given complaints and requests to eradicate JKW on Council land namely: Cluniter point and Torr-Alain Picnic site in Dunoon.
- 4.3 It was agreed in July 2011 that the council would meet with the Bute Estate (BE) on the Island to look at further treatment of areas to include land outside council boundaries, It was agreed that the works to be carried out by a contractor on behalf of BE would include road verges where eradicating the JKW would be beneficial to both parties.

These areas Inc.:

- Hermitage (Ascog Rd/Mount Stuart Rd)

- Wellpark Rd
- Birgidale Schoolhouse
- West Church Car Park
- Skeock Wood Entrance
- Hawthorn Lane
- High Rd Port Bannatyne
- Skippers Wood Entrance
- Montford Shore
- Meadows plots

Bute Estate has intimated they are willing to continue with the eradication programme on the island and the council will again support this to include areas recently identified by Cllr Macintyre being Mill Lade area and burn at Port Bannatyne.

4.4; The council are looking to have meetings with third sector groups in August to look at further options of partnership working, this could lend itself to expanding the spraying programme to community groups, where the community group could carry out an eradication programme of JKW in their area using trained operatives, The council should be in a position to support this in terms of training and purchase of chemical etc. where an agreement is in place.

4.5: 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.

5. **CONCLUSION-**

The control measures appear to be working, all initial sites identified for this project will be monitored to assess whether clear by year 3.

6. **IMPLICATIONS-**

On-going monitoring will determine future eradication zones and budget responsibility.

Legal: None.

Policy: *None*

Personnel: None.

Financial: From Roads & Amenity revenue budget

Equal Opportunities: None.

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services

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