

**JAPANESE KNOTWEED CONTROL – BUTE AND COWAL AREA**

---

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Following previous reports to this committee, Members will be aware of operations which have been carried out to tackle the presence of Japanese Knotweed as part of an initial 3 year programme.
- 1.2 This report advises on the areas so far treated, success rate and proposed areas for future treatment.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the content of this report is noted.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In summer 2010 a 3 year trial of control methods was started with several methods of treatment initially proposed. These included cutting/burning, stem injection and chemical spraying. Of the three methods, chemical spraying was quickly settled on as the most suitable technique to implement at that time, the others being overly labour intensive for the situations being tackled.
- 3.2 Areas prioritised for initial works were later supplemented by additional sites both on council land and on land managed by Bute Estates, the latter funded by the estate.
- 3.3 Council land treated comprises:

Cowal	Bute
Clachaig Bullwood Rd Kilmun village Red Bridge area Kames, Royal Terrace	Argyle Terrace McNab's Brae Bannatyne Mains Rd North Bute Cemetery Kames Bay

Cluniter Point Torr Alain Tank slip Tighnabruaich Red Bridge, West Bay St Catherines depot, St Catherines Broxwood depot, Sandbank Whole verge between Toward Primary and Sailing club Whole verge opposite MOD houses, Toward B836 opposite Dalinlongart Walkers garage to 40mph sign (A885) Kilmun new footpath	Rothesay Cemetery (behind flexitec) Mill Lade, Rothesay Lovely Cottage, Port Bannatyne Church Car Park, Argyle Street, Rothesay Kirk Dam, Lovers Lane, Rothesay
---	---

3.4 Bute Estates ground treated is shown in the following table:

Hermitage (Ascog Rd/Mount Stuart Rd) Wellpark Rd Birgidale Schoolhouse West Church Car Park Skeoch Wood Entrance	Hawthorn Lane High Rd, Port Bannatyne Skippers Wood Entrance Montford Shore Meadows plots
--	---

- 3.5 Of the sites treated, significant dieback of knotweed has been observed, with those sites treated for a third consecutive year showing a reduction in growth by between 80% - 90%. All will require some degree of follow up action.
- 3.6 All sites will be reviewed during Spring/Summer 2013 to determine extent of respraying necessary and further sites will be brought into the cycle where resources permit. Currently, land at the burn in Port Bannatyne is proposed to be included.
- 3.7 Priority sites for inclusion will primarily include sight lines for road safety and council land where there is risk of knotweed spreading to privately owned ground. Further sites can be considered at Members' request, although the council has no remit to control knotweed on private ground.
- 3.8 Bute Estates have indicated a willingness to continue their input to the programme and this is welcomed as such involvement increases the likelihood of successful control on adjacent council land.
- 3.9 Where appropriate circumstances exist, it is possible that third sector organisations could contribute to the control programme and the council could contribute to training of individuals (cost of training approximately £430 per person). This is however expected to be implemented in a small number of cases in the short term.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Members are advised that treated in the main show very significant dieback of up to 90%. All will require further treatment and monitoring and there should be an opportunity to extend the programme onto additional sites presuming appropriate resource allocation is in place.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

POLICY:	None
FINANCIAL:	Costs absorbed within Streetscene revenue budget
PERSONNEL:	None
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:	None
LEGAL:	None

For further information: Iain Welsh, Amenity Asset Manager - 01631 569180

Jim Smith  
Head of Roads and Amenity  
September 2012