

Herbicide-Free Liskeard Survey Apr 2022 Analysis

Thanks go to Cllr Kerry Cassidy for assisting with gathering the survey data.

[Background Information](#)

[Pesticide Action Network UK](#)

[Pesticide Free Towns](#)

Facebook page [Herbicide Free Liskeard](#) shows snapshots throughout the trial and information on the impact herbicides have on public health and the environment.

Survey Results

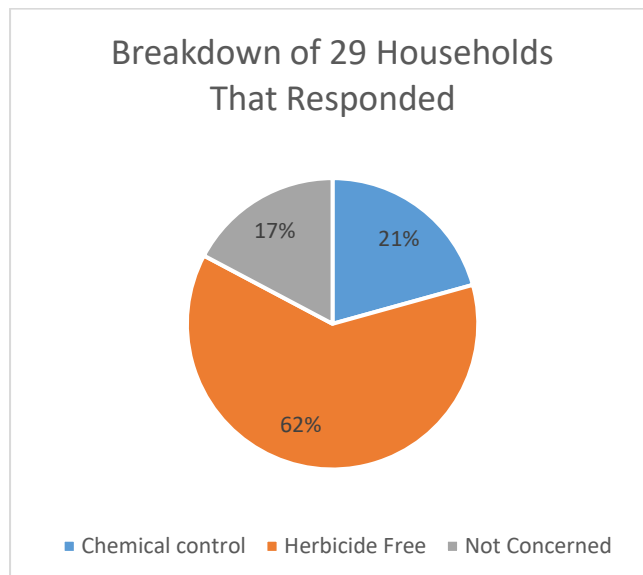
46 households were surveyed of which 29 (63%) residents responded.

One question was asked to keep the process brief and give an indication of how residents would like to proceed with respect to using chemicals to control weeds on their street.

“Hello, I am representing Liskeard Town Council. After living on a herbicide-free street for the past 12 months, would you like to remain herbicide-free or revert back to chemical control of weeds? Comments/ Reasons?”

Of the 29 households that responded 6 (21%) wanted to revert back to using herbicides, 5 (17%) were not concerned and 18 (62%) preferred living on a herbicide-free street.

Of the respondents who showed a preference, 25% wanted to revert back to using herbicides and 75% preferred living on a herbicide-free street.



Comments provided by some residents

- Something needs to be done but not chemicals so that the streets are not untidy

- Ivy coming over narrows the road and needs cutting back
- Prefer weeds gone
- Seeing more bees since going herbicide-free
- Looks a mess. Volunteers have weeded but it still looks a mess
- Weeds get quite high
- Want the weeds controlled but not by chemicals
- Street looks unkempt and worth using chemicals to remove the weeds

Conclusions

Due to the low number of respondents and the small sample size, it is not possible to make statistically compelling conclusions however the figures show a preference for living on herbicide-free streets.

Possible Next Steps

- Run a similar trial on a larger area to obtain more conclusive results and gather information on possible consequences of not using herbicides. This is a high-risk approach in that residents are required to tolerate a higher incidence of weeds. An untidy neighbourhood may turn them against further attempts to reduce the use of herbicides in the future. This approach was implemented successfully by Hackney Council.
- Trial alternative methods of controlling weeds. This will require an increase in budget with the hire or purchase of hardware (brusher, foamer, steamer, flame burning, acetic acid, etc) or additional staff time manually removing weeds. Glastonbury Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council trialled several methods and found Foamstream to be the most cost-effective coming in at one-third of the cost of using glyphosate when the capital and maintenance costs were not included.
- Reduce the use of herbicides by adopting a phased approach. Some bodies had success in taking the first step of banning spraying herbicides around public parks and play areas. This increases awareness among the general public making a herbicide-free policy more acceptable by degree. This approach could be made up of a combination of measures i.e. including spraying main thoroughfares and encouraging residents to care for their immediate surroundings (Adopt-a-Street would be useful in this respect).