

**Aim: Assess the Acceptability and Feasibility of Making
Liskeard Public Spaces Herbicide Free.**

Resources:

The project will rely on volunteer input. Paper and photocopying will be required to produce leaflets and questionnaires - a request will be made to Liskeard Town Council to provide these resources for the project, estimated cost under £20 (Photocopying 3p per A4 sheet * 0.5 Reduced to A5 * 50 households * 3 issues + Liquid Chalk Pens £3).

Method:

With the help of Liskeard Town Council, Church Street and Church Street South will be designated as herbicide free public spaces. Residents on these streets will be informed through a hand delivered leaflet stating in simple terms the process, perceived benefits, possible drawbacks, assessment methods and possible next steps.

Throughout the trial residents will be informed of the plants and insects living alongside them using slate labels and a noticeboard which will be updated monthly. A Facebook page will keep residents informed and provide an opportunity to give ad hoc feedback.

A log of plants and insects will be updated monthly to assess how the biological health of the trial area changes over the trial period.

Residents will provide feedback through Facebook, interviews and questionnaires mid-way through and at the end of the trial.

The trial will start June 2021 and end May 2022.

Reaction Plan:

In the event of overwhelming negative feedback from residents the trial will be halted and herbicide use will resume as soon as is convenient for the maintenance team.

Draft Flyer

Herbicide Free Liskeard

Liskeard Town Council Climate Emergency Working Group has committed to a three year period to progress towards eliminating the use of herbicides in urban areas. Several towns in Cornwall have already become chemical free regarding landscaping, including Wadebridge and Camelford. Herbicides have been shown to cause long term damage to the environment and people's health so we are looking at ways to reduce the use of herbicides in Liskeard by not spraying harmless plants that appear along our roads and paths. The compromise that is needed to this approach is that the town may appear untidy for some residents.

Church Street and Church Street South have been selected to take part in a one year herbicide free trial so that the benefits and drawbacks of going herbicide free can be assessed. The outcome of the trial will be assessed through questionnaires, Facebook comments and monitoring the environmental health of the streets.

The spontaneous plants (usually referred to as weeds) that appear will be regularly monitored and any causing obstruction or damage will be manually removed. Liskeard Town Council currently spends £4k on spraying the streets with herbicide and if Liskeard does go herbicide free this money could be used to deal with the few spontaneous plants that need to be manually removed.

The trial will start June 2021 and end May 2022 and you can follow progress on the Facebook Page Herbicide Free Liskeard as well as look out for signs along the trial area.

If you have any questions about Herbicide Free Liskeard contact Claire and Richard at r.dorling@liskeard.gov.uk. Visit <https://morethanweeds.co.uk> to see how this movement is growing.