

## Rob Core

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**Subject:** FW: Obstacle spraying

**From:** Martin

**Sent:** 10 September 2019 08:37

**To:** Rob Core <clerk@southswindon-pc.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Obstacle spraying

Hi Rob

As you will be aware there are a number of issues relating to the withdrawal of the use of herbicide for the control of weed / grass growth around obstructions within grass areas including the visual appearance. The obvious proposal would be to trim around all the obstructions by hand but again as you will be aware, this comes with the H&S concern around HAV's and the time limited use of strimmers.

Therefore I would suggest the following possible solution:

Employ a 2 staff to form a multi-task hit squad from April to Oct inc. to undertake follow up mowing along with litter picking and other ad-hoc works to give the variation of work during the day required around the time limited use of a strimmer. The team would have a strimmer, hand mower, blower and other hand tools but the main drawback of this approach would be the capacity to deliver the follow up service across the whole Parish (may only do 2 or 3 visits across the season) so we may have to work with the PC to target the main residential areas / high visibility areas only and leave the long grass around the base of trees for example (biodiversity and avoid strimmer damage to tree bark).

Estimated Cost of the hit squad - £47k (includes 2x Temps, Hire Vehicle, Strimmer, Blower, Hand Mower, Hedge Trimmer and Misc. Tools)

Estimated Savings from Herbicide Treatment - £ 3k

These are budget costs only and may vary slightly from April 20 if this is agreed

We will need a firm decision no later than the end of the year if the PC do not wish to continue with the herbicide application as we will need to make arrangements with our external contractor

Hope this is OK

Regards

Martin