



### **Best Practice Guidance Note: Public Notification.**

Spraying pesticides in amenity areas is an important and vital task to keep public areas clean and tidy, maintain sports facilities in top condition and reduce damage to infrastructure from weed growth. In carrying out this task, it is important to ensure appropriate awareness by the public and this is especially true in busy places such as urban areas. It is important for the authority or contractor responsible to demonstrate that he/ she has taken all possible precautions and notified the public as well as possible for the specific circumstances. There can be no standard approach and those involved must be guided by the risk assessments undertaken and reflect the degree of public risk involved.

For example in a built up residential area, the ideal would be to inform all residents in the area prior to operations. However changes in, for example, weather conditions do not always allow such accurate forward planning.

Best Practice guidance is:

- When spraying at a specific site, erect warning signs and wherever possible, carry out operations in periods of non use or close the specific area or facility whilst spraying. Specific examples of sites where real care is needed would be fine turf surfaces, sports facilities, ornamental gardens and small hard surface areas.
- When undertaking 'rolling operations' such as pavement and street spraying, pre-publication of the work programme should be made. This should include use of Council web sites and newsletters where applicable. Ideally the programme could be updated monthly but if not as frequently as possible.
- Warning signs should be clearly displayed on equipment, such as SPRAYING IN PROGRESS, and all spray operatives involved should be well briefed to deal with public questions or enquiries during operations.

The public can be understandably concerned when witnessing spraying and it is important that all appropriate measures are taken to adequately inform the public of the levels of risk and use all means available to ensure adequate public notification, wherever possible in advance.

