

## **Council – 22 November 2023**

### **Conservative Group Amendment to motion 9b – Alternating the Weed Spraying Programme**

This Council notes:

- For at least the last 5 years, the weed spraying programme undertaken by Amey on behalf of the One Trafford Partnership has always started in the North of the Borough.
- The programme typically takes around two months to complete.
- However, it has often started late when contractors are unavailable, which when coupled with delays for weather, means it is often October before the programme finally reaches the southern parts of the borough.
- The residents living in South Trafford are therefore continually at a disadvantage as their wards are visited last.
- Initially, this just means having their residential streets and town and village centres looking untidy and uncared for throughout the whole summer, every year.
- However, repeatedly leaving the southern half of Trafford until last, also means it is subjected to the longer-term damage to road surfaces and drainage systems.

This Council believes:

- It is unfair to have a schedule which plans to leave the same part of the Borough until last every time because by the time the weed spraying programme reaches wards in the Timperley and Altrincham area, it is too late:
  - the seeds have spread - making the problem worse, year-on-year;
  - the weeds have got very big - so they leave sizable holes in the surface, helping potholes form;
  - the weeds start to block grids and drains - increasing surface flooding.
- We should strive for Trafford's town and village centres to look their best, therefore a more considered approach to the schedule that prioritises town and village centres should be developed.

This Council resolves to:

- **Return to the twice yearly weed spraying program in line with the Defra Guidelines.**
- Commence the weed spraying programme by spraying the main street(s) in each of the town and village centres in the Borough first, before starting other roads.
- Alternate the weed spraying programme each year, so that it starts at the opposite end of the Borough, geographically, to the year before.
- This would mean the first weeks of spraying in 2024 would be in Bowdon, Hale, Altrincham and Timperley, and the programme would finish in wards around Stretford, Old Trafford and Gorse Hill. Then in 2025 the order would reverse, and so on.