

TREGONY WITH CUBY PARISH COUNCIL

PESTICIDE POLICY

Pesticide is a general term that includes a variety of chemical and biological products used to kill or control living organisms such as rodents, insects, fungi and plants.

September 2023 saw the publication of the fourth State of Nature (SON) Report, which provides the most comprehensive overview of species trends across the UK. The stark fact is that nature is still seriously declining. Since 1970 UK species have declined by about 19% on average, and nearly 1 in 6 species are threatened with extinction. Gone forever.

Cornwall is not immune, and Cornwall Wildlife Trust's 'State of Nature Cornwall 2020' report found a similar decline in the number and extent of species. The two primary causes were identified as habitat loss and overuse of pesticides. Tregony with Cuby PC's first Environmental Policy area focused on habitat loss (Nature & Wildlife). This second addresses the overuse of pesticides.

The Council will

- Establish an inventory of pesticides and other products being used by all contractors, sub-contractors or others on Parish Council land.
- Ensure approval is granted for each pesticide (or related) product prior to its use on Parish Council owned areas.
- Invite prospective contractors to submit a pesticide-free alternative for undertaking parish maintenance (except for sports playing surfaces where clearly marked).
- Develop an action plan to phase out pesticide use over the course of the next Parish Council Maintenance Contract (3 years).
- Actively promote the reasons for phasing out pesticide use within the Parish, including conducting surveys and holding meetings to measure support (or otherwise) for the policy and how it can be improved.

ACTION PLAN to support the policy: Short (S), Medium (M) and long term (L)

1. Write to existing contractors to establish a list of pesticides/other products that they currently use, explain our intention to gradually phase out pesticide-use (other than where essential and only in specified sports playing areas). (S)
2. Review the existing Maintenance Contract – due for tender in 2024 - and ensure it adheres to the Parish Council's adopted policies and includes a detailed specification of works to be undertaken, including when, where and what pesticides to use. (S)

Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Strategy is intended to guide public bodies on their new statutory duty for nature recovery, as set out in the Government's Environment Bill. Tregony with Cuby Parish Council supports efforts to reverse the steep decline in biodiversity.

This policy has been developed using the following policies and guidance:

‘Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Environmental Growth Strategy 2020-2065’

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/environmentalgrowth>

‘Step-by-step Guidance to becoming pesticide-free: A Guide for Local Councils’.

Nature Recovery Team, Cornwall Council Environment Service

<https://naturecios.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Step-by-step-local-council-guidance-to-becoming-pesticide-free.pdf>

‘Going Pesticide-Free: A Guide for Local Authorities’. Pesticide Action Network UK

[https://issuu.com/pan-](https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/pft_a_toolkit_for_local_authorities?e=28041656/43992989)

[uk/docs/pft_a_toolkit_for_local_authorities?e=28041656/43992989](https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/pft_a_toolkit_for_local_authorities?e=28041656/43992989)

<https://www.liskeard.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/22.bPesticides-3-year-reduction-plan-DRAFT-05.03.2021-v2.pdf>