

I would like to start by quoting your website. Councillor Jess David (Advocate for Biodiversity) states:

“The Lib Dems are committed to addressing the Climate and Nature Emergency and to responding to the growing calls from our communities who want to see action on biodiversity and habitat restoration.”

You must now see that the recent announcement of the decision to reintroduce a maintained golf course on the High Common, a public park, could represent a real conflict with this commitment

The reintroduction of any chemical inputs onto the High Common after two years of being chemical free is concerning to many people who live near and use the public space daily. Many users of the park come from across Bath but it will be local people and wildlife who suffer if you fail to deliver on your environmental promises.

As Chair of Lansdown Crescent Association, as a daily user of the Common with my dog, Darcy, and as a mum of teenagers who love spending time there with their friends, I would like to inform local people of the sorts of chemicals this could involve. I have therefore submitted an FOI request to acquire a list of chemicals (including quantities, method of application and frequency) previously used to maintain the fairways and greens on the High Common as the Approach Golf Course so that I have the correct details to share with our members.

I do though already have the list read out at the Cabinet meeting February 11th 2021. As a reminder, Councillor Sarah Warren asked Paul Crossley to detail the chemicals used.

At 1 hour 31 minutes: Paul Crossley lists the following:

1. Once per year fairways sprayed to kill daisies
2. DWC Contractor uses a product called Turf elite provided by Headland Chemicals
3. Contains MCPA (herbicide), Dicamba (selective herbicide in chlorophenoxy family) Mecocrop P weed killer/herbicide
4. Twice per year iron sulphate
5. Twice per year MPK fertilizer
6. He mentions benzoic glyphosate, and he talks about WHO being concerned that these chemicals are a hazard to drinking water.

The Soil Association website highlights the dangers of these chemicals but also questions the quantity and combined cocktail effects of such inputs which in isolation and in small quantities may be legal, but in my opinion are certainly questionable in relation to public safety if used in a public park, given **that** many are irritants or toxic to animals and children.

This list horrifies many local people. Surely a municipal pitch and putt in a public park cannot need or justify the use of chemical inputs?

I have read your current supplier engagement questionnaire to find a specific requirement relating to chemical free or organic course management, but there is no specific requirement listed to maintain the High Common to the same levels of bio diversity you pursue in all other public parks in Bath. This is concerning to local people who live near the Common.

I would like you all to reaffirm your previous commitments to remove chemical inputs from this public green space before you proceed to any formal procurement process. Ensure that your procurement Officer is specific in requiring a future for the High Common with continued public access and free from chemical inputs. Safe for all users, people, wildlife, butterflies and bees.

Rachael Hushon 28th April 2022