

Parish/Town/City	1. In your community, what additional impact on the highway have you seen in the last year in relation to weeds?	2. Do you have any evidence to show the impacts? If so please could you upload it here.	3. The reasons for introducing the policy change were two fold; to reduce the cost of this area of highways services and; to reduce the use of chemicals which are potentially harmful to nature. With this in mind what alternative proposals would you like us to consider to either better control weeds and/or deliver efficiencies in the way we manage highways overall whilst supporting nature and reducing carbon?	4. We recognise we need to improve our engagement with you. What proposals would you have that could help us improve our communication and engagement with you?	5. Are there ideas or proposals you have about how the county council can work with parish and district councils in the delivery of local services?
Parish	Too many growing in storm drains and covering kerb edgings		Path edgings need to be kept clear so that the edge is clearly definable.	Better communication to the residents	Communication via the comms champions so that residents are aware of what you are doing rather than it looking like you cant be bothered
Parish	Roadsides crumbling due to impact of weeds. Very tall weeds causing visibility issues on corners. Very shabby outlook within the Village. Tall weeds cause problems for the District Council road sweepers.		Weeds could be strimmed or burnt rather than weed killed. There are many weed killers that do not harm the environment that could also be used. Regular clearing of footpaths and rights of way must be maintained for residents amenity and health. This will result in even more problems with the roadsides and footpaths if the weeds are not cleared and will result in even more money need to be spent by the County Council. It is a very false economy if you feel that this has "saved money" You could also provide grants to Parishes so that they can clear the weeds themselves similar to the grass cutting grants that you currently provide. Parishes could then choose what they want to do.	More online polls and surveys would be a start. A regular monthly bulletin should be given to the County Councillors so that they can accurately provide information to the Parishes at the monthly meetings. Better communication with the Highways Officer would also help. Quarterly highways meetings or updates could be organised which include the County Councillor and the Highways Officer so that the Parishes can report items directly and get accurate and timely responses back. The report it online tool does not work as responses are not received within 10 days as stipulated and some reports are not actioned at all.	More open and direct communication channels are needed with the staff that actually work within the County Council. A named communication officer would be great so that they can channel any queries within the Council if a named member of staff is not available. When staff leave it must be mandatory to put out of office emails for responses so that you are aware of the person leaving and are given an alternative contact. Who is responsible for rights of way and footpaths. Who is responsible for road repairs, Who is responsible for flooding, drains and gulleys, Who is responsible for overgrown trees and hedges etc. The list goes on. With reference to question 2 - Why did you wait until the weeds are almost gone before sending out this survey? Any photos submitted now do not show the damage caused when the weeds were in full growth.
Parish	none		no comment	none	no
Parish	All of the gutters in the village are full of weeds as are many of the kerbside drains. When we have heavy rain, large puddles form as the water can't drain away properly. We have had issues with flooding before and these will reoccur if we have a wet winter. Additionally, weeds have started to grow up through the numerous cracks in our pavements leading to a further deterioration in their already parlous state.		I think it is false economy to stop spraying kerbside weeds. The potential savings will, in all probability, be outweighed by the cost of repeated callouts to clear drains of weeds and flooding. I'm also not convinced that much wildlife exists in the gutters.	I think regular messages/newsletters to Parish councils would be very effective. There is an excellent system of passing on such information in this village.	I think the key words are 'work with'. Parish Councils have a unique knowledge of the needs and wants of their locale and many of them, certainly ours, already have systems in place to deliver said local services.
Parish	The crossroads, a focal point of the village which has flowerbeds maintained by the PC and has a listed flint wall (by the church) looks very unkept.		There are all sorts of chemicals which are not harmful available.	A weekly / fortnightly newsletter telling us what progress you have made on repairing all aspects of the highways in the area and sharing with us what your priorities are. We feel very left out being at the tip of South Cambs and on the borders with Essex and Herts.	See above
Parish	Road/kerb margins look scruffy and unkempt. Larger weeds causing damage to pavement.		Use a well proven, CRD approved herbicide such as glyphosate or glufosinate regularly with the addition of diuron where you want longer term control of weeds.	Be honest	liaise with Clerks
Parish	The way the weeds have been neglected has resulted in danger to traffic, people and dogs. Damage to kerbs and roads and unsightly untidy villages and towns. How can communities and residents be proud of their residential areas when everywhere looks neglected and a mess. We used to have pride in best kept villages now not possible. Also, the road sweepers can't do their job as the weeds stop them picking up litter - the result is unsightly weeds and litter!		Manpower to strim and/or dig out weeds. We have seen evidence of this happen eg in St Ives. If weedkiller can't be used, this is the alternative. In the long run it will reduce damage to roads and paths/kerbs which will be costly to repair. Short term decision on one issue results in longer term damage and costs. The 'operational cost' savings on weed clearance is a false economy.	Allow two way engagement with Parish Councils and residents rather than just press releases stating what has been decided. Maybe send a representative to each Parish Council to canvas opinion and seek ideas? Cambs CC need to listen to local people and respond to their wishes rather than making decisions in a Council Chamber and telling the residents/electorate what they have decided. This survey questionnaire is a good start to two way engagement.	As suggested above, full engagement. Seek ideas and formulate strategy "bottom up" by listening to local people and representative groups.
Parish	We have seen a significant increase in the amount of weeds across the Parish this has not only created a very untidy environment but has also blocked drains in an area subject to run off flooding. We are also seeing weeds breaking the surfaces of paths and roads. The villagers are very vocal about the degradation of the village environment being seen by the implementation of this new policy.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zh8WSJmdP9RColar_0mRdLqiPy_8TSE , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1D3EvQK9uN46V1styGzWw5M1ZOfRGC7G , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FdWTvlUe8fFWFBA6jRp6vmmY11N6eYz8 , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1h20JBjXQU4J8VX6XFwdBs54_HCfqHjA	We would like to see active management of the weeds in around the highways. The use of physical removal techniques if you are not going to use chemicals, however the situation is creating wider risks to pensioners walking on the paths covered and broken by weeds and the flood risk being created outweighs the use of appropriate weed killers.	We have an active Parish Council and would like to see consultation directly to the council via our Parish Clerk. The use of facebook or similar to share plans and proposals openly would also be welcomed. The communication we have re flooding issues as an example have been us trying to find someone to liaise with and the response times are not quick, we would welcome proactive communication and easy points of contact to reach someone.	We have active County and District Councillors who partner the Parish. We would like to see County Council taking a view of rural parishes opposed to be Town and City Centric. The opportunity to meet in the villages to see what impact the County & District Council can have to improve the services delivered.
Parish	A huge crease in weeds at curb side and on paths		CCC need to find an alternative way to manage weeds in our towns and villages and make them look tidy and cared for.	A referendum would have been appropriate before the decision to stop weed management was introduced by CCC. No thought was given to the opinions of residents	Have regular consultations with Parish and District councils to gauge the feelings of removing local services
Parish	blocked drains, road sweepers unable to operate, standing water - visually making the villages look untidy and unkept		gully clearance, weed removal	liaise before it is a fait accompli, back up your statements of carbon reduction, cost savings with evidence.	you do not appear see rural parishes differently to city centres or urban environments
Parish	Absolutely scruffy and breeds a total lack of pride along with weeds blocking drains.		You say potential but do not know for definite so bring back weed killing spray as we do for our private gardens and the instructions indicate it's safe for pets. Carbon issue is a smoke screen and treat us with some respect. Introduce the road sweepers as the gutters are in a terrible state which causes flooding.	Do what we expect which is also what we pay for. The road I live in gets no hedge trimming and no road sweeping or weed control which is the least I expect. When you consider the amount of high end council tax you are receiving from my road it really is robbery and disgraceful.	Listen to us and do what we pay for. This questionnaire is another absolute waste of time and money and would not be needed if you carried out duties which the residents and parish councils expect of their council. By you sending out this form makes you look like your listening but your buying time for what you know needs doing. It's a modern paper exercise!!!
Parish	Poor visibility and poor, scruffy appearance		Sustainable control	email	Talk to us

Parish	Trips when crossing the kerb. The Village looks unkempt and littering has increased.		Leave during the winter. Road sweepers will disturb the weeds, then local residents can keep their section clean.	Publish in Sawtry Eye magazine. Big readership in the village.	People who makes decisions should visit villages to see how we live. Try getting on the bus to get around to live what we live when public transport is cut. Once you know what we look like and who lives here that might influence your decisions. Come to Parish Council meetings to talk about your decision making e.g. Green bins more likely to be used by people who live in the countryside, especially as we clear the kerbside that you have not cleared.
Parish	Unsightly and trip hazards		All chemicals used in the UK have to meet strict environmental safety standards so this argument is actually inaccurate. Allowing weeds to grow will increase the damage to pavement and grows and therefore increase the costs to the county in the long term Killing weeds on highways should be seen in the same bracket as grass cutting and hedge cutting and provided the same priority.	Email update is fine	Maybe give local communities the budget and we can organise these natural habitat and environmental management issues.
Parish	Flooding due to gutters being full of weeds and blocked cycleways - pictures of the blocked gullies have already been sent through to you. damage to highways, the weeds are so long and heavily rooted in the ground that when residents are pulling up the weeds they are bringing up with them the road and kerb surface.		There are other alternative weed killers available that are more environmentally friendly and these should have been trialled before the blanket ban. The cost to come out and clear the gullies that are now blocked surely out weighs the savings that have been made by not weed killing. The impact of drains flooding the road and potentially causing an accident must be considered. Highways and kerbsides have been damaged by the weeds and will result in long term costs. Residents are unable to use cyclepaths and public footpaths due to the weeds, so the environmental benefits have been put before residents health and lifestyle benefits.	Give all Parish Councils a mobile number of the local Officer so that they can be contacted in an emergency. Stop shutting the call centre for training - training should be done in a staggered approach so that someone is answering calls and we don't get the message we had this summer that said that the phones weren't being manned because everyone is training. Give Parish Councils a list of email addresses and the roles of those officers to make it easier to contact them. Residents believe that we have direct access to County whereas the truth is that we have as much luck in getting through to someone as they do. In an ideal world it would be great to have a direct line to one Officer who could look after Parish and Town Councils issues, but that is an ideal world and isn't likely to happen. Recognise that the Parish and Town Councils are the first place of contact for Residents and often get the blame for County's policies and lack of action so please stop treating us as if we are being a nuisance. Update the emails you send us, there is nothing more annoying than a generic automatic email response saying it will take up to 12 weeks to have something done. Come and visit us and you may appreciate what we are actually doing and how much flack we take on your behalf.	If the Local officers worked closer with us services could be better prioritised.
Town	looks a complete mess. poisoness weeds in close proximity to grazing animals and farm land		you did this just to save money. dont use wildlife as a reason until you have knowledge of how wildlife works. i bet the centre of cambridge isn't a mess	be truthfull with and dont hide behind false reasoning	listen and work with us who have the knowledge and experience in that area. contact us instead of having a computer to hide behind
Parish	Many many roadside and roundabout weeds impairing visibility and causing blockages to drains and damage to roads and footpaths. Millions of seeds left to spread which will result in millions more weeds next year.		There are many non glyphosate weed killers on the market, whilst not spraying may have reduced costs this year, the ongoing cost will be great, with roads being damaged from the roots, drains will need more clearance and no one seems to have thought about the huge spread of seeds which will now take years to eradicate.	email all Councils with a consultation and ask for ideas.	talk to us, we are at grass roots level and have a better understanding of local issues, if we don't know the answer to any question you have, we'll say so. Any one with even a remote interest in gardening would have told you about the knock on effect of weed seeds, if you leave one weed to go to seed, you'll get a hundred plants from it the next year.
Town	Apart from the excessive amounts of potholes the new anti-weeding policy has made our town look like it's abandoned.		Whilst cost and environmental needs are important so is the feeling and well-being of the community. The weeds have grown excessively and it looks like no-one cares about the condition of the roads and verges. That makes residents feel that no-one cares about them.	Consult with us before you make changes like this, especially where the impact is so significant.	Yes, get out now and treat the weeds, fix more potholes and don't just fix them with spray injection patching. Your vehicle is spray patching the rural road outside our home now and what it is doing will be a waste of time. Yes it's only a single track rural road but it is also access to local fields and a small industrial estate so we get 40 ton lorries and very large agricultural vehicles traverse along it regularly. The road has subsided in places and you think you can fix it with spray patching? No chance (Barcham Road CB7 5TU).
Parish	It is just awful. Pavements being ruined with cracked tarmac and almost impassable in places	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CRwbEZ32LHlmG8eN-ill9fhYDV-jCYoP , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MjKqW-biBtWHJRJzWwXkJa7CZnoYmsut	This is not a cost saving as it will cost a fortune to reinstate the broken pavements and walkways. Using weed killer is not dangerous but if you think it is, the weeds can be cut and flamed.	Officers telling the truth and not pulling the wool over Councillors eyes would be a good start.	Less money for Cambridge, more money for towns and parishes. Fenland always seems to be last on the list.
Parish	The weeds do seem to be worse this year especially on the roads next to the pavements and also on the pavements throughout the village . I look after the Chalklands Community Garden and I regularly pull out weeds where the parking area is and the pavements around the garden area . Mainly because when this area has been treated we have lost some plants in the garden.		I agree that we have to look after the environment and it is difficult to balance with cost etc which means doing it more often is not viable I'm sure . It is a shame as it looks so untidy and unloved.	I think this survey is a good idea but I'm not sure many would engage and fill it in unfortunately because there are slit if questions . Plus there are still many who don't have access to online forms or the internet so their ideas and advice are not registered	Maybe use the local magazines/paper to share information - Linton News goes out to thousands of homes monthly
Parish	restricted view at junctions and encroaching on blind corner		more regular cutting	ask for feedback/comments before decisions are made giving adequate time to consult our parishioners and councillors	keep in contact
Town	Lots of unsightly weeds that cause annoyance to me and my neighbours.		What about the drainage and surface water. What about the pollution blown into my garden. What about the lack of road sweepers. What about the cracks and impact for future years as the repair cost escalate?	Ask questions first, before making stupid decisions. The lack of Council interest on Godmanchester potholes is evidence of that.	Don't try and pass it on to town and parish councils like you have done in the past. CCC has made a mistake - sort it out!
Town	Not being able to see signs clearly. Excess water on the roads.		Either employ people to remove weeds or go back to chemicals	Newsletter	Have a local person to represent local people without political input
Town	Everywhere looks a mess and overgrown! Weeds growing through paving slabs.		Hand weeding, the unemployed, immigrants.	Social media seems to be the only way we find out anything. Stop wasting money on positions that have fancy names but don't actually provide anything positive for the residents!	Too many levels of bureaucracy!

Town	A continual report from people within the community (and on Facebook complaining of the state of the roads and paths with weeds growing to an unacceptable level. When reported we where informed that the weeds do not need doing even when pole where forced to use mobility aids in the main road	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1p7zdmIbQHuDTJZhravWTtMjqxM2Bhip	Increase in the team to manually remove the weeds	Send out a communication to all residences of the process's to highlight any issues	There should a direct communication from County Council an all matters relating to any work or proposal relating to a Town/Parish. This would allow the Town Council/Parish to either confirm that they have received the advise or come back and ask for clarification
Parish	Difficult to see pedestrians and cyclists and have to pull further out into the traffic to see clearly.		There is little evidence to say that these are harmful, to reduce cost and time this is the most efficient method.	Email and more regular surveys.	Get recommendations from residents.
Parish	almost none		Supporting biodiversity is the highest priority and elimination of routine glyphosate spraying is a major element of that policy. Thank you so much for your courage to take the initiative you have. Mechanical removal is the only way forward.	highlight the MASSIVE downside to killing all our pollinating insects, never mind the ever increasing human health issues associated with glyphosate.	Treat weeds which are creating real hazards the same as potholes. Ad-hoc public reporting and targetted intervention. It can work. Please stay on track with elimination of routine glyphosate spraying.
Parish	Reduced visibility on junctions.		More regular cutting back of tall vegetation.	No idea.	Supporting each other on work due and sharing contractors/equipment to share cost and workload.
Parish	Increase		Inform on what chemicals are acceptable and permit Parishes to do their own spraying.	contact the Council via clerk@thestukeleys-pc.gov.uk	Better communications
Town	The impact has been largely visual and very unwelcome. I also know from experience, that the policy if continued will cause and accelerate Road and Pavement surface deterioration. In those parts not treated in the past, weeds have pushed through and caused surface damage on pavements adjacent my property. This demonstrates the power of weeds to cause and or accelerate damage.		Re-introduce the control of Road side weeds. To ensure least cost and adverse environmental impact use the best and most effective and efficient spray technology and chemicals. Glyphosate weed killers appear to be phasing out.	It's good you recognise your engagement with me and all Cambridgeshire constituents needs improvement . The fact that you are now asking about what is felt about CCC highways implementation of this road side policy is an example of closing the door after the horse has bolted. It has caused unhappiness and made places look even worse than normal. It's good you are asking but maybe it would have been better to have consulted prior to implementation. Further ideas.... A printed news letter, say twice a year, keeping everyone, covered by CCC, informed. Constant reminders about what CCC services are available, via online services and possibly Facebook etc.	I don't know how this works at present...but like all such situations, clear and stated objectives, written specifications, monitoring of standards of workmanship and final approval by the initiator would ensure what is delivered meets the stated requirements. Also, make it clear and straightforward about who members of the public can contact in the event they believe some action is required by CCC, Parish or District Councils. Furthermore that all such contacts made by the public are responded to within an agreed time frame and that all and any further actions are also reported to the member of the public.
Town	View blocked when pulling out of junctions, cycle paths not useable, footpath width and height reduced, traffic signs not visible until last minute - if at all; Weeds taking root in kerbsides and pavements which will likely result in future repairs needing to be done. I note that we have occasionally seen a roadsweeper vehicle around soham. Would it be possible to add strimmers to these machines guided by the existing brushes to remove weeds as well?		I support not using chemicals. There is no need for shrubs and bushes to hinder pavement or cycleways - that is simply down to planting the right shrubs in the right place and cutting back sufficiently so that new growth has room to grow without reducing width and height of useable footpaths and cycleways. Any shrubs etc near signage should be cut back in spring sufficiently to allow a season's growth without restricting view of the sign. There should be enforceable bye-laws in place to ensure that shrubs and trees not owned by the local authority are not permitted to grow in a way that restricts usage of public rights of way.	Employ direct labour rather than using contractors for everything.	Most of the problems occur when local needs clash with national politics. A fairer voting system would likely result in better co-operation all round.
Town	With no spraying, we have seen a massive increase in weeds. This has led to the whole area looking unkept and this has led to the town which is already run down looking even worse. This will not help us to attract the investment we need and will also put off the tourists we have visiting, who bring must needed income to the area. Some of the weeds are very large, which could cause hazards to pedestrians , especially the old and infirm. These weeds left untreated will lead to damage to the structures, pavements etc that they are growing out of. Which in the long term will cost the council more than they are saving in not spraying.		The use of targeted spraying and the use of electric vehicles to do the work.	Better social media presence	No
Town	looks dirty and unkempt, difficult to walk past, ridiculous		if you wont spray them get someone to remove them , stop cost cutting when wasting loads in your office, we have paid for this service through council tax so do it	try coming and looking around , not just the town centre which is pre prepared for a visit , meet the people not the councillors	try not ignoring FDC/WTC while you concentrate on Cambridge and the rich end of Cambs
Parish	Lots of weeds on road and footpath margins. This is bound to affect the road and path surfaces in the medium and long term with costs involved, and will inevitably increase the risk of trips and falls, especially in the very young and senior age groups. It also looks like a third world panorama.		Weed killing is more cost effective in the medium and long term. Weeds do not form our "nature" and careful management is the key.	Various aspects of parish activities could be improved by occasional attendance at parish meetings alongside the councillor. One specific example would be the dog warden to provide some evidence of potential penalties for not clearing up dog poo. Even a sighting of a dog warden would help!	See para 4.
Parish	The roads in our local area look like back streets in a third world country		There is a budget cost that covers maintenance of weeds control, if there is a reduced cost from not using chemicals then this should be used in other forms of control. Cutting back/down, racking out, burning off! Weed control doesn't need to be by the use of chemicals. Signage along roads are now being obscured by overgrown weeds and hedgerows causing a hazard to road users.	There is no level of communication or engagement other than through the internet, the reliance is on other organisations to promote engagement with you!	Yes, listen to what the local Parish's say, they are the voice of the local residents. Our roads, pathways, cycle routes and PROW are important community assets.
Parish	Gulleys blocked with weeds resulting in huge puddles along the kerbs		Chemical weed control would be less expensive than clearing gutters this Autumn	Be more up front when this sort of policy is adopted	Listen to the opinions of your elected councillors
Parish	I noticed dandelions, poppies and other weeds growing in the edges along the pavement by my house, and some neighbours properties. I didn't notice it particularly along the roads, it didn't seem a problem. Personally, I enjoyed seeing the poppies flower, and hoed out the few weeds that were in the way. I noticed more beetles in the vicinity this year too. I was pleased to see a road working hoing the kerbside recently in Sawston, as an example of not spraying. I imagine it helps the roadsweeper do a good job, as all the other debris is loosened first too.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Qq1LjaBrvxwzaKyXNo2sEvSQLbaM6hle	This may be done already, but I would think pairing up a team doing manual hoeing with a streetsweeper machine, so that the hoers just loosen/cut, and the machine does all the picking up, may save double effort.	Again, this may already exist, but if I was concerned about the impact of some weeds e.g. buddleia getting where it shouldn't, id like to be able to report it, and be able to pinpoint it on a map, and then be given an update by email on when it might be done.	not at this moment
Parish	none		none	none	none
Town	They are poorly cut back especially on the alleyway near me which I have to report to the CCC every year which they complain at me doing		There are less harmful things that you can use to kill weeds that are more natural, cutting them back in the first place would help	Accept when people report a problem and take responsibility for it, rather than complain when a comment has been submitted.	Liaise with the parish to see what needs doing

Parish	The weeds have made the already narrow footpaths, adjacent to the main roads, more difficult to use. The weeds in the roads have made the visual appearance of the village look untidy and unkempt and has generated several complaints. Some parishioners have taken it upon themselves to undertake the clearance of the weeds on both the paths and roads, making it unsafe for all concerned. I have also spent several hours clearing some of the well used footpaths of weeds in order to ensure a safe route for all, especially those with pushchairs and wheelchairs.		I think it is necessary to keep the roads and footpaths clear for those to use, if people can't use a footpath safely then they will get their car out which goes against the carbon footprint!	We have a community Facebook page, a parish council Facebook page and website and a bi-annual newsletter which gets delivered to all households in Bluntisham. We also have community notice boards which we can display information at anytime.	By engaging with parishes at the initial ideas stage to be able to work alongside and not against each other.
Town	It's an absolute disgrace the state of the area.		Cost cutting appears to be spend nothing. Road signs obscured by over grown foliage not even weeds. Path from Ely to sturney overgrown. For a tourist city Ely is embarrassing as you arrive. But we have found £1.1m to cycle from Wicken to soham....	Get some common sense back into local authorities so people can engage with a slim chance of something sensible happening.	Stand back and actually look at what is required rather than what is actually being pushed forwards to please the few.
Parish	Nothing negative. Increased meadow plants and pollinators		I would like to see a sustained NO chemicals policy - mechanical means can be used instead	Keep emphasising the positive, focus on benefits and also reduced costs	Please ENGAGE with us - don't simply close reports that have been submitted. There are many issues that have not been addressed which could easily be solved with some face to face discussion - or at least a phone call.
Parish	Some weeds		I think it's fine	Regular bulletins from Parish	Consultation and communication
Parish	Taking up footpaths, and unfortunately taking prams into the road to avoid hedges and weeds		Possibly more of a controlled and make sure it's kept up to standard the leading a grow wild	Possibly have one phone call a month would be suffice	Driving, more of a voluntary system that helps us as a community to come together and work together, and it's not happening due to lack of communication or understanding of what needs to happen
Parish	none		supporting nature and reducing carbon	via Parish Council Clerk	bus services, local policing, potholes
Parish	Complaints on residential streets		The weeds should still be treated	At the very least, directly informing councils that the policy will be changing, before we have to deal with complaints from residents. Signposting residents to who they should contact to discuss.	Better communication and a named point of contact
Parish	Wonderful to see wild flowers growing on verges		Reduce verge cutting, only doing so where significant road safety is impeded	No suggestions	No suggestions
Town	The town council had to step in any undertake the gully weed spraying to avoid flood risks		Use alternative sprays which do not impact on the environment and be honest that this was a cost cutting exercise which has gone wrong! If CCC can not do the work, pay the Towns and Parishes to do it in the areas that they want it done the most.	Yes you need to keep Town & Parish Council's updated via email	Engage more with partnership working, as parishes have different priorities and some would be willing to take on more services them selves, or contract them out, but they would then be in control of what happens in their parish.
Parish	More attractive verges, more pollinators		Use mechanical means only to remove unwanted vegetation from e.g. drains or line of sight	Take some action when things are reported, instead of simply closing the report	see above
Parish	Weeds ave grown along the edges of footpaths and in the roadside gutter - growth has been exacerbated by road sweeping periodicity being reduced such that significant accumulations of soli/grit/detritus no exist. Weed growth is starting to lift the adjacent tarmac, a situation that will no doubt be exacerbated by the freeze/thaw cycle this winter. Road and footpath repairs can therefore be required in the not too distant future.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=18i45W8nq2ttZ0V-PahsSBIU-jaVt1Jwj , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gpPBZ4Oqb1j2Yaua4eUZIDuYmH7S Lck, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qDP4cZ3_CtXRSIdMYwxmcGnScBTK MRCE	The visible impact os the new policy aside, it seems that short term financial savings will lead to considerably more expensive road and footpath repairs - that will, when taken in the round, be more detrimental to the environment than the small amounts of weedkiller saved.	Communicate directly with Parish etc councils before decisions like this are made.	Stow Longa Parish Council already works closely with district and county councils. But it has become increasingly common for emails/on line reports not to be responded to - even when hastened and irrespective of the advertised turn around times. This situation does not encourage interaction and results in complaints being used as a first rather than last resort.
Town	They seem to be everywhere. The town looks shabby with weeds growing from all drains and most kerbsides. I've treated my kerbs, as well as my neighbour, an old lady living alone. You've been spraying for a long while yet this year, in the middle of a financial crisis @CCC, you decide it's bad for the environment. Are you sure it's not a money issue?		There are alternative chemicals, perhaps find one that lingers and prevents weed growing back so soon, so that you have to treat the roads less frequently?	We already have good communications between HTC and CCC. Keep the lines open.	HTC already cuts grass in Huntingdon on behalf of CCC. We're open to discussions on widening the scope of work. We care about our town and how it looks to visitors. Huntingdon won Gold again, in the large town category, in Anglia in Bloom but had to keep the judges away from the areas where the weeds were worst.
Town	Dangerous lines of sight at junctions, weeds growing in drains (confirming blocked and silted up drains), weeds growing in existing cracks and smaller potholes in both the road and on pavements ultimately making these larger, the spread of weeds onto verges and into ditches		Use of non toxic chemicals to kill weeds at source, better maintenance of roads, pavements and drains to reduce the growing environment for weeds. Regular cutting back at road junctions and roundabouts	Just communicate and engage! Our County Councillor does report to our Town Council meetings but even he did not seem to be aware of this weeds policy.	Perhaps run Open Days where Town and Parish councillors can visit a market-place style event showcasing services and introducing key contacts.
Parish	The unchecked weed growth is quite noticeable and unsightly. Other debris (straw, rubbish) can accumulate amongst the weeds making things worse.		Weeds could be burnt off to avoid use of chemicals.	Don't know.	Change in policy should have had a consultation period prior to coming into effect.
Parish	The weeds on the bridges over the A148 include brambles and at least two tree saplings.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xJ30EDesmZD_9TqYJewMo9oFVyKof 2Lc, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1X1mdFnn2AWswKvimRxErz0IW_rrKJ 06M, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1E7UKZm6bGSRIGGxxjTJDWzG2_ko_XeBd	The brushes of a path sweeper would do the job but the saplings will need to be killed to avoid structural damage. (I cut back the brambles earlier in the year but it needs more than my efforts!) Is there the chance that villages could borrow a path sweeper occasionally? We get a lot of leaf fall in Madingley and it takes a long time for volunteers to clear paths by hand.	I have always found that I have a very helpful response from the CC, e.g. when reporting fly tips.	See suggestion above about possible shared use of pavement sweeper. (Madingley is too small to purchase or store one.)
Parish	Pathways and cycle paths overgrown and breaking up because of the weeds. Untidiness		Spraying the weeds as a prevention will save money on resurfacing later. Filling small potholes is better than waiting till they get large and start damaging cars and degrading the road surface. A stitch in time saves nine.	Please remember that Parish councils set their budgets in the autumn for the following year. If you decide you are not going to treat weeds etc we need to know asap so we can discuss taking on the task and budget for it now	Publish a list of who does what and who to contact to discuss it (for Council clerks only maybe)

Parish	Weed growth has increased significantly. We have seen large, some knee to hip high, weeds growing along the footpath edges, which at times have reduced narrow pavement widths. These do not help when wheelchairs, electric chairs and children's buggies try to use narrow village pavements. After rainfall the weeds are wet and often flop into the pavement, again causing problems for pedestrians. Drainage gullies which have silted up have started to grow weeds out of them, adding to existing drainage problems in heavy rainfall. Weeds are growing out of cracks in pavement surfacing, causing potential trip hazards and further breaking up of tarmac. Comments from residents have included that the whole area has looked unkept, messy and unsightly.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1C00uVQEg0TFmaRkDyvVv3X8QG0zj Ntja	Alternative measures must be put in place, you cannot just stop spraying weeds and let them grow wherever! The seeds blow everywhere and in future years the weed growth will just increase. Possible alternative measures include: organic herbicides, manual removal, flame burning, electrocution, which are all used in organic agriculture to manage weeds. Please could CCC share the results of the trials on cessation of weed spraying, so we can learn from the effects of the decision?	Parish Councils are ideally placed to pass on information from other authorities to residents. We all have to have a website, most of us have Facebook and Twitter accounts as well. Regular weekly or monthly bulletins to Clerks, specifically to just update on policy changes or projects can easily be publicised by Parish Councils. The Cambs Matters newsletter is already sent out to Parish Councils once a month, perhaps this can be used more by CCC to help pass on other information to residents and Cllrs.	We feel strongly that CCC should work more closely with Parish Councils to keep us and our residents informed on CCC matters but also to understand more about what Parish Councils are doing to support their communities, what CCC might do to help in those projects and how we can work together. Does CCC have Community Liaison Officers? People who can link up with Parish & Town Councils to help keep more informed on what we are doing. Perhaps regular liaison discussions with Parish & Town Councils. In S Cambs these have happened for years as Cabinet liaison and Parish Planning update meetings, usually once every 3-4 months and usually via Zoom or Teams. They give opportunities to ask questions and pass on project updates. In Cambs we have a very active Society of Local Council Clerks Branch, where Clerks meet once a quarter for training, updates, networking, etc. We usually have 20-30 Clerks per meeting, this would be an ideal opportunity for CCC to meet and make contact with Parish & Town Clerks.
Parish	To reiterate the paragraph from a recent letter the Parish Council wrote to Stephen Moir regarding the recent policy of not spraying roadside weeds. This is just unacceptable; it is neither cost effective nor attractive. The damage the weeds are doing to paths and roads will cost more in the long run than the weed spraying. The Parish Council fully supports bio diversity but this is just making everywhere look untidy, this policy must be reversed before lasting damage is done to not only roads but also tourism.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1o-5pdmxtdhqJaloj9WPxVZNkZQtBeXD	The Parish Council recommend that the weed spraying is reintroduced immediately, with the environmentally approved weed killer that you have previously been applying. CCC Could invest in wildflower meadows to even out the removal of weeds with the inclusion of wildflowers. Parish Councils could apply to CCC for wildflower seeds to create their own areas of nature.	CCC need to recognise that the area of Cambridgeshire is diverse and what suits the city of Cambridge does not suit rural Fenland. Communicate with the Town/Parish Councils if there is any significant policy changes, a good Town/Parish Clerk will know what matters to put in front of their Council, and which matters don't apply.	Make sure Councillors that represents a particular area actually attends Parish Council meetings, that way the information should come down the line.
Parish	Complaints regarding the village looking untidy		Treat weeds on a cyclical basis	Consultation before changes are made and better dissemination of information once changes are agreed	Better communication
Parish	More weeds at the side of the road causing drainage issues.		There are environmentally friendly alternatives to chemical weed killers, eg white vinegar/salt mix.	A regular "update" email	No
Town	Regular overgrowing that prevents people from using pavements safely. Overgrown curbs, which leads to drainage blocking.		I think there needs to be spraying once a year (beginning of the season) and then being monitored on regular basis. I don't think the new scheme will save money. But it will help the nature. The spraying also has a lasting impact, which we all know is not healthy, but if we want a no spraying attempt, we need to do more weeding, at least every 6-8 weeks. To do nothing, and in particular expecting residents to report overgrown areas is the wrong way.	Make sure that there is a schedule in place, e.g. every Monday you check and take action in Eynesbury, Tuesday town centre, ... This would also help to organise voluntary groups that want to do litterpicking or helping with weeding. And send those schedules to the town council office, which can forward them to us councillors.	Give more deciding and man power to the places themselves. A town needs to be managed by the town council, and district, county and so on should not decide when what is happening in town. We need to be able to send a team out to remove weeds and do repairs, when we think it is the right time/thing to do and not wait until we get a go weeks or months later.
Parish	Weed growth causing blocking of gulleys, drains and gutters. Damage to tarmac at kerbside and flooding.		Use less harmful chemicals combined with removal by mechanical means. Research methods used by other authorities.	Consult with District and Parish Councils at an early stage and well before implementation of any new policy.	See answer 4 above
Parish	None		Happy with the reduction of chemical usage. Would just ask weeds are managed by cutting back on bends and on turning to the A505 so road can clearly be seen.	n/a	Keep lines of communication open
Parish	Build up of dirt on the roadside. Grips not working properly so roads flooding. Paths are dangerous for the elderly with weeds causing a trip hazard and the path surface getting damaged.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1x7r31pWMPlp8SZhd2j3NCY-gCCyGZt	False economy. The weeds are doing more damage to the surfaces which will mean additional costs in repairing them.	This is a very important change to policy which has large consequences. We were not informed of the change and should have been consulted	If you ask local people before you make a change you will have an idea of how things that are changed centrally will affect the local services
Parish	Since the CCC's decision to stop weeding the sides of roads/footpaths the weeds have grown along the vast majority of the village's kerbsides and edges. Some of these have been up to knee high. We have been lucky that we had a very dry September and October as many of the drains on the roadsides are blocked or partially due to these weeds. (attached photos) In the event of even medium rainfall these would increase the amount of surface water on the road drastically leading to an increased risk to life. It can also be seen that these weeds have acted as a net to catch other detritus such as hay and litter leading to even more of an eye sore. (Attached photo) The increased growth of these weeds has already led to the disturbance of the tarmac surface and without further weed prevention in the coming years will result in an increased deterioration of the road surfaces and so increased costs to CCC. The weeds have also been growing well along the actual footpath (where the kerbstone meets the pavement). This is resulting in trip hazards, especially at points that are common for crossing of the roads.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1OfwAUAbfbY6SoDUL2EOsCoDdZ3-tfhNB , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FJazzuHmyj6PjDu073awPC-rif7M0khd , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1n88qLUSWG_dJy-XkHbBduPQ5F-1b0ye6	We reiterate that not killing weeds is a very short term view when it comes to delivering cost efficiencies as it is likely to cost more in the long run to repair the broken roads and pavements. Are environmentally friendly weed killers an option? Would increased road sweeping help (so removing seeds and dirt where seeds grow in, while also removing the small weeds)? Another suggestion is notices to the areas you are spraying to give warning of spraying so to warn those that walk their pets to perhaps go elsewhere that day? If the CCC were genuinely interested in reducing carbon and supporting nature there are plenty of other schemes they could look into that would be safer and more cost beneficial in the long run	Consult us about changes before decisions are made and inform us about changes before they are then made. What we have experience is sending letters apologising for a lack of communication. Consultation would have been likely to result in new ideas that could have been implemented rather than allowing growth of weeds which in the long term is likely to increase the cost of road maintenance. Consulting with us and explaining reasons for proposed changes increases the probability of a stronger relationships with users who rely on roads and footpaths being safe.	Our experience is that new initiatives are sometimes introduced too early without sufficient thought of how they will actually work in practice resulting in over promising and over delivering.
Parish	More and vigorous weeds, in many cases pushing through the surface layer thus opening the bitumen/surface covering to frost damage in the coming winter.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MzwyKADPWaJJdNVoDYK04O3UBwN0AqZ , https://drive.google.com/open?id=15ie8lTQ1pZrLSqh_L0r5J3rJ_2Zl_Kc8 , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1r-GHaVUaYbRKa5qtW8J00LMmlWeSIR3t , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CBPARG15KSY-aWPUEctkRidYah3FvyfQ , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_vrl-fLdg2Y1-1bA--m-Ac3_6txOwmZ	The previous control work was about right.	Emails to all town and parish councils is right.	Just keep all councils informed.
Parish	Blocked drains, potholes caused by weed growth, weed preventing storm drain run off in the road	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fx9U7zyImSNgOoLqZr-87cKnCbFYuf7	It will not save money if the weeds are damaging the road and creating flooding	Communication and working together with the parish and town councils to understand their needs.	No
Parish	More growth out of the storm drains		None	Maybe earlier notification and better engagement of any change in policies	Bi-annual open meetings where parishes can meet collectively with CCC Highways to discuss policies, objectives, issues and ideas. A published minimum standard of communications and engagement, as our parish council can wait several months for a reply to a relatively simple question.

Parish	<p>First visual - the weeds look scruffy and unsightly (I know, ugliness is in the eye etc). Second, over time they will damage the join between the road surface and the kerb edging. In the long run this will be more expensive. It's the same issue as not cleaning the drains. How big and to what width do they intend to let the weeds grow? We not convinced that kerbside weeds will support nature. The weeds will grow, but will insects live in them? The pollution of the weeds must have a detrimental effect on them. Has anyone has done a study of the effects on nature of weeds growing kerbside.</p> <p>Weeds , seed at different stages and times of the year so the seeds will spread along Highways and footpaths through the times we have wind and rain, so germination occurs naturally at different stages. This can lead to drains on the Highways possibly blocking from dying weeds and this in turn collects other foliage to cause the drain to be bypassed when the rain is heavy.</p> <p>On footpaths weeds can grow across possibly causing trip and slip hazards.</p> <p>This policy has been in effect for too short a period to have blocked drains. It is when the weeds die and dead vegetation breaks away and flows into drains that it will start to take effect. I have uploaded two photos of the start of the possible issues with drainage.</p>	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1uiMnkzwvWeWsQIPwbLjS7enGt0rZh4p , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1rH-MajQ4TPqjmywNxLmDPvWjH2ZpztQD	<p>Rotating wire brushes on drain cleaner lorries are worth a go. It will reduce emissions as only one lorry needs to do both jobs. It will certainly reduce chemical pollution. Unless one wants to keep the weeds growing, it won't harm nature. In the long run the cost of fitting lorries with wire brushes, will be cheaper than chemicals. It will also reduce the production of micro plastics. At the moment drain cleaner lorries have plastic brushes. The plastic will wear and micro plastics will fall into the road, get swept away by rain and eventually end up in the sea.</p>	<p>Let us know in the first place when there is change in policy, if there was any communication about this decision it was not noted by anyone on our Parish Council or on other Councils. We can't all have missed it. Email all parish Clerks when there is any change in policy.</p>	I would suggest you hold a meeting/forum either in person or on line where you discuss how we can work together on delivery of local services.
Parish	More weed growth, which has held detritus in the gutters which means when it rains water cannot get away causing much more water on the roads and localised flooding.		Use glyphosate which has not been proved harmful in the UK and is still widely available. It is NOT banned which many people seem to think.	Being more willing to engage not just by email or text but face to face or by phone	By taking notice of comments which are made by local people with local knowledge not consultants who generalise.
Parish	We have received numerous complaints over the year about the weed growth along the edges of roads but also on footpaths and alleyways		If spraying is no longer an option than alternatives or manual methods need to be considered.	We would have appreciated being consulted, or at the least advised of the change in policy in advance.	Consultation and communication are key. We are also concerned around the changes to Local Highways Officer roles and the way their duties have been divided among multiple teams. It is important the person we are dealing with know the area well and this has always been the case in the past.
Parish	Weed growth within the highways does have an impact on the way our village looks. It makes it look uncared for by the County Council. This is self evident from visiting the village. We need to address the weed growth in the gutters which hold up the detritus and when it rains then blocks the drains and causes a lot of local road flooding which is dangerous for drivers.		Manual labour on selected areas worst effected (without use of chemicals?). The council should do more to clean the gutters and the drains.	no comment	no comment
Parish	Tarmac breaking up. Suggestion from residents that the weeds were a health & safety risk to those less mobile. Eyesore!		No! There are some services that should be maintained regardless.	Consultation in advance in respect of policy changes like this that cause furore in a small community parish!	Consultation. Visits to Parish Councils to present proposals or Forums in District Areas to which PCs could be invited to launch changes to practice and receive feedback before challenging new ways are introduced.
Parish	None		Less cutting and management to roadside verges. Plant wild flowers on the verges which would help manage the weeds and require less cutting and management.	Come and speak at a Parish Council meeting so conversations and questions could be had face to face rather than over email.	Regular opportunities for face-to-face interaction (see question 4)
Parish	Damage to road and pathway surfaces		Blanket approach does not work and favours urban areas. Rural areas/villages suffer through no/very limited management/intervention. Area specific policy for villages needs to be developed, as with verge maintenance	Ensure H&S for rural residents is as high a priority as urban residents-condition of central village core path/footways and cycleways need to be clear of weeds, ensure surface not damaged by egress. Better communication with individual parishes about service visits and when they are planned, similar to the gully clearance programme/surface replacement schemes. Advance warning allows time for residents to report on areas of concern before visits, so that problem areas can be addressed in one visit (cyclical maintenance programmes). Reactive maintenance- advanced notification of a visit to the parish allows residents to collectively consider what's needed, which will save on repeated individual visits to one parish-saving on administration man hours and carbon costs (of transport trips generated)	A holistic Service plan for each parish is required, indicating what is a minimum standard of service levels being provided for programmed and reactive maintenance and clear mapping of which areas qualify for which the level of service (i.e central village core, and to outlying areas...)To include vision splay requirements of verges, priority sustainable travel route maintenance (footpaths/cycleways ROW etc) Gully cleansing, street sweeping, weed control, pothole repair, highway verge maintenance, highway hedge maintenance, streetlight repair, school crossing assessments, road markings/linings repainting, for example. Carbon impact of service can then be measured by parish- (potentially creating ability to monitor and reduce carbon impact in time).
Town	untidy, could be a hazard to people walking especially those with poor stability. could impede water flow causing localised flooding.		monitor, and those areas where weeds are a risk then should be weeded manually.	use local groupings on internet to get messages across.	Local Community groups may want to take care of their areas eg as they do for litter picking but Councils need to tell us they are not clearing weeds , the reasons and appeal to communities for help.

Parish	<p>The responses are collated comments from parish councillors. There was no consensus on the weed management policy. Some members commented that they have observed no difference to previous years.</p> <p>Other stated that the weeds seem more numerous and taller/thicker than usual as they have had longer to grow. Looks really untidy.</p> <p>It would have been useful to have been alerted to this possible policy change in Spring, so that PC members could have observed and photographed changes in weeds.</p>	<p>https://drive.google.com/open?id=1BrQkcfnz6Ef6fXog9m7NXWu1zgHQR6RR, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fUmQ6YlcaAmejdAwibhMPBEq9BCMC-2Y</p>	<p>The parish council recognises the needs to keep roadsides clear of weeds. Surfaces water cannot run freely into drains if weeds block free passage of water.</p> <p>However it may be possible to remove weeds by non-chemical means, for example a dilute vinegar spray could be as effective as glyphosate. Glyphosate and vinegar only kill existing weeds but not the seeds that arrive in the gutters by other means. The parish council suggests that a thorough sweep of gutters is performed sometime after vinegar spraying when the weeds have died so that they and any accumulated debris can be cleared before the worst of the winter weather.</p> <p>One councillor commented that nitrates that run-off from farmland contribute to more chemicals in the river than spraying the weeds. He had observed residents out on the road outside and opposite their houses spraying the weeds with weedkiller themselves. There is high pressure steam equipment that will kill weeds with no chemical residue. Is there a mechanical way to remove them?</p> <p>In terms of efficiencies, it seems inefficient to fill the odd pothole in a street and leave others until they get bigger. Also sweeping up leaves etc must be cheaper than clearing blocked gullies.</p>	<p>It is good to read that weeds have been removed 'by other means' where it has been deemed necessary. Could you elaborate on this?</p> <p>Regular, say bi-monthly (six times a year) information notes could be disseminated to town and parish councils about weed and other vegetation issues, such as mowing verges. This would inform parish councils of the specific work Highways do and how priorities are decided upon.</p> <p>It would also be helpful to publish a schedule of routine maintenance work for each village with an approximate window when the work will be carried out.</p>	<p>See 4.</p>
Town	<p>Here is the text of a Motion which was adopted at 4 September 2023 meeting of Wisbech Town Council.</p> <p>"To Cambridgeshire County Council. Please accept this formal objection on behalf of Wisbech Town Council to the change in weedkilling policy that was implemented by the County Council this year.</p> <p>Our roads, cycleways and footpaths are in a dreadful state due to the explosion of weeds since this policy change. This has an unacceptable detrimental effect upon the look, usability, and cost of repair to our highways.</p> <p>Wisbech residents are angry at how you have made our community look. Those who attempt active travel are angry at the state of the weed ridden paths that they must dodge.</p> <p>The Town Council is deeply concerned at the effect that this will have on flash flooding, as gullies and drains become blocked by weeds. This council is also aware of the poisonous danger posed to horses by the rapid increase in Ragwort in our area.</p> <p>As a council we cannot understand the short-sighted financial nature of this decision, as short-term gain will be overshadowed by future repair bills. The Town Council is further dismayed that the County Council would implement such a devastating cut to a vital service with no consultation with our council. This blatant attempt at cost shunting onto our council is unacceptable.</p> <p>Wisbech Town Council, therefore, calls upon those whose decision this was, the "joint administration", to reverse its disastrous policy.</p>		<p>Look at other possible ways of controlling weed growth. There must be some weed killers which do not contain chemicals which are POTENTIALLY harmful to nature. Millions of people use weed killers to control weeds in their domestic situations.</p>	<p>It would be useful for Town and Parish Councils to be consulted directly on proposed changes in policy which could impact upon their respective areas. Consultation details to be sent to Town and Parish Council Clerks, for reference to their respective councillors.</p>	<p>No particular ideas but certainly worthy of discussions. Involve local councils in the County Council's decision-making processes; think more about local services for local people.</p>
Parish	Pavements cracking, Unable to see around corners when emerging, overgrown weeds make the area look unkempt and dirty and thus attracting criminal activity. Dangerous weeds that are fatal to animals.		There are safer chemicals that can still be used. I think not enough consultation was carried out and now our Towns and villages are a mess. This attracts ASB and crime. The decision to stop spraying has now damaged pavements as well.	To contact Councillors when County wide decisions are being taken that have an impact on residents. We are very easy to get hold of by email / telephone.	Let local councils make local decisions. The people that live in the areas are the best judge. Consult with town and parish councils and give them a little freedom to source locally and repair locally.
Parish	Drainage has been affected, visibility from junctions, village looks scruffy		Mechanical removal	Ask about these things before implementation, not once everybody has caused a fuss	Offer us incentives/funding to manage our own areas
Parish	A few unkempt areas		More detailed plans of where to mow or strim and where not to, and where to use herbicide and where not to, guided by a local council member who knows the area. Minimal effective doses to be used and as infrequently as possible.	Interactive on line maps?	Each local council should have a green representative
Parish	Weeds creep in from the edges, especially of footpaths/cyclepaths, resulting in significant narrowing and (on cyclepath) obscuring of solar studs. Grass clippings left behind can end up in drains and clog waterways.		Edging back manually? but very heavy on labour. Maybe a mechanical method.	It would be good to have advance warning (via the parish clerk as well as signs on the road) of any Highways works due to take place. Particularly just before the start of works rather than a vague 6-week timeslot. (though I do appreciate that things may be affected by weather and materials availability)	We get any awful lot of information by email and the County Councillor's report at our meetings is very long; it's difficult/time-consuming to filter out what is most important. We'd like particular emphasis on things which affect Landbeach directly. County Highways have been particularly bad at responding to our request to maintain the cycle path between Landbeach and Milton. They did eventually cut the grass but the edges of the path are encroaching, the solar studs are obscured and the hedges/brambles are not cleared back with any regularity. This hedge maintenance is surely Highways responsibility and not the adjacent farmer's.

Parish	<p>The present policy of Cambridgeshire County Council seems to allow our roads and streets, roadside kerbs, gutters, drains and footpaths to deteriorate and our towns and villages to look dilapidated. The roadside gutters and cracked footpaths in particular have vegetation taking over (we don't need 'biodiversity' in cracks in our gutters, roads and footpaths). Such deterioration might be expected in some poor, underdeveloped country, or perhaps in a deprived, inner-city area of a former industrial town; but, this is the result of failure to deliver a basic service with regular chemical treatments to control weeds in our small, rural village in northern Huntingdonshire. Cambridgeshire County Council "Strategy for Highway Asset Management", Clause 4.2.2. (Page 6) states "Preventative Approach - A preventative approach will be adopted. This means investing a greater proportion of the available budget to treat roads in the early stages of deterioration" – deterioration can be avoided by regular chemical spraying to prevent weeds.</p>	<p>https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SzMaFGqlR-Zk2Z71ok0LUxCTaSZvCRDh, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZVJnpRqPB86SSRY3KJer3C-UvGn8FquS, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1v401sBtGy7GFoqNSFMuzchn5fpzEt1QI, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1f3Lal9stCXL9YUmw4-1OJxqrqzX_FEIT, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hdf-MEEJkSKQ9N1g5vxp4OoDptsdIRV</p>	<p>This policy may be dressed as an environmental measure for biodiversity; but, the policy is merely to reduce costs in the short-term, even though it is obvious when looking at the state of roads, gutters and footpaths throughout the county that this policy will increase repair costs later. We live in a mainly rural county, blessed with beautiful countryside with biodiversity in hedgerows, riverbanks, woods, parks, and most of the roadside verges managed by Cambridgeshire Highways; there is no need to encourage biodiversity with grass and weeds in cracks and potholes of roads and footpaths. Yet again, attempts to reduce cost in the short-term by cancelling essential maintenance and prevention will inevitably cause massive costs later to remove overgrown weeds, repair cracked footpaths, cycle paths and roads, and deal with blocked gutters and drains.</p> <p>You do not "deliver efficiencies in the way we manage highways" by allowing assets to deteriorate with cracks and damage caused by weeds.</p> <p>You do not "reduce carbon" by having to use hot water and foam to remove overgrown, mature weeds when such damaging weed growth could have been easily prevented by regular chemical weed spraying. The operations managers and supervisors and frontline workers of Cambridgeshire Highways are dedicated and hard-working people who do a marvellous job when they are allowed - just give them the funds to get the job done properly with regular chemical spraying to prevent weed overgrowth on our footpaths and in gutters and drains.</p>	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council communicate and engage very well regarding certain topics such as the Local Highways Improvements and the 20 mph initiative. Communication and engagement is easy with emails – Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner all manage to communicate and engage very effectively.</p> <p>Also, area managers or supervisors of relevant departments of Cambridgeshire County Council could liaise with and even come to meet and discuss topical issues with parish and town councils – better communication and engagement leads to better understanding and cooperation.</p>	<p>(a.) Focus more on delivering the basic services actually required and desired by residents, such as highways maintenance and improvements, rather than ideals such as 'biodiversity' and 'net zero'. - Basic services, with an efficient organisation, can be delivered AND also still achieve reductions in carbon emissions, but the priority needs to be delivering the actual service rather than sacrificing the basic service in order to achieve cost cutting or pander to a dogmatic drive for 'net zero' at all costs. (b.) Improve engagement with residents, towns and parishes and districts regarding local needs – ask local residents and parish councils rather than assume "we know best" and impose policies without proper consultation. (c.) Have regular (annual?) liaison meetings with each town and parish council and district council to discuss delivery of services and local needs. (d.) Parish councils tend to be non-political, acting solely for the benefit of residents; county councils should stop playing party politics and start to get back to the basics of delivering services to the residents.</p>
Parish	<p>The kerbside gutters have been full of weeds, collecting road debris (some of which is from potholes) meaning that the gutters are blocked and do not allow rainwater to flow. This has caused localised flooding.</p> <p>In addition, residents have been complaining to the parish council about how untidy the roads look meaning an impact of the capacity of parish council staff and councillors.</p> <p>Where they have grown significantly, they are starting to cause a trip hazard for residents when crossing the road - some weeds are now significant in size.</p>		<p>Use alternative methods for weed killing - boiling water, burning, non glyphosate based chemicals.</p> <p>Great Shelford Parish Council strongly feel that the lack of dealing with the weeds this year will have costly effects on the County Council going forward as the damage to the infrastructure from the weeds growing will be self evident. Where the weeds are growing from the edge/join of the surface, this surface is starting to break up, lift, etc. Water will get in and pot holes will be greater still going forward.</p>	<p>Tell us what you are doing please. There was no communication whatsoever about this change in policy meaning that the parish council and residents were not aware of what you were (were not) doing and were chasing for the weeds to be sprayed before the District Council swept the kerbsides.</p>	<p>Talk to each other. Make it easier to understand who we need to speak to at County Council - it is by far the hardest to find out who we need to speak to (and we are supposed to be working together). South Cambs have managed to provide information to parish and town councils to allow officers to contact the right person.</p> <p>Quarterly meetings updating the various authorities on what you are doing.</p> <p>Alternatively, give town and parish councils the money you would have spent on these items to be able to do it themselves.</p>
Parish	<p>There has been a negligible impact on the roads in the village.</p>		<p>It would be helpful if road sweeping was undertaken during the autumn to remove debris such as needles, cones, etc, as a preventative measure to stop drainage blockages into the brook and reduce flooding risk. It would also make the place look tidier and make walking around pleasanter.</p> <p>It would help if we knew in advance when contractors were due to be visiting the village for repairs or for verge cutting etc. This would allow parish councils to co-ordinate with CCC, to make best use of CCC visits, and also to avoid any duplication e.g. of verge maintenance in the village.</p> <p>Could an alternative method to spraying for weed control be considered e.g. use of heat for localised control instead of spot-spraying?</p>	<p>Better communication to set out a new or changed policy, with a full explanation of the reason for the change.</p> <p>It could be helpful if parish councils, and CCC, had a designated single point of contact for queries. A webpage, or email distribution list, to provide advance notice of forthcoming changes or consultations, would also be helpful.</p>	<p>None</p>
Parish	Weeds growing in the gullies and inside of the drain covers causing blocking so that after rain water cannot flow away freely so the resultant puddles stretch into the paths of traffic		Use hot foam spraying twice a year. This facility is environmentally friendly	More frequent use of email to ensure that opinions are received from Parish and Town Councils as part of any pre decision action by CCC	Improved communications
Town	Blocked drains and gulleys, broken paving areas and more damage to roads, localised flooding.		The chemicals used have not been proven to harm wildlife. The problems outweigh the gains and it is a false economy.	Send out information and surveys about potential policy changes ahead of decisions.	Engage with county councilors who will in turn engage with their town and parish councils. All councils should be working together to improve services for local residents.
Parish	Many footpaths are overgrown and now almost impassably narrow.		I am not a horticultural expert	The quarterly meetings are good.	Simplify the distribution of responsibilities.
Parish	<p>Increased complaints re the safety of pavements and the need for people to walk in the highway. Increased concerns re the pavement quality once weeds are cleared.</p> <p>Residents being confined to their homes due to safety fears when making their way around the village.</p> <p>Wheelchairs and pushchairs having to use the highway due to pavements and curbside being impassable.</p> <p>Already narrow highways becoming more narrow and dangerous.</p>	<p>https://drive.google.com/open?id=1c-ubjJaexBFml3yO3IN5B5A64qAQW3Gz, https://drive.google.com/open?id=18oQbjj_uBxPx-t-vZWPDm25-N4hMDjlg, https://drive.google.com/open?id=15-eQo-XjtcnK4JnMrKyncpKc2AmzEtF8, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cqR6BYtPOuJfrvTzEl601K9_qYhAQeCA</p>	<p>This may be a case where there is no alternative – the only solution is to control the weeds. This saves on your first point as the highways and pavements will not be damaged by roots taking hold etc. The pathways and highways are in such bad repair that any remedial work to fix them must be costing a considerable amount more than prevention.</p> <p>As a Parish we would support environmentally friendly alternatives to the chemicals currently used however the efficiency and suitability of any alternatives should be monitored. We undertake the physical removal of weeds when time and budget allows to try and ensure safe passage however this responsibility does not lie with the Parish and the burden of taking on these requirements would be huge for a village the size of Melbourn.</p>	<p>Prior knowledge of any changes to major works such as this would allow Councils to discuss and feedback any concerns pre-change.</p> <p>An open dialogue allowing for real time feedback of the changes once implemented would provide the Parish with a channel of communication.</p> <p>Opening the communication up to the residents in the areas would allow instant front-line feedback.</p>	<p>Information is the key – the more informed local council are the more informed you could be.</p> <p>More onsite inspections of the areas would highlight issues faster and provide the evidence needed for behaviour/policy change.</p>
Town	The Town Council was inundated with complaints about poor weed management and risk to flooding. Key concerns included the poor appearance of the town, particularly at key entrance roads. It was felt by residents the the Council simply didn't care about pride in our town and creating a place people want to spend time in. The growth of weeds around drains and the impact this might have on flooding was also a particular concern. It was also queried whether towns were treated differently in the approach to weed maintenance, with some towns appear to 'look' better than others.		The impact of chemical spray and reducing this is appreciated, however there needs to be a suitable alternative management plan in place to address the weed growth before use is withdrawn. Could alternative sprays that are less harmful be trialed and their effectiveness monitored to see if they offer alternatives. Are there any other success stories amongst other Highway Authorities who are tackling in the same issue?	Representatives are welcome to attend any of our Council meetings and speak/present to Councillors. Alternatively written reports can be circulated with agendas or regular. Perhaps quarterly meetings with key representatives and Chairpersons of Councils could be set up as a discussion/feedback group.	Providing the details and contacts of key officers to Clerks. As a Clerk knowing who can help and being able to pick up the phone to them is invaluable. Alternatively, could senior officers from across the Council be appointed to act as a liaison to local council Clerks (Perhaps for larger Councils). This worked well in Central Bedfordshire, where directors/ADs were given Councils to act as a key contact for. They wouldn't be able to answer all the queries/issues that Councils have, but could help point in the right direction or find out from other colleagues internally.
Parish	Fewer hedges and curbs cut		hedges and curbs should still be cut, this encourages new growth and has little impact on wildlife if done correctly.	Visits on site to problematic areas.	n/a

Parish	There are more growing on the edge of the roads		Ask the householder to clear the weeds outside their property (I do)	Keep the village parish council informed	Keep the village parish council informed of what work will be done and where (at the moment we have to try to find out from the internet)
Parish	Road drains are blocked by vegetation / weeds resulting in inadequate drainage when it rains. This has led to local flooding. Hedges along cycle and walking paths are overgrown, resulting in cyclists and pedestrians having to move on to parts of the roads used by motor vehicles. This results in people resorting to using cars instead of active travel options.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1khSYVv_9tkiNGajtEcnxgz23_P9cdk , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1l0YS9UcANgY4M2OjU_ex_YbOMW7HtyT	Much more frequent manual and /or mechanical weeding and cutting-back.	Publish and distribute to parish councils a time table of clearance work relevant to their areas, together with contact details so that parishioners can report weed problems to the council.	As per the answer to question 4 : Publish and distribute to parish councils a time table of clearance work, relevant to their areas, together with contact details so that parishioners can report weed problems to the council for prompt clearance action.
Parish	We are looking like a Third World Country. It is completely unacceptable!		This is completely to save money. Verges re-wilding is good, gutters is not.	Clear the gutters of weeds, that's all we need!	Deliver the service we are all paying for through our Council Tax
Parish	Lot of weeds in gutters of rounds throughout the village resulting in poor water drainage from roads	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-xLTJuiTHMNT74Z9BC_Rb3fibZ-mJSIK	Clearance of the weed build-up by mechanical means, the regular road sweeping during weed growth season as well as during and after leaf-fall.	Publicise changes in policies when they are adopted (to parish councils and ratepayers), rather than wait until people complain about the side effects of the new policies.	Publicise policy changes, listen to feedback, and act on it!
Parish	Untreated gutter growth. Unsightly. Unkempt. Interferes with drainage and fills drain gullies. You do not require photographs requested in the next question if you have been observing the results of this money saving decision.		Of course they are harmful to nature they kill the weeds which is what they are supposed to do ! Humans decide where to spray !	Listen to the people you are employed to serve.	Ditto above.
Parish	some are 2ft high and seeding everywhere, they are a trip hazard in some areas. There are other means of weed control that do not contain glyphosate		it will block gutters in heavy rain and wash more "stuff" down the drains probabnly causing you more expense, use a glyphosate free weed control	sort out the weedy gutters	get this right and also the trees growing over road sign, heaven help people trying to find their way around when signs are in some cases totally covered by trees and shrubs
Town	Residents are furious, the town looks unkept, drains are blocked and will most likely worsen flooding as the bad weather arrives.		Remove the weeds manually or use more natural weed killers.	A representative attending town council meetings and updating us, so we can communicate with residents.	Ask for ideas/opinions before implementing new schemes like this one.
Town	> Clogged drains > The weeds look awful, particularly in the high street. We are doing everything we can do attract business and customers to our town but when things look as bad as they have it is not appealing. > The time spent managing angry resident emails and social media contacts has been significant. The themes are aesthetics, flood risk, how much worse the established weeds will be next year and long term impact on the infrastructure from roots breaking apart surfaces.		This presumes that it's ok to let weeds grow out of control, which it is not. We cannot have another year like this year and if this means that the town council needs to take responsibility for clearing then this is something we will need to charge back to CCC (similar to grass cutting). Equally if the lack of maintenance results in highway damage this too will erode any perceived savings rapidly. It is CCCs responsibility to provide alternative effective weed management options. The government ban on glyphosate is not yet in force and so bringing that force (which is a good thing to do) can only happen with a suitable altnerative. Abruptly stopping the activity is not acceptable.	This survey is good so thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Our County councilors are generally active in the town and so are a good comms channel too. I would suggest emails by exception to Clerks, Chairs and County Councillors to highlight important county wide issues (with specific calls to action) would be effective. Not more newsletters though, please, I want to receive things I need to do something with not just more information that might be of interest.	Happy to meet up and discuss this. We are having similar conversations with the District council at the moment.
Parish	Weeds growing between the pedestrian pavement and the road. Weeds all over the footway.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1uzH6UW6WpYuom8sognXmvnMX7yDZTVk	This policy is not going to reduce the cost to highways,- rather it will increase costs, as weed control will be harder and harder to manage, requiring more stringent chemicals and more application. Weeds between footway and road will accelerate the degradation of the road surface and also may contribute to the blocking of drains, resulting in increased costs just to maintain the road surface. Furthermore in urban settings, this will add to the general feeling of neglect and encourage vandalism. The longer this shortsighted policy is allowed to continue, the harder it will be to recover from it.	Regular newsletters to our parish council clerk. Consultation with parish councils before you embark on such an impractical policy as the one we are discussing.	Continual consultation. We are already in touch with our highways officer, with whom we have a good relationship but funding appears to be the issue, simply to maintain normal services.
Parish					

District	Name	Email	1. In your community, what additional impact on the highway have you seen in the last year in relation to weeds?	2. Do you have any evidence to show the impacts? If so please could you upload it here.	3. The reasons for introducing the policy change were two fold; to reduce the cost of this area of highways services and; to reduce the use of chemicals which are potentially harmful to nature. With this in mind what alternative proposals would you like us to consider to either better control weeds and/or deliver efficiencies in the way we manage highways overall whilst supporting nature and reducing carbon?	4. We recognise we need to improve our engagement with you. What proposals would you have that could help us improve our communication and engagement with you?	5. Are there ideas or proposals you have about how the county council can work with parish and district councils in the delivery of local services?
Huntingdonshire	Sally Howell	Sally.howell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	Drains being blocked, meaning rainwater is pooling on roadsides. A cyclist came off their bike (informed by another resident who witnessed this) due to the weeds and dust at the side of the road. We have building sites creating dust which settles in the gutters creating a perfect environment for weeds. The weeds then mean the street cleaning vehicles cannot get rid of the dust.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Pc379sIBfJzV-kW6kFin3w3TGygDtpf0 , https://drive.google.com/open?id=19W2RxfA22jslnTnu33vkQnD3xzDJSQI , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sAzaQC8gnRZeEKidlt9A3gwZ8Cl4-gY , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QVL0xtnGLGKJFYVV3KxINUxmxh8UMeAd , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dv4jSGReYiWn-bNZsR8yBs81YEc2IRV_	Investigate other chemicals or mechanical means of removing the weeds. I believe that their are brushes that could be fitted to street cleaner vehicles that would remove them without the need for chemicals	More surveys. Releasing information on things like this to the public before they are implemented so that its doesn't come as a huge shock and people are aware. Would lessen the number of complaints if people are told why.	More contact and discussions on things that will affect resident
Cambridge	Mark Ashton	mwashton@yahoo.com	Covering kerb line, growing in drains, so unsightly, breaking up road surface.		What is the extra cost to remove the weeds that are now larger and more difficult to remove. Mechanical scrapper to go along kerbs.	Ward drop in sessions so that all residents have the chance to have face to face.	Be more visible rather than always look at our website.
Fenland	Roy Gerstner	roygerstner@whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk	Extremely negative to say the least. False economy, gully and drains becoming blocked and causing issues with drainage - all reported to Highways. If this 'potential' issue carries on the situation of damage to road and paths will become a costly excercise on a budget already challenged.		False long term economy - damage to paths and roads. Wrong - there are perfectly safe Herbicides that can be used.	We need the people who made these decisions to face the public for their reasons and not sit in a glass palace.	The previous system was not perfect by any means, but I hate to think after these 'weeds' are allowed to seed this year what we are in store for next year. Thank you.
Cambridge	Karen Young	karen.young@cambridge.gov.uk	Some more greenery in the streets which I personally find attractive.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1EJ_VF_oTWWiDuxlsXiKTMit9xLIC37du , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UlytCmdL8abzujk37Vn6_eGwbnBXN2Ce , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1h70ZfiWc2QLeSU4mfsVfJUxwGft5725u , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1X8OQC hs4INQzExkJ7mpA-LMzK8jk4Vb7	Definitely stay off chemicals. Glyphosphate is also linked in cancer in humans and does not only harm the environment.	More publicity on what is happening and the benefits. The photos I have are from a resident who complained about the weeds. Myself I think this is perfectly acceptable. People need to get used to a more natural look for the city streets.	As much communication as possible.
Cambridge	Russ McPherson	Russ.mcpherson@cambridge.gov.uk	As above - including many negative comments from residents and blocked drains resulting in excessive surface water.		Explore more fully the availability of eco friendly weed control products: make use of community pay back teams on a ward by ward basis: Encourage residents to take more ownership of the areas outside their door rather than expecting someone else to resolve every issue for them.	Many residents feel disassociated from local councils; most having no idea that it's not just their road or park that needs maintenance but the whole city. We need to be significantly upping the game on community inclusion. Round Robin emails don't cut it. Much more Inclusion is the way forward.	Come and actually speak to residents; workshops and more clear up days; involve residents in the management of the open spaces they use every day, a stall to explain how we can all be part of our need for greater understanding of biodiversity and what we all need to do to achieve that.
Cambridge	Cameron Holloway	cameron.holloway@cambridge.gov.uk	I have noticed fewer yellow patches, and more nice areas of grasses and flowers. There have been a few more plants growing at the edge of roads, and, where necessary, these have been removed.		I think the policy change was an excellent one, and you should keep going with it.	Hire more highways staff - it is difficult to get through to someone to raise highways issues.	I think that the reconstitution of CJAC should prove useful.
Huntingdonshire	Kevin Gulson	kevin.gulson@huntingdonshiredc.org.uk	Standing water in carriageway due to weeds growing in front of road drainage points. The photos attached are of the A15 between Yaxley and the A1. You can't see the kerb or white line in areas due to the shrubbery. How long before the standing water can be cited as cause of an accident due to aquaplaning. Another impact is the level of calls taken and time wasted by the Parish Clerk about level of weeds around the surrounding area.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1g-OIKOC4PY0vuosluxoM4wATmmnRu0IS , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vu-XE_wG2x19sUzRBexN94P1LWvSEUhf , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1H0MoolxW1yU5K2rAsGOcfODhW9_AfMf , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1rRoiqL5GXpBdCrfWm0l9XG1JbvFcYT8b	A shortsighted cost reduction exercise that may well bring high repair cost for carriageway repair due to root damage. Highways are already high maintenance due to pot holes why stop a proven service without having a decent fall back to clear weeds. The idea of acting for occasional reports of weed clearance could well be higher in carbon due to multiple trips and manpower rather than 1 circuit 3 times per year. If this was sprayed just 2 times per year you could claim 1/3 reduction in cost and carbon then review impact of this exercise.	Talk, text, email, communicate in any format would be an improvement on the current process of imposing poorly thought out exercises. The first we found out was the complaints being received and when reported informed of this cost saving scheme.	Construct a clear reporting process for all areas within your business. 'Report a Highways Fault' is a great portal that is being used more often and a portal like this would work well in all areas with your business as you could prioritise and report back to originator, keeping people informed is seen as a great example of great communication. Something we do not see currently do not see at any level. Work with, not done to, will often deliver far better results as all levels will be on the same page.
Huntingdonshire	Tim Alban	tim.alban@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	The villages in my ward look more untidy, weeds encroach on pavements, damage footpaths, block gullies near drains, and damage the road near kerbs.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xJHctsbtuCeaRVzwLE0qwVkgfcclsXN	There is no perfect answer and you are unlikely to achieve all or even the majority of targets you are aiming for but the current regime gives the impression of a county and communities which are uncared for. If you don't want to use chemicals then the weeds will have to be removed manually/with machinery.	This survey is a start but better communication with parish councils is a must.	Look at paying the parish councils to take on routine maintenance, either directly (which some town councils might be able to do) or by commissioning contractors.
Fenland	Brenda Barber	bbarber@fenland.gov	blocked drains, high weeds on corners obscuring view of road, weeds overflowing from verges and onto highways, general untidiness.		continue weedkilling and cutting back weeds. Use teams of community payback people to cut down on costs.	regular updates to confirm what is happening	Ask us what we feel is needed. Don't make decisions without our input.
Cambridge	Dinah Pounds	Dinah.pounds@cambridge.gov.uk	More weeds on the roadside kerbs and pavements.		Whilst I welcome a reduction in chemical use, the result is a scruffy looking, unhygienic street with litter accumulated on the kerbside and drains blocked by weeds. Residents have complained. The pavements in my area of Romsey are in very poor condition and weeds hide damaged pavements resulting in trip hazards for residents.	Regular email to councillors works well.	Manually clearing weeds is the best option with teams of operators using small devices which can clear the kerbside more easily in narrow city streets.

Fenland	Susan Wallwork	susanwallwor k@aol.com	The area looks messy, people feel the area seems more dangerous because it looks un-kept and uncared for. Volunteers are trying to weed along busy roads which is not safe.		I want weed control which is a service that the people are taxed for. You killing weeds will have no measurable impact on carbon footprints and lets not pretend it will. You take peoples tax and you should provide a service.	Hold your meetings in Fenland for once? allow residents to attend and bring yourselves to the area in which you make decisions about.	Attend local meetings, move some of your meetings to Fenland, work with us and listen to local residents needs and not push your own personal agendas.
Huntingdonshire	Janice Burgess	janib54@icloud.com	The weeds are unsightly and voluminous throughout our parish. Aside from looking untidy, they're also a trip hazard. Because they're no longer being removed, they're proliferating without anything to stop them and this will only get worse. The root structures form in cracks in our already broken highways and create even more damage.		This has always been about cost cutting and nothing to do with the environment! There are multiple options available to control weed growth that are safe for use on the highways. If they were not safe, we wouldn't be able to buy them in garden centres and supermarkets!	Having a meaningful conversation prior to take these budgetary decisions would be welcomed. Equally, in villages where high local development is forced on us, consideration of the negative impact that further binary decision making by CCC is having on our communities should be at the forefront of CCCs mind.	Please see my previous answer.
Huntingdonshire	Sarah Conboy	sarah.conboy @huntingdonshire.gov.uk	prolific growth in kerbside weeds (and then spreading onto footpaths)		Treat the weeds as you did before as I'm told alternatives also cause issues - scoring damages the tarmac, the kerbs can't be swept whilst weeds in situ, so silt builds up creating a seedbed ripe for weeds. Most roadsides are too dangerous for residents self action (even if they are willing).	Please talk to the District councils (officers) before you take decisions affecting us and then talk to Towns and Parishes.	Yes but all will tell you not if it passes a financial burden with it as no one has any money!
Huntingdonshire	Nathan Hunt	nathan.hunt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	Large numbers of weeds blocking drains and reports from residents of damaged/cracked road surfaces from vegetation growth.		I get the reasoning, but I think it's clear to all that the balance between cost/environment/preventing vegetation growth hasn't quite been met. There does need to be extra focus placed on *preventing* weeds from growing in areas around drains. What other options are on the table? You guys are the highways experts, not me!	A highways newsletter for each district would be good - could include info on major/long term roadworks would be useful and any policy changes. We could then pass important info onto residents where appropriate.	I can't think of anything off the top of my head, but the superb teams at HDC Ops may have some ideas so it would be worth asking them.
South Cambridgeshire	Paul Bearpark	cllr.bearpark @scambs.gov.uk	Very little. Some minor complaints about it being a bit unsightly/untidy.		I'm happy with the new policy.	I'm happy with this survey approach	Perh
East Cambridgeshire	Lucius Vellacott	lucius.vellacott@eastcambs.gov.uk	Residents have noticed increases to the impact of weeds growing on the highways, the main concern with the policy was lack of value for their tax money and additional red tape of reporting rather than routine weedkilling.		It appears to have reduced the cost because nothing is now happening. I believe the impact of encouraging active travel by routinely clearing weeds will outweigh the environmental cost of occasional chemical use. Either way, it is a far less efficient service than residents expect.	We deliver monthly updates to our parish councils. Perhaps County Councillors could be recommended to write a short monthly report to their respective District Councillors?	I would appreciate if county council leaders might occasionally attend meetings of their respective district councils, as we do with our parishes. And vice versa; brief inclusion of DCllrs in CCC meetings would be appreciated.
East Cambridgeshire	Julia Huffer	juliahuffer@hotmail.com	general unhappiness about the appearance of the verges and the potential hazards caused by overgrowing weeds. There is a general feeling that while rewilding certain areas of the villages is welcomed and is being carefully managed by the Parish Councils the abandonment of the verges not under the care of the Parish Councils ie the County Council results in dangerous and scruffy verges.		The excuse of cost saving does not go down well with residents as the County Council increased their part of the council tax by 4.99% and residents are asking what is the money being spent on with a massive failure to maintain the highways and now the verges its hard to justify. I am no gardener but there must be products on the market that would not be toxic to wildlife and changing to electric vehicles will reduce the carbon footprint of the Council.	respond to emails and telephone calls promptly. unless you happen to have the mobile number of your local LHO the system for making contact is woeful.	try hold District wide forums and invite the Parish Councils along. it can be done in small groups and via teams or zoom. listen to what affects residents and act on it rather than the whims of elected members
East Cambridgeshire	Christine Colbert	christine.colbert@gmail.com	I have seen more weeds but I've also seen more insects. The only thing that concerns me is that I have seen buddleia (butterfly bush) sprouting in some places and buddleia is very vigorous and destructive.		No suggestion	No suggestion	Not in particular, thanks. I thought this survey a good idea.
South Cambridgeshire	David Cronk	davidcronk42@gmail.com	Minimal change, although the bridleway from Caxton to Cambourne is perhaps more overgrown		I thought saving money on weed control on the highways was very reasonable.	This method worked fine. I also appreciate the district council newsletter.	Email summary of district council news on a monthly basis?
Huntingdonshire	Rebecca Goodwin	rebeccalgoodwin@gmail.com	The edges of the roads are over-run with weeds and they are growing up through the pavements causing real concern for pedestrians	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DHbv_krwui1TO2lbLQOE10HwKEJMg-r0	Reintroduce road sweeping. If there wasn't the silt at the road edge then the weeds wouldn't have anything to grow in. There are also alternative ways of killing weeds, salt water, vinegar, if it is the chemicals that are a concern.	Focus groups (either in person or online), to garner opinion and discuss pitfalls/perception before new initiatives are introduced. Just asking people what they think and what their priorities are... we do appreciate costs need to be saved, but it seems to be in the wrong places which indicates to me that you're not understanding the needs of the people who live in Cambridgeshire.	County Councillors actually turning up to parish council meetings would be a start (so they're actually aware of local challenges), followed by them replying to parish councillors emails... the communication is always – it has been decided, there is no dialogue and no opinion sought. A lot of more local councillors have very good ideas having lived and worked in the parishes for a considerable time and have seen administrations come and go. That invaluable experience is completely ignored.
South Cambridgeshire	Lisa Redrup	cllr.redrup@scambs.gov.uk	In response to this survey I cycled around Haslingfield (my home village) to have a look at the pavements and roads. Most areas were weed free, but throughout the village there were areas with weeds growing in the gaps between edging stones of pavements and between the edge of pavements and roads. Occasionally there were weeds growing in cracks in pavements and the bobbed slabs at crossing points. I've included a few photos from around the village. At the moment these weeds are relatively small. I imagine problems may arise if they are able to grow significantly bigger. No one has written to me about weeds on the highway. One resident has raised that they are unhappy with the perceived scruffiness when speaking to me in passing. The main concern I have personally about weeds is related to potential loss of width of paths and cycle paths due to growth over the path.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1furHqjixXFxrQfxXEkiEVsAKIVZCU , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1o30BhcP09c3ijfQ-ndkid2x0FIZ8NAT , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qcwcqZD689gWvSX9F6Vd_v0QVMG9AheoI , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1rZl5clTgHECypxTnjfxDobn3YoZX3f6R , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yLUMesZWA53rnOc9KWdKFgOw_gWPzC_F	I support the reduction in use of harmful chemicals and I hope that ways can be found to reduce their use in the long-term. Would a schedule for mechanical removal, like what was previously done with chemicals, be of use? I think communication with the public about this policy would be helpful to explain the aims and counter concerns. For example, can the growth of weeds cause damage to the roads that may counteract the cost savings from stopping spraying? Also, if weeds are a concern, what is the process to report them and deal with them? What are the criteria for dealing with them? How is this communicated to residents? Could residents be empowered to remove weeds local to them? I've seen a neighbour cutting back weeds growing in the edge of the pavement.	I'm not aware of any communication from Highways about this policy or the potential impacts prior to this survey, but I'm not sure it's practical to message everyone about every policy. I think it's more about communication with communities on policies that will have an affect on their areas.	Parish councils may be able to help with communication with communities about county council services.

Huntingdonshire	Richard Slade	richard.slade@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	Impact on visual amenity, damage to road and pavement surfaces and danger of trip hazards to residents.		I propose the policy is reversed as the long term damage and significant cost to repairing the highways far outweighs the reinstatement of the service.	N/A	Delegating the service at a town level (in part) or full might solve the issue.
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District	Name	Email	1. In your community, what additional impact on the highway have you seen in the last year in relation to weeds?	2. Do you have any evidence to show the impacts? If so please could you upload it here.	3. The reasons for introducing the policy change were two fold; to reduce the cost of this area of highways services and; to reduce the use of chemicals which are potentially harmful to nature. With this in mind what alternative proposals would you like us to consider to either better control weeds and/or deliver efficiencies in the way we manage highways overall whilst supporting nature and reducing carbon?	4. We recognise we need to improve our engagement with you. What proposals would you have that could help us improve our communication and engagement with you?	5. Are there ideas or proposals you have about how the county council can work with parish and district councils in the delivery of local services?
Fenland	Samantha Hoy	Samphoy@googlemail.com	Place looks unkempt and untidy		None - go back to the old method	Send out information before decisions are made	No
South Cambridgeshire	Firouz Thompson	firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	That not only weeds are growing by the side of the roads, but also tree branches that would have been from the trees across the road, so probably damaging drains and other plastic tubes underneath the street. Also some weeds by the side of the road were quite tall, coming up to the window screen of a car on the B1050. On the other hand some of our roundabouts were cut and residents felt that it was a waste of money and that the middle of roundabouts are ok to have wildflowers and some weeds.		I am personally in two minds - with the state of the roads due to potholes and weeds our roads are taking a bashing.	Any comms/email to Parish/Town Councils should include members, if you are sending out an email they should state Dear Parish/Town Clerk and local County Councillor - then we know where the email has gone to. Any updates of the work in our areas.	Decentralisation would be great and a link up with road sweeping and highways work incl. weeding would be great
Fenland	Anne Hay	anne.hay@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Trip hazards, excess water not draining away, mobility users driving on roads as pavements with vegetation growing through created an extra hazard		The chemicals used are less harmful than normal vinegar, residents see this as a cost saving exercise that they do not support, yes we always need to be seen to be giving best value for money, but listen to the residents of Cambridgeshire this was one step too far	Speak to Town and Parish Councils before implementing such changes, they are nearer to the people on the ground and will give a better indication of what residents want	Yes Consultation Consultation having said that take on board what they say do not close off your minds listen and take on board
East Cambridgeshire	David Ambrose-Smith	dc@ambrosemith.co.uk	The parish of Littleport has at times resembled what I assume to be a third world country		Carry on as before, look for efficiencies elsewhere. I do not have the full brief of the alternatives available.	This would depend on the level of engagement: Strategy: member seminars. Day to Day: LHO's monthly reports to members	Check how other LA's work within their area's, find a success story and try to replicate it.
South Cambridgeshire	Susan van de Ven	susan.vandeven@cambidgeshire.gov.uk	Weeds growing out of blocked drains, encroaching on key footways significantly reducing width .		better control of weeds. If they are undermining effectiveness of drains and footways, then our network isn't working.	Always tell us if you're considering a major change in policy and allow us to give our feedback before the fact, in order that we may consult with the communities we represent.	Please copy them in to 4. above.
East Cambridgeshire	Piers Coutts	piers.coutts@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	City pavements blocked in places by tall weeds. Drainage in road edges and gullies impeded by weed growth. Unsightly weeds in central areas		Use alternative methods where possible, and retain spraying to use where other methods are impracticable.	Consultation with parish councils in advance on such issues is desirable	I attend most parish council meetings and am happy to help with communication
Fenland	Steve Count	steve.count@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Unsightly mess and numerous complaints from residents		There are no costs savings, you are destroying the road structure and creating flooding. Glyphosphate is an approved chemical.	The business plan approved £40k for engagement with Councils in the first quarter. This was not done. Start by explaining that.	Stop hidden cost shunting. Deliver core services before allowing expenditure on political priorities.
Huntingdonshire	Simon Bywater	sybywater@live.co.uk	Our roads, cycle ways and footpaths are in a dreadful state due to the explosion of weeds since your policy change. This has an unacceptable detrimental effect on the look, usability, and cost of repair to our highways. My residents are unhappy at how you have made our community look. Those who attempt active travel are angry at the state of the weed-ridden paths they must dodge. We are deeply concerned at the effect this will have on flash flooding, gully's and drains are becoming blocked by weeds.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=18Ms4bVUu8YWd5c0nc74YmB89ZkcdVEI6 , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hpQZlzMJwjSbUG27XjloP1i8fALBex , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ekGGeEDryep14BtEnl73EdlsKLcj5VFI , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vUQwBBTMLuXLPrUfI65uYZUK62T0QcYD , https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UU3hmJLq6nidF0fzGhyEmVsSCF2doeS	Revert back to the old policy and use better chemicals. It's a vital cost that has to be endured otherwise you'll be paying more for damaged pavements and roads caused by these weeds. If you don't do basic maintenance it costs more long term	Basic courtesy of community communication with Parish Council... come on! This isn't Rocket science. Shame this level of surveying wasn't done in the first place..	Speak to them, engage them like you do with gritting.. utilities volunteers and engage . Don't just stop something. The public are not stupid and if you ignore them like this you end up with angry residents...
Huntingdonshire	Kevin Reynolds	Kevin.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Constant stream of complaints both in person and via E Mail, including parish councils		None, please revert to previous policy which worked well for our communities	Consult and fully explain any future policy changes including probable outcomes, understand the majority of residents / community are about the visual impact of their respective street scenes.	Make LHO,s available to attend at least 2parish council meetings each year

Huntingdonshire	Adela Costello	adela.costello@btinternet.com	They are growing tall, blocking gullies and hampering pavements and street furniture.	https://drive.google.com/open?id=18knhT3A21x6VoMC6fbh1QhGLNkh5cSl , https://drive.google.com/open?id=18wbFevxy9l-1BdVkeTHLung080QxCuP	Weeds produce seeds which are blown everywhere into people's gardens, farmers fields and all highways land. They produce pollen which is detrimental to people suffering from hay fever and asthma, therefore they need to be controlled. If you are not prepared to use chemicals than you should employ staff to remove them by hand.	All Towns/Parishes have a Clerk who should be the first point of contact. The Clerk will then inform the local Councillors.	As above.
Fenland	Simon King	sjeking@yahoo.com	Proliferation of weeds on footpaths adversely affecting their use. For example there is supposedly a tarmac footpath between 33 and 43 Leverington Common PE13 5DG. It is now submerged under weeds. Unfortunately the photos will not attach.		The Joint Administration needs to do better getting adequate funding from the Government. Parish Councils need to be asked if they want cyclic chemical weed spraying reintroduced in their area and where	Major changes and their consequences to our services need to be made clearer to elected members and to our residents	We should explore how Parish Councils can further support our highway services