

Cllr Stuart Bray - Leader of the Council
Hinckley Castle Ward



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Contact:
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Mr Ozzy O'Shea CC
Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation
Leicestershire County Council

Dear Ozzy

Re weed growth in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough

I am writing to you following many complaints I have received both as Leader of the Borough Council and as a Borough, Parish and County Councillor representing Hinckley town centre and part of Burbage about the state of weeds growing on roads and pavements across Hinckley and Bosworth.

This year has been the worst I have seen it in the many years I have represented the area. I would urge you to have a look at the current county council policy with regard to weed spraying. In many places across the area it is no exaggeration to say weeds are growing in excess of two feet in length. This is both an eyesore and in some cases is blocking surface water drains which is clearly a concern. It is my opinion that the frequency of weed spraying is woefully inadequate and would urge you to review this as soon as possible.

As you know Hinckley and Bosworth, and many other areas of the county are heavily reliant on the tourism industry and the sight of weeds growth such as we have seen this year gives a very poor impression.

I am well aware of the current situation of the low levels of funding the County Council receives from the Conservative Government and welcome the (so far fruitless) efforts by your administration to get the Government to look at fairer funding but my constituents and businesses in Hinckley and Bosworth look at their ever increasing council tax bills, in which county council takes the lion's share, and believe that action needs to be taken by County Hall to address this issue.

In my early local government days there was an agency arrangement where Borough District Councils undertook some of the highway related functions. If it is the case that the County Council cannot adequately undertake functions such as weed spraying and grass cutting, which many people believe they now are not doing, then I would be happy to look to see if any arrangements could be made to see if my council's streetscene services could take on some of these functions in return for Leicestershire County Council passporting the funds they take from taxpayers for this purpose to see if efficiencies could be made resulting in a better service for the people we both represent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Bray".

Councillor Stuart Bray
Leader of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Liberal Democrat County Councillor for St Marys Electoral Division

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