

Dear West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council,

Further to our email to John Williams, Clean and Green Team Leader, DCC (25/02/2021 @ 9:28) with regards to avoiding herbicide spraying of the new planters, West Rainton & Leamside Green Group would very much appreciate some further information in relation to the Parish Plan commitment to reducing herbicide use in the village and specifically the Parish Council's plans to implement this. We hope the following questions are appropriate and we look forward to your response.

### **Black Square Planters**



We note from 'Notes From Your Parish Council' in the Winter 2020 issue of 'Village News' (page 8) that the Parish Council intends to install flagstones as an alternative to herbicide use around the new planters. We would like to enquire as to whether the same remedy is intended to be installed under the black square planters please?

If not previously considered would the Parish Council be in a position to extend the flagstone installation to include the black square planters?

If the Parish Council is not in a position to install flagstones under the black square planters, could a collaboration with the Green Group be considered? The Green Group could make a financial contribution but would prefer all works be undertaken as a single contract at your arrangement.

### **Young Trees**



The Green Group greatly appreciated the Parish Council's recent addition of young trees to the village. We would like to enquire as to your plan to avoid herbicide spraying around them please?

If a plan is not currently in place please could the Parish Council consider arranging an alternative weed suppressant (for example bark chippings as DCC has applied at Gilesgate roundabout), and ensure herbicide is not sprayed around these trees?

### **Tree Stumps**



The Green Group were very pleased to see that on recent removal of some trees on North Street the full stumps were also removed and the ground levelled. This is a great contribution to a reduction in herbicide spraying in the village. We note that there are approximately six further tree stumps around the village, all of which will continue to attract herbicide spraying if not removed. Could the Parish Council please consider removing these tree stumps and levelling the ground in the same way?

If the Parish Council cannot consider this proposal could the Green Group request permission to fund the removal of the tree stumps?

If permission is granted to the Green Group to remove the tree stumps, could the contact details for the contractor who undertook the recent tree removal be provided such that the Green Group could obtain a quote?

Many thanks for your consideration of our questions, we look forward to your response,

West Rainton & Leamside Green Group