

Our Ref: L&C 15395

Date: 19th July 2010

Mr Rob Sutton
Moor Pool Residents Association
64 Margaret Grove
Harborne
Birmingham
B17 9JL

Dear Mr Sutton

**Re: PETITION JAPANESE KNOTWEED- THE MOOR POOL ESTATE,
HARBORNE**

This letter is in response to your petition concerning Japanese Knotweed on Moor Pool Estate which was submitted to Harborne Ward Committee on 10th May 2010.

Members requested that officers investigate the issues raised in the petition and try to develop a way forward in formulating a plan for eradication of knotweed from the areas identified. Members further requested that a report be submitted to the next Harborne Ward Committee on 26th July 2010 to update the Committee on progress.

As discussed on our site visit I had also been contacted by a local resident who was also directly affected by knotweed encroaching onto his property. From initial discussions and subsequent visit to all the sites affected it became apparent that all the locations affected are on private property and that this property is owned then leased by Grainger's PLC. At the Square and the Circle the knotweed does impact on the City owned pavement.

I contacted Lisa Bampton of Grainger's and explained the concern the knotweed was causing to the local community and local individuals who were directly impacted upon due to the infestation.

Lisa Bampton subsequently arranged to visit the site with a contractor and obtain quotes for the removal of all knotweed and subsequent on going (three year) treatment of the affected locations.

On 6th July 2010 Lisa confirmed that works have been signed off by the Landlord to remove the Knotweed from The Circle, The Square and The Bowling Green. A three year treatment and management plan has also been approved.

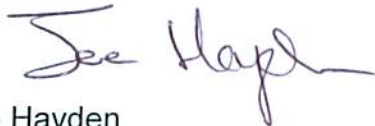
The work will be undertaken by Harmac Environmental and a start date will be advised very shortly.

Whilst the City Highways Division does have powers under Section 154 of the Highway Act 1980 to order the removal of an obstruction (vegetation in this case) to the Highway (pavement in this case - adjacent to The Circle and The Square) - The City Council have no powers to instruct a private land owner to remove knotweed from their land where the issue is between two private land-owners and/or their tenants.

It is hoped progress can now be made without the need for the City to serve an enforcement order for the areas adjoining the Highway. I will continue to monitor the success of the treatment and advise you of any developments with regard to Grainger's commitment.

In the meantime, if you have any further queries regarding your petition, please contact the email address below and quote our reference number on the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Joe Hayden
Constituency Parks Manager – Northfield & Edgbaston
Parks & Nature Conservation

Telephone enquiries: 0121 447 7106

E-mail: joe_hayden@birmingham.gov.uk

Data Protection

Your Enquiry has been recorded onto the departmental Enquiry Database system for administrative purposes and will be kept secure