

## **WEED CONTROL**

Following the submission of project ideas to the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Director of Leisure and Environment agreed to meet with Councillor Pryce Roberts to discuss the matter of weed control. The responsibility for weed control on public land is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. The Borough Council is responsible for the treatment of weeds on its own land such as housing land and within parks. Whilst, LCC are responsible they currently by agreement, contract WLBC to undertake this work on their behalf. The current level of funding available, agreed by members for 3 years, only funds two weeds sprays a year. The first is undertaken in May/June and the second in August/September. Although the weeds are treated, the success of the treatment is weather dependent and not all weeds are subsequently removed through the street cleansing operation. This is because many areas are inaccessible by mechanical sweeping methods and the funding agreed does not allow for intensive manual scraping out programmes to be undertaken, especially where traffic management provision is required. It should also be noted that Street Scene do not currently undertake any weed control on housing land or for regeneration on business estates.

Whilst, the intense removal treatment of weeds is not available through the LCC funding, discussions are currently ongoing with Housing to agree the service levels moving forward and confirm if they wish for Street Scene to undertake the treatment of weeds on housing land. In addition, the recent restructure of the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Service to form a 'Clean and Green' Service will allow some targeted work to be undertaken in specific areas.

The specific issues raised by Councillor Pryce-Roberts relate to housing land and will form part of the winter works programme to be completed by the end of March. Other issues have been collated into an action plan and works are currently progressing.