STILTON

Parish Council

Stilton Parish Council. The Parish Room, Church Street, Stilton, PE7 3RF

25 September 2023

To Cambridgeshire County Council

Please accept this formal objection on behalf of **Stilton Parish Council** to the change in weed killing policy the County Council implemented this year. 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.

Our 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, as gulley's and drains become blocked by weeds. We also are aware of the poisonous danger posed to horses by the rapid increase in Ragwort in our area. 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. We are further dismayed that the County Council would implement such a devastating cut to a vital service with no consultation (or no meaningful consultation**)** with our council.

This blatant attempt at cost shunting onto our council is unacceptable.

We therefore call on those whose decision this was, the "Joint administration" to reverse their disastrous policy …

* We ask that the chief executive Stephen Moir, takes urgent action to remove weeds across the County)

* We ask that the Chair of Highways, Alex Beckett, issues a public statement to reverse this dreadful decision and explain the immediate actions the County Council will be taking to address this

* We ask the monitoring officer, Emma Duncan, to investigate how a major cut to services was allowed take place without engagement with Town and Parish Councils.

Yours sincerely

Julianne Lawrence

Julianne Lawrence
Clerk to Stilton Parish Council