

[REDACTED]

From: Brown, Gary (City Services)
Sent: 18 August 2016 16:53
To: Wakelam, Matthew; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Matt,

I've asked [REDACTED] to make enquiries with CWC but from looking further into this there are some interesting shots on Google streetview over the years. At no time are the stands greater than approx. 2 to 3 feet and the area doesn't appear to be expanding much. My research also informs that it grows at **up to 2cm per day** which means it will take up to 2 months to get to 1.2 metres. If it was at head height as reported on the 15th June, say that is 6 feet or 180cm, then it would take 90 days to grow even when at its greatest rate. It dies back in the winter, doesn't start growing until spring and is susceptible to frost, remember we extended gritting until late April, so this reported knotweed stand must have grown to 180 cm in 6 weeks or 42 days therefore at a rate of over 4cm per day right from day one, unlikely in my opinion.

[REDACTED]

Can you please get me the GRASP cycle dates where the cutting of this area was completed, what works were going on, what was completed during the cycle. There is no blane associated to this enquiry but it is unlikely to go away, we just need to be straight with the information, to give inaccurate detail will only raise further doubt and therefore questions,

Thanks,

Gary

Rheolwr Gweithredol Asedau'r Briffordd, Peirianeg a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager Assets, Engineering and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City Operations

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd
City of Cardiff Council

029 20 873104

County Hall
Room 301
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn yr iaith o'ch dewis, boed yn Saesneg, yn Gymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog cyhyd â'n bod yn ymwybodol o'ch dewis. Cysylltwch â 029 20 873104 / gbrown@cardiff.gov.uk nodi dewis iaith. Os na fyddwn yn derbyn eich dewis iaith, byddwn yn parhau i gyfathrebu â chi yn unol â'r weithdrefn bresennol. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

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receive your language choice, we will continue to correspond with you in accordance with current procedure. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 17 August 2016 21:05
To: Brown, Gary (City Services)
Subject: FW: Knotweed

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Thanks

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A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

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So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards

[REDACTED]

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:56
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Hi Matt – [REDACTED] has been on a site visit and queries our statement. In light of this have we anything further to add?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
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Hi [REDACTED]

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A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Cheers

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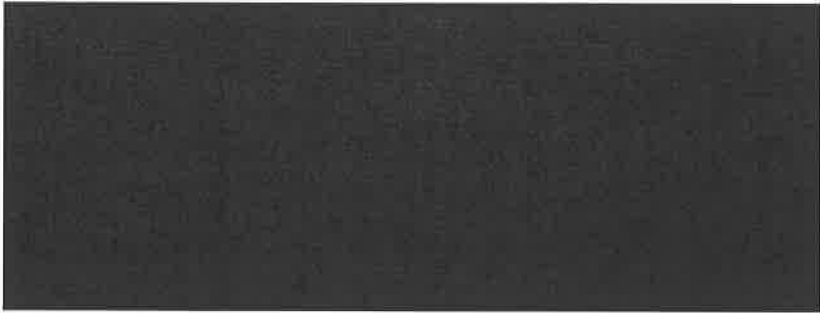
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So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards



From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 July 2016 17:22
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Knotweed

Hi [Redacted]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Thanks



[Redacted]
Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer
Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council
Ebost / Email: [Redacted]
Ffôn / Tel: [Redacted]
Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW
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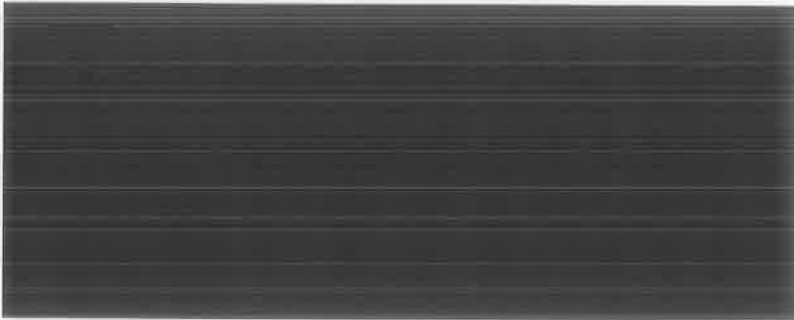
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Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
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Ebost / Email: [Redacted]
Ffôn / Tel: [Redacted]
Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2016 09:29
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi Matt..

[REDACTED] is back re what happened to the cut Japanese knotweed in Leckwith. Have we got anything further to add. What do you think happened to the cuttings? Are we confident that they've mulched into the ground?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2016 16:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email of 02.02.16 saying Cardiff council has nothing to add to the statement [REDACTED] sent a few days earlier regarding my inquiry about the clearance of a stand of Japanese knotweed on the Leckwith slip road of the A4232 some time after 15 June this year.

As you know, and bearing in mind that Japanese knotweed is a controlled waste under two pieces of legislation (the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** and the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**) I have asked questions about the clearance of the stand in question.

I am not persuaded my questions have been fully answered by the statement(s) (in fact just one statement that is re-stated in response to further questioning).

Specifically, the statement(s) says "deposits" were left to "mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site". As I have said, I and a witness saw the site cleared of all vegetation. There were no cuttings to be seen.

Further, during a visit to the site on 1 August, I did then find one bare, brown knotweed cane which would correspond with it having been cut down and left some weeks earlier. It was the only dead cane amid the fresh growth of knotweed. As I have said, I have photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground that would correspond with a whole stand being felled.

So, if the fresh, green Japanese knotweed canes that were cut down were not taken away, then there is a mystery as why only one cane can be found there now. And it is a mystery that is not answered in the statement(s) you and [REDACTED] provided.

Any Japanese knotweed removed from a location must be accounted for. And any that is left on a site must not be left in such a way that it could in following days or weeks be inadvertently moved to another location (by, for example, being sucked into the slipstream of passing vehicles).

[REDACTED]

Given the facts outlined above, this email is to ask for a further statement on the matter and one which gives the council's explanation of why no knotweed canes are to be found at a site where a stand of Japanese knotweed has been recently cut down.

Regards





[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 10 August 2016 09:11
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: FW: Knotweed A4232
Attachments: leckwith lone cane.JPG; leckwith location.jpg; leckwith bare ground with shoe.JPG; leckwith bare ground with tin can.JPG; leckwith bare ground.JPG; Knotweed

Will do.

Had an extended conversation yesterday evening with him.

He has asked if we can confirm when we cut the grass. The site was originally looked at on 15th June prior to grass cutting and had been cut when they returned 2-3 weeks later which is when the photos were taken (no dates given) with no evidence of cuttings on site (although I would suggest that you can clearly see cut vegetation in a number of the pictures). Also he has asked for the detail of how that area was cut (second email enclosed). I'll check those details with [Redacted] and let you know.

The photos have a [Redacted] name attached, not sure if that is [Redacted]

The questions as to why anyone would be walking and taking photos within a prohibition of pedestrians zone is of course highly irresponsible but a question for another day.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

City of Cardiff Council

-----Original Message-----

From: COOK RALPH [Redacted]
Sent: 09 August 2016 16:08
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Knotweed A4232

Hi [Redacted]

Can you confirm receipt of these by return?

Regards Cllr. Ralph Cook

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2016 10:35
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Hi Matt,

There has been some confusion over the specific location the this enquiry relates to but obviously the photos that have been sent through help. I've just shown [REDACTED] the pictures and he has stated the knotweed at this location has not been cut although the grass has and this may well explain why there is no evidence. However, there is a pocket about 100m further along in the verge between the slip and main carriageway, which is where [REDACTED] thought the enquiry related to, that was treated last year and was cut in-situ this year. I can't see that knotweed would have grown to the height in the photos within 3 weeks although Cllr Cook did say that it was head height at the start of the season - some before pictures would be useful.

Also tried to send the email below a few times but has come back undelivered.

Hope this helps rather than confusing matters.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2016 16:28
To: 'COOK RALPH' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Dear Cllr Cook,

Thank you this and I have made Matthew aware. However, for your information, I would note that there is a pedestrian prohibition on this section of the A4232 which is also a clearway with a national speed limit. Therefore it would be an offence to stop a vehicle or walk to the site.

Regards

[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

-----Original Message-----

From: COOK RALPH [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2016 09:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Thank you [REDACTED]

I am meeting the journalist on site tomorrow, it would be very helpful if I had the reply before then.

Regards Ralph

> On 10 August 2016 at 09:18 [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED] wrote:

>

>

> Dear Cllr Cooke,

>

> While looking into this matter further this morning, I have forwarded
> your enquiry to Matthew Wakelam who will now provide you with a reply.

>

> Kind regards

>

> [REDACTED]

> City of Cardiff Council

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: COOK RALPH [REDACTED]

> Sent: 09 August 2016 16:16

> To: [REDACTED]

> Subject: Knotweed

>

> Hi [REDACTED]

>

> One more question, how would the team actually have cut the material down?

>

> Regards Cllr. Ralph Cook

>

> *****

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> ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice,
> whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer.
> Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

>

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> scrutiny by someone other than the addressee.

> *****

> Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn
> sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn
> Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa
> un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

>

> Mae'n bosibl bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol yn y neges hon. Os na
> chyfeirir y neges atoch chi'n benodol (neu os nad ydych chi'n gyfrifol
> am drosglwyddo'r neges i'r person a enwir), yna ni chewch gopio na
> throsglwyddo'r neges. Mewn achos o'r fath, dylech ddinistrio'r neges a
> hysbysu'r anfonwr drwy e-bost ar unwaith. Rhowch wybod i'r anfonnydd ar
> unwaith os nad ydych chi neu eich cyflogydd yn caniatáu e-bost y
> Rhynggrwyd am negeseuon fel hon. Rhaid deall nad yw'r safbwyntiau, y
> casgliadau a'r wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad ydynt yn cyfeirio at
> fusnes swyddogol Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn cynrychioli barn y
> Cyngor Sir nad yn cael sel ei fendith. Caiff unrhyw negeseuon a
> anfonir at, neu o'r cyfeiriad e-bost hwn eu prosesu gan system E-bost Gorfforaethol Cyngor Sir Caerdydd a gallant
> gael eu harchwilio gan rywun heblaw'r person a enwir.

> *****

>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 August 2016 12:49
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Matt
I am not aware of any works in Trowbridge/St Mellons, the only possibility is Street Ops

[REDACTED]

City Operations / Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdiff

[REDACTED]

County Hall
Room 301
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 03 August 2016 12:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Is this our teams and if so who?

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 12:36 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Hi Matt,

Has Cllr Ralph Cook been in touch re Japanese Knotweed?

I've just had [REDACTED] on telling me that Cllr Cook believes our statement – not transporting JK waste off-site as per codes of practice – is contradicted by our actions at a site in Trowbridge/ St Mellons. According to [REDACTED]. Cllr Cook is saying that highways staff removed the waste at this site and that [REDACTED] have footage of them doing it!

Cllr Cook will be giving you a ring – but I thought I'd give you the heads-up. Please let me know if you believe there's any potential for some negative media coverage as a result of what he tells you.

Thanks,

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 02 August 2016 15:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

See below – not sure what I can add....

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City Operations

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd
City of Cardiff Council

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 13:38

To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>

Cc: Maidment, Jon <JMaidment@cardiff.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Knotweed

Matt

I have checked with Street Ops and confirm no works have been carried out recently. Street Ops visited Site last week with Complete Weed Control, and the JK has been previously cut back and left on site as recommended for an alternative method of treatment compared to waiting until September which is the only time in the year we can spray effectively.

Just to let you know CWC are currently preparing a report of the extent of JK on the principal road network for me, which I plan to treat in September as recommended. There appears to be more JK on the principal network than we may realise.

Please let me know if you require any further info

[REDACTED]

City Operations / Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdiff

[REDACTED]

County Hall
Room 301
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

From: Wakelam, Matthew

Sent: 02 August 2016 13:04

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Maidment, Jon; [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Knotweed

[REDACTED]

See below.

Did any specific weed work take place in Leckwith?

I fed back to [REDACTED] the information I was given by [REDACTED] in how we generally treat knotweed. Obviously we are being scrutinised to a significant level. I am hoping complete weed control or parks came in?

From my perspective my officers do not remove vegetation from site as they have to pick it up and dispose - it is therefore left in-situ.

Can you look at this.

Thanks

Matt

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:55 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Hi Matt - [REDACTED] has been on a site visit and queries our statement. In light of this have we anything further to add?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

H [REDACTED]

This is what we said in our last statement and the facts he is disputing are in the email below.

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, I re-visited the Leckwith site on the A4232 yesterday evening (1 August) with a professional in the weed-control industry and found the facts on the ground hard to reconcile with the statement below.

Our first visit there was on 15 June [REDACTED]

The knotweed stand at this time was at head height in places and was too thick to walk through without forcing someone on to the sliproad. The canes were, naturally, quite substantial.

A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

So I cannot see how this observation can be reconciled with the assertion that “deposits” were left to “mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site”. As I said, the site was cleared back in June.

Also, I believe there is a further discrepancy in the council’s statement; that the site was “treated over the winter”. Japanese knotweed dies back over the winter. All that is left above ground is the dead woody canes from the previous year’s growth. Cutting these down would hardly be called “treatment” as they would not deter the expected growth (as opposed to re-growth) in the spring.

So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards



From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 July 2016 17:22
To: [redacted]
Subject: Knotweed

Hi [redacted]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: “This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice.”

Thanks

[redacted]
[redacted]
Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer
Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council
Ebost / Email: [redacted]
Ffôn / Tel: [redacted]

Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW
Room 508, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, CARDIFF CF10 4UW



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Mae'n bosibl bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol yn y neges hon. Os na chyfeirir y neges atoch chi'n benodol (neu os nad ydych chi'n gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges i'r person a enwir), yna ni chewch gopio na throsglwyddo'r neges. Mewn achos o'r fath, dylech ddinistrio'r neges a hysbysu'r anfonwr drwy e-bost ar unwaith. Rhowch wybod i'r anfonydd ar unwaith os nad ydych chi neu eich cyflogydd yn caniatáu e-bost y Rhynggrwyd am negeseuon fel hon. Rhaid deall nad yw'r safbwyntiau, y casgliadau a'r wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad ydynt yn cyfeirio at fusnes swyddogol Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn cynrychioli barn y Cyngor Sir nad yn cael sel ei fendith. Caiff unrhyw negeseuon a anfonir at, neu o'r cyfeiriad e-bost hwn eu prosesu gan system E-bost Gorfforaethol Cyngor Sir Caerdydd a gallant gael eu harchwilio gan rywun heblaw'r person a enwir.

[REDACTED]

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 10 August 2016 08:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed A4232

Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Can you respond stating that you have sent it to me and that I will be responding. Can you send me the correspondence.

Thanks

Matt

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City Operations

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C 029 223 30106

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-----Original Message-----

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2016 08:40
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Knotweed A4232

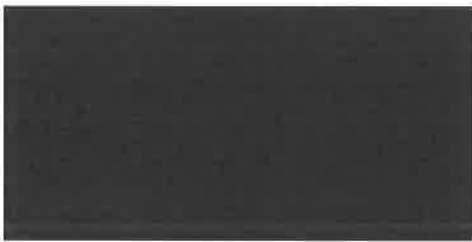
Morning Matt,

Before I went on leave, we had an enquiry regarding how we deal with JKW within our grass cutting operations. While I was away, Cllr Cooke spoke to [REDACTED] in relation to the A4232 north on slip at Leckwith. He has now approached myself with a number of questions. Can you let me know what reply was put out originally? There seems to be some inference that either ourselves or a third party has undertaken work and removed the cuttings based on the fact that there is little evidence of cuttings on site a number of weeks after the grass was cut.

As this involves [REDACTED] I'm not entirely sure why Cllr Cooke isn't going through the comms team.

Any info or thoughts would be much appreciated as he has indicated that there could be a conspiracy involving many employees including senior managers! It wasn't you was it?

Cheers



City of Cardiff Council

-----Original Message-----

From: COOK RALPH [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 August 2016 16:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Knotweed A4232

Hi [REDACTED]

Can you confirm receipt of these by return?

Regards Cllr. Ralph Cook

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2016 16:14
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: RE: Knotweed A4232

Hi Matt,

Under our normal grass cutting regime on high speed routs we do not remove cuttings. Even if we wanted to, the only way this could be done is by hand as the equipment used does not have the capability to collect while cutting.

FYI Cllr Cooke advises that he is meeting the journalist on site tomorrow.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 10 August 2016 13:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed A4232

[REDACTED]

Can you check with [REDACTED] whether we ever remove material from site - I just do not think our guys would pick up arisings and take them to tip.

Thanks

Matt

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City Operations

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd
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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2016 09:11
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Knotweed A4232

Will do.

Had an extended conversation yesterday evening with him.

He has asked if we can confirm when we cut the grass. The site was originally looked at on 15th June prior to grass cutting and had been cut when they returned 2-3 weeks later which is when the photos were taken (no dates given) with no evidence of cuttings on site (although I would suggest that you can clearly see cut vegetation in a number of the pictures). Also he has asked for the detail of how that area was cut (second email enclosed). I'll check those details with [REDACTED] and let you know.

The photos have [REDACTED] name attached, not sure if that is [REDACTED]

The questions as to why anyone would be walking and taking photos within a prohibition of pedestrians zone is of course highly irresponsible but a question for another day.

[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

-----Original Message-----

From: COOK RALPH [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 August 2016 16:08
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Knotweed A4232

Hi [REDACTED]

Can you confirm receipt of these by return?

Regards Cllr. Ralph Cook

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2016 09:19
To: COOK RALPH
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Dear Cllr Cooke,

While looking into this matter further this morning, I have forwarded your enquiry to Matthew Wakelam who will now provide you with a reply.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

-----Original Message-----

From: COOK RALPH [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 August 2016 16:16
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

One more question, how would the team actually have cut the material down?

Regards Cllr. Ralph Cook

[REDACTED]

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 07 July 2016 07:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services)
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

[REDACTED]

Please see [REDACTED] below. Obviously we would need to confirm that the plant the individual thinks is Japanese Knotweed is indeed Japanese Knotweed but can you confirm what training our Officers have with regards injurious weeds such as knotweed and ragwort and how we dispose of said plants. I recognise knotweed needs to be specially treated but if we cut vegetation back does it go to compost, landfill or get incinerated? I have noticed a significant amount of Ragwort on the A4232 along its length – again we should be looking to remove this before it seeds and appropriately dispose.

Once you have responded I will draft something to review before I go back to our media team.

Thanks

Matt

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2016 15:03
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>
Subject: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

Here's the detail Matt...

[REDACTED] is researching a story on Japanese Knotweed.

He found a patch to the right of the A4232 onslip at Leckwith as you head towards Culver.

The knotweed has now gone and according to him the area looks like it's been treated with a herbicide.

He's asking for details of how it was disposed of, saying that as controlled waste it should be bagged and either incinerated or sent to a registered landfill (said Trecatti in the Heads of the Valleys was the nearest).

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Swyddog Cyfathrebu
Communications Officer
E-bost/Email: [REDACTED]
Ffôn/Tel: [REDACTED]
Ystafell 509, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd CAERDYDD CF10 4UW
Room 509, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf CARDIFF CF10 4UW

Ystyriwch yr amgylched - oes rhaid i chi brintio'r e-bost hwn?
Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

[Redacted]

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 03 August 2016 12:39
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Is this our teams and if so who?

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 12:36 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Hi Matt,

Has Cllr Ralph Cook been in touch re Japanese Knotweed?

I've just had [Redacted] on telling me that Cllr Cook believes our statement – not transporting JK waste off-site as per codes of practice – is contradicted by our actions at a site in Trowbridge/ St Mellons. According to [Redacted]. Cllr Cook is saying that highways staff removed the waste at this site and that [Redacted] have footage of them doing it!

Cllr Cook will be giving you a ring – but I thought I'd give you the heads-up. Please let me know if you believe there's any potential for some negative media coverage as a result of what he tells you.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 02 August 2016 15:05
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

See below – not sure what I can add....

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 13:38
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>
Cc: Maidment, Jon <JMaidment@cardiff.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Matt

I have checked with Street Ops and confirm no works have been carried out recently. Street Ops visited Site last week with Complete Weed Control, and the JK has been previously cut back and left on site as recommended for an alternative method of treatment compared to waiting until September which is the only time in the year we can spray effectively.

Just to let you know CWC are currently preparing a report of the extent of JK on the principal road network for me, which I plan to treat in September as recommended. There appears to be more JK on the principal network than we may realise.

Please let me know if you require any further info

[REDACTED]

City Operations / Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdiff

[REDACTED]
County Hall
Room 301
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 02 August 2016 13:04
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Maidment, Jon; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

[REDACTED]
See below.

Did any specific weed work take place in Leckwith?

I fed back to [REDACTED] the information I was given by [REDACTED] in how we generally treat knotweed. Obviously we are being scrutinised to a significant level. I am hoping complete weed control or parks came in?

From my perspective my officers do not remove vegetation from site as they have to pick it up and dispose - it is therefore left in-situ.

Can you look at this.

Thanks

Matt

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:55 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Hi Matt - [REDACTED] has been on a site visit and queries our statement. In light of this have we anything further to add?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:52

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

This is what we said in our last statement and the facts he is disputing are in the email below.

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Cheers

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, I re-visited the Leckwith site on the A4232 yesterday evening (1 August) with a professional in the weed-control industry and found the facts on the ground hard to reconcile with the statement below.

Our first visit there was on 15 June [REDACTED]

The knotweed stand at this time was at head height in places and was too thick to walk through without forcing someone on to the sliproad. The canes were, naturally, quite substantial.

A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

So I cannot see how this observation can be reconciled with the assertion that "deposits" were left to "mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site". As I said, the site was cleared back in June.

Also, I believe there is a further discrepancy in the council's statement; that the site was "treated over the winter". Japanese knotweed dies back over the winter. All that is left above ground is the dead woody canes from the previous year's growth. Cutting these down would hardly be called "treatment" as they would not deter the expected growth (as opposed to re-growth) in the spring.

So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 July 2016 17:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer
Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council
Ebost / Email: [REDACTED]
Ffôn / Tel: [REDACTED]
Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW
Room 508, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, CARDIFF CF10 4UW



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Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

Mae'n bosibl bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol yn y neges hon. Os na chyfeirir y neges atoch chi'n benodol (neu os nad ydych chi'n gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges i'r person a enwir), yna ni chewch gopio na throsglwyddo'r neges. Mewn achos o'r fath, dylech ddinistrio'r neges a hysbysu'r anfonwr drwy e-bost ar unwaith. Rhowch wybod i'r anfonydd ar unwaith os nad ydych chi neu eich cyflogydd yn caniatáu e-bost y Rhynggrwyd am negeseuon fel hon. Rhaid deall nad yw'r safbwyntiau, y casgliadau a'r wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad ydynt yn cyfeirio at fusnes swyddogol Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn cynrychioli barn y Cyngor Sir nad yn cael sel ei fendith. Caiff unrhyw negeseuon a anfonir at, neu o'r cyfeiriad e-bost hwn eu prosesu gan system E-bost Gorfforaethol Cyngor Sir Caerdydd a gallant gael eu harchwilio gan rywun heblaw'r person a enwir.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 July 2016 13:17
To: Brown, Gary (City Services); Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi -

Do either of you know anything about the clearance of Japanese Knotweed last week near Leckwith roundabout?
Would it be Highways Agency?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 July 2016 12:56
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Here's the email query I sent in previously about Japanese knotweed claims. If you could get an answer in a couple of days, that would be great.

The other query I made, last week, was about the clearance of knotweed stands on the slip road from the Leckwith roundabout on to the A4232. The stands on the right-hand side of the slip road after the bridge have been cut to ground level and removed from the site.

As Japanese knotweed is a controlled waste, whatever is cut down must be cut, bagged and removed by a licensed operator and disposed of at a site licensed to take such controlled waste.

My query was whether this work was undertaken by the local authority and whether the work was undertaken according to the regulations surrounding Japanese knotweed. I appreciate this may have been a Highways Agency issue rather than a council one, however.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 June 2016 16:40
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hello,

I am looking at the cost of Japanese knotweed claims on public body land owners.

Could you please let me know what provisions the local authority has made for claims in relation to Japanese knotweed?

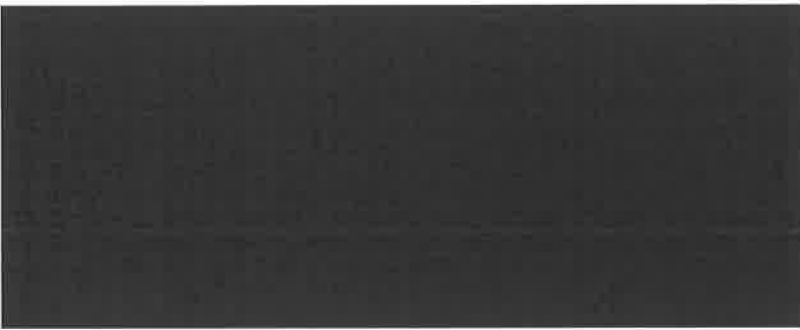
For example, has the risk been insured and what is the limit of the cover under the insurance?

Can you also say how many claims the local authority has had in the last financial year and what the average or typical value has been of any damages the council has paid out.

Also what is the average or typical amount of costs involved in such cases for both the council's lawyers and the claimant's lawyers?

If you could pass on these figures by next Wednesday (29 June) that would be great.

Many thanks





[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 July 2016 17:47
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Japanese Knotweed

Hi Matt,

I've had a query from [REDACTED] about a patch of Japanese Knotweed that has been cleared recently – it's a patch near the Leckwith Roundabout. Would this have been our responsibility? If it was us, could you advise on how the knotweed was cleared. Apparently it is growing back and [REDACTED] is querying how the clearance was done and how the waste was disposed of.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer
Cyathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council

Ebost / Email: [REDACTED]

Ffôn / Tel: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2016 10:38
To: Wakelam, Matthew; [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

Hi Matt,

Where we are undertaking grass cutting on high speed routes such as the A4232, the instruction is that JKW is not cut or strimmed and [REDACTED] is advised of infestations so that he can consider them for treatment over the winter. Where areas have been effectively/successfully treated then they can be cut back (we wouldn't use a flail for this) and allowed to mulch down in-situ ensuring the cuttings are not transported off site.

That said, having spoken to [REDACTED] it is permissible to cut actively growing JKW again ensuring that it is not taken from site and that precautions are taken to prevent it from being redeposited at other locations (ie large chunks on a flail).

I understand [REDACTED] is also going to provide you with a reply in relation to Parks.

Hope this is of assistance

[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 July 2016 08:23
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services) <GBrown@cardiff.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

Good morning Matt

I have copied [REDACTED] into your query ,as [REDACTED] overseas/Manages the weed control contract.

[REDACTED] could you give Matt the information he requires

Thank,s [REDACTED]

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 07 July 2016 07:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services)
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

Please see [redacted] enquiry below. Obviously we would need to confirm that the plant the individual thinks is Japanese Knotweed is indeed Japanese Knotweed but can you confirm what training our Officers have with regards injurious weeds such as knotweed and ragwort and how we dispose of said plants. I recognise knotweed needs to be specially treated but if we cut vegetation back does it go to compost, landfill or get incinerated? I have noticed a significant amount of Ragwort on the A4232 along its length – again we should be looking to remove this before it seeds and appropriately dispose.

Once you have responded I will draft something to review before I go back to our media team.

Thanks

Matt

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City Operations

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 July 2016 15:03

To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

Here's the detail Matt...

[REDACTED] is researching a story on Japanese Knotweed.

He found a patch to the right of the A4232 onslip at Leckwith as you head towards Culver.

The knotweed has now gone and according to him the area looks like it's been treated with a herbicide.

He's asking for details of how it was disposed of, saying that as controlled waste it should be bagged and either incinerated or sent to a registered landfill (said Trecatti in the Heads of the Valleys was the nearest).

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Swyddog Cyfathrebu
Communications Officer

E-bost/Email: [REDACTED]

Ffôn/Tel: [REDACTED]

Ystafell 509, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd CAERDYDD CF10 4UW

Room 509, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf CARDIFF CF10 4UW

Ystyriwch yr amgylched - oes rhaid i chi brintio'r e-bost hwn?

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 July 2016 08:32
To: [REDACTED] Wakelam, Matthew [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services)
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

Thanks [REDACTED]

I'll also discuss with [REDACTED] for the grass cutting on the high speed routes.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 July 2016 08:23
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services) <GBrown@cardiff.gov.uk>
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Good morning Matt

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Swyddog Cyfathrebu

Communications Officer

E-bost/Email: [REDACTED]

Ffôn/Tel: [REDACTED]

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Room 509, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf CARDIFF CF10 4UW

Ystyriwch yr amgylched - oes rhaid i chi brintio'r e-bost hwn?

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2016 13:55
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Cc: Brown, Gary (City Services); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] - Japanese Knotweed

Hi Matthew

I can confirm that officers have been advised to manage Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) such as Japanese Knotweed (JK) and Ragwort in accordance with their respective codes of practice published by the Welsh Government. The Council does not have a policy on INNS management and I am not aware of specific training for plant identification but these are planned, also some INNS can present a risk to hand held equipment operators these are identified in our operation risk assessments, eg strimmer operation.

Parks staff only cut JK when it is causing an obstruction and the material is left on site removal could constitute be in breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Environmental Protection Act. This plant is only controlled where budgets allow or if the Council is at risk of litigation. This is done with a contractor who use appropriate pesticides.

Other plants such as Himalayan Balsam and Ragwort are managed in an adhoc manner in some locations across the city by volunteers and Community Park Rangers.

If you need any more please let me know.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Canolfan Addysg Parc Bute / **Bute Park Education Centre**
Parc Bute / **Bute Park**
Caerdydd / **Cardiff**
CF10 3DX



bute-park.com
butepark@cardiff.gov.uk / parcbute@caerdydd.gov.uk



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Hi Matt,

Where we are undertaking grass cutting on high speed routes such as the A4232, the instruction is that JKW is not cut or trimmed and [REDACTED] is advised of infestations so that he can consider them for treatment over the winter. Where areas have been effectively/successfully treated then they can be cut back (we wouldn't use a flail for this) and allowed to mulch down in-situ ensuring the cuttings are not transported off site.

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[REDACTED]

City of Cardiff Council

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Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Japanese Knotweed

Good morning Matt

I have copied [REDACTED] into your query, as [REDACTED] oversees/Manages the weed control contract.

[REDACTED] Could you give Matt the information he requires

Thank,s [REDACTED]

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Sent: 07 July 2016 07:49
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Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

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Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
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From [redacted]
Sent: 06 July 2016 15:03

To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: [REDACTED] Japanese Knotweed

Here's the detail Matt...

[REDACTED] is researching a story on Japanese Knotweed.

He found a patch to the right of the A4232 onslip at Leckwith as you head towards Culver.

The knotweed has now gone and according to him the area looks like it's been treated with a herbicide.

He's asking for details of how it was disposed of, saying that as controlled waste it should be bagged and either incinerated or sent to a registered landfill (said Trecatti in the Heads of the Valleys was the nearest).

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Swyddog Cyfathrebu
Communications Officer

E-bost/Email [REDACTED]

Ffôn/Tel: [REDACTED]

Ystafell 509, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd CAERDYDD CF10 4UW

Room 509, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf CARDIFF CF10 4UW

Ystyriwch yr amgylched - oes rhaid i chi brintio'r e-bost hwn?

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 July 2016 10:57
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Subject: RE: Japanese Knotweed

Thanks Matt, can I just check I'm reading the key points of this right:

1. We had previously treated the area at Leckwith roundabout (with chemicals?) We then returned and cut it back, leaving any deposits on site.
2. This course of action is in line with Welsh Government Codes of Practice.

I know there have been a few queries about Knotweed [REDACTED] but they never seem to turn into a story. I'm not planning on issuing a statement on this unless requested – will just provide info as above if you could confirm.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 25 July 2016 19:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Japanese Knotweed

[REDACTED]

I am unsure where [REDACTED] are going with this. There have been a few enquiries – the activities that we undertake never take material from site as it costs money and has to be disposed with. Predominantly any material is left in-situ with only sports fields and high quality park land having material removed from site. Response is below....

Where the Council are undertaking grass cutting on high speed routes such as the A4232, the instruction is that Japanese Knotweed is not cut or strimmed and an Area Manager Section Leader is advised of infestations so that he can consider them for treatment over the winter. Where areas have been effectively/successfully treated then they can be cut back (we would not use a flail for this) and the deposits are allowed to mulch down in-situ ensuring the cuttings are not transported off site.

It is permissible to cut actively growing Japanese Knotweed again ensuring that it is not taken from site and that precautions are taken to prevent it from being redeposited at other locations (ie large chunks on a flail). Officers have been advised to manage Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) such as Japanese Knotweed (JK) and Ragwort in accordance with their respective codes of practice published by the Welsh Government. The Council does not have a policy on INNS management and specific training for plant identification is planned. Some INNS can present a risk to hand held equipment operators these are identified in our operation risk assessments, eg strimmer operation.

It is recognised that removal of Japanese Knotweed could constitute be in breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Environmental Protection Act. The Councils activities rarely remove materials from where they are cut due to associated issue of disposal and costs. This plant is only controlled where budgets allow or if the Council is at risk of litigation. This is done with a contractor who uses appropriate pesticides.

Other plants such as Himalayan Balsam and Ragwort are managed in an ad-hoc manner in some locations across the city by volunteers and Community Park Rangers.

Thanks

Matt

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City Operations

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd
City of Cardiff Council

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Room 301
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Cardiff
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 July 2016 17:47
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Japanese Knotweed

Hi Matt,

I've had a query [REDACTED] about a patch of Japanese Knotweed that has been cleared recently – it's a patch near the Leckwith Roundabout. Would this have been our responsibility? If it was us, could you advise on how the knotweed

was cleared. Apparently it is growing back and the journalist is querying how the clearance was done and how the waste was disposed of.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer
Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council

Ebost / Email: [REDACTED]

Ffôn / Tel: [REDACTED]

Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW
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Delivering **our vision** of becoming **Europe's most liveable capital city**

[REDACTED]

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 27 July 2016 10:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Japanese Knotweed

Fine by me.

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 July 2016 10:19
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Japanese Knotweed
Importance: High

Hi Matt,

The journalist has asked for a statement on this as he wasn't convinced that it was standard practice to leave the knotweed to mulch down on site. Are you happy with the following?

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Thanks

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 26 July 2016 12:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Japanese Knotweed

Yes, that is fine.

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
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Thanks

Matt

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Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Japanese Knotweed

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Thanks

[Redacted]

Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer

Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council

Ebost / Email: [Redacted]

Ffôn / Tel: [Redacted]

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Delivering our vision of becoming Europe's most liveable capital city

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 15:29
To: Wakelam, Matthew; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Thanks Matt

From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 02 August 2016 15:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

See below – not sure what I can add....

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 13:38
To: Wakelam, Matthew <MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk>
Cc: Maidment, Jon <JMaidment@cardiff.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Matt

I have checked with Street Ops and confirm no works have been carried out recently. Street Ops visited Site last week with Complete Weed Control, and the JK has been previously cut back and left on site as recommended for an alternative method of treatment compared to waiting until September which is the only time in the year we can spray effectively.

Just to let you know CWC are currently preparing a report of the extent of JK on the principal road network for me, which I plan to treat in September as recommended. There appears to be more JK on the principal network than we may realise.

Please let me know if you require any further info

[REDACTED]

City Operations / Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdiff

[REDACTED]

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From: Wakelam, Matthew
Sent: 02 August 2016 13:04
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Maidment, Jon; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

[REDACTED]

See below.

Did any specific weed work take place in Leckwith?

I fed back to [REDACTED] the information I was given by [REDACTED] in how we generally treat knotweed. Obviously we are being scrutinised to a significant level. I am hoping complete weed control or parks came in?

From my perspective my officers do not remove vegetation from site as they have to pick it up and dispose - it is therefore left in-situ.

Can you look at this.

Thanks

Matt

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:55 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Hi Matt [REDACTED] has been on a site visit and queries our statement. In light of this have we anything further to add?

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

This is what we said in our last statement and the facts he is disputing are in the email below.

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Cheers

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, I re-visited the Leckwith site on the A4232 yesterday evening (1 August) with a professional in the weed-control industry and found the facts on the ground hard to reconcile with the statement below.

Our first visit there was on 15 June [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The knotweed stand at this time was at head height in places and was too thick to walk through without forcing someone on to the sliproad. The canes were, naturally, quite substantial.

A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

So I cannot see how this observation can be reconciled with the assertion that “deposits” were left to “mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site”. As I said, the site was cleared back in June.

Also, I believe there is a further discrepancy in the council’s statement; that the site was “treated over the winter”. Japanese knotweed dies back over the winter. All that is left above ground is the dead woody canes from the previous year’s growth. Cutting these down would hardly be called “treatment” as they would not deter the expected growth (as opposed to re-growth) in the spring.

So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 July 2016 17:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: “This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice.”

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer
Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
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Ebost / Email: [REDACTED]

Ffôn / Tel: [REDACTED]

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Mae'n bosibl bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol yn y neges hon. Os na chyfeirir y neges atoch chi'n benodol (neu os nad ydych chi'n gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges i'r person a enwir), yna ni chewch gopio na throsglwyddo'r neges. Mewn achos o'r fath, dylech ddinistrio'r neges a hysbysu'r anfonwr drwy e-bost ar unwaith. Rhowch wybod i'r anfonydd ar unwaith os nad ydych chi neu eich cyflogydd yn caniatáu e-bost y Rhyngwlad am negeseuon fel hon. Rhaid deall nad yw'r safbwyntiau, y casgliadau a'r wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad ydynt yn cyfeirio at fusnes swyddogol Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn cynrychioli barn y

Cyngor Sir nad yn cael sel ei fendith. Caiff unrhyw negeseuon a anfonir at, neu o'r cyfeiriad e-bost hwn eu prosesu gan system E-bost Gorfforaethol Cyngor Sir Caerdydd a gallant gael eu harchwilio gan rywun heblaw'r person a enwir.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2016 13:38
To: Wakelam, Matthew
Cc: Maidment, Jon; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Knotweed

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[REDACTED]

City Operations / Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdiff

[REDACTED]

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Subject: RE: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, I re-visited the Leckwith site on the A4232 yesterday evening (1 August) with a professional in the weed-control industry and found the facts on the ground hard to reconcile with the statement below.

Our first visit there was on 15 June [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The knotweed stand at this time was at head height in places and was too thick to walk through without forcing someone on to the sliproad. The canes were, naturally, quite substantial.

A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

So I cannot see how this observation can be reconciled with the assertion that “deposits” were left to “mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site”. As I said, the site was cleared back in June.

Also, I believe there is a further discrepancy in the council’s statement; that the site was “treated over the winter”. Japanese knotweed dies back over the winter. All that is left above ground is the dead woody canes from the previous year’s growth. Cutting these down would hardly be called “treatment” as they would not deter the expect growth (as opposed to re-growth) in the spring.

So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 July 2016 17:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: “This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice.”

Thanks

Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer
Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media
Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council

Ebost / Email:

Ffôn / Tel:

Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW
Room 508, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, CARDIFF CF10 4UW



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