14 May 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 589/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request/Response:

Could you please answer the following question under the provision of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. Do you have a program to poison/remove invasive plant species?

   Answer: Rutland County Council does not have specific programme to poison/remove invasive plant species, but will have such work undertaken on a reactive basis as necessary.

2. If so, which invasive plant species are you poisoning/removing?

   Answer: Reactive poisoning / removal of invasive plant species tends to involve
   • Common Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea L.)
   • Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)
   • Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia japonica) and its hybrids
   
   Other potential invasive plant species that could be subject to poisoning / removal include
   • Broad-leaved Dock (Rumex obtusifolius L.)
   • Creeping or Field Thistle (Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop.)
   • Curled Dock (Rumex crispus L.)
   • Field Horsetail (Equisetum arvense),
   • Giant Knotweed (Fallopia sachalinensis) and its hybrids
   • Himalayan Balsam (Impatiens gladulifera)
   • Piri-piri-bur (Acaena novae-zelandiae)
   • Spear Thistle (Cirsium vulgare)
   • Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa)
3. What method of control do you use for each species 4, what chemicals do you use?

Answer: Control methods can include spraying with chemicals, stem injection with chemicals and hand pulling. Barrier H is the chemical generally used for control of Common Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea L.). Other chemical use is determined on a case by case basis.

4. With what frequency do you treat the invasive species?

Answer: Rutland County Council only treats invasive plant species on a reactive basis.

5. What is your annual spend on treating invasive species for the last 3 years?

Answer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>£1,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>£5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>£890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You are free to use any documents supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. The documents may also be used for news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the documents or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright owner, where copyright exists. Such a request would be considered separately in accordance with the relevant Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 and is not automatic. Therefore, no permission is implied in the re-use of this information, until such a request to re-use it has been made and agreed, subject to any appropriate conditions. Any request to re-use the information should be made to me at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council