

WHITEFIELD AND UNSWORTH TOWNSHIP FORUM
ITEMS RAISED IN OPEN FORUM: 11th September 2012

	Raised by	ITEM RAISED AT OPEN FORUM	Action by	Action
1	John Mallon	Various issues re yellow lines Hillingdon Road needs to be reassessed Old Hall Lane/ Ringley Road	Highways	Cllr Jones undertook to investigate this matter
2	John Mallon	Subcontracted work- how is work inspected? How are subcontractors made accountable? Footpath resurfacing behind Goats gate Pub. Well used path linking Radcliffe New Road to Wingate drive. This path has been resurfaced in two stages. 1 st stage very good. Most recently rest of path done and after only 3 months weeds have started to come through centre of path. Can arrangements be made for path to be re laid and weedkiller in the meantime?	Highways	This is adopted highways land.
3	Mrs Marshall	Japanese Knotweed on Radcliffe New road at entrance to Springwater Park. Is this council owned? If not does the council have any power or policy to make people remove the knotweed from their land	Parks and countryside Environmental health	Alex Stacey explained that [property owners have a legal obligation to remove knotweed. If knotweed encroaches someone else's property they would be able to sue the landowner from where the problem originates. Response from Tina Murray, Environmental health: There is some really good advice on the Environment Agency Website. Link provided http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/130079.aspx In Summary :-

				<p>1) It is not an offence to have Japanese Knotweed on land. 2) It is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 to "plant or otherwise cause JK to grow in the wild " 3) When JK is controlled/removed there are strict controls about how this is done. 4) The police are responsible for investigating any offences and each police force has a wildlife liaison officer who can be contacted. 5) Allowing Japanese Knotweed to spread onto neighbouring land could be considered to be a private nuisance but NOT a statutory nuisance. Therefore there is no enforcement action Environmental Health can take and it would be a private matter between the 2 parties.</p> <p>Response from Graham Schoon, countryside officer 17/9/12: Both these sites are not owned by the Council so it is the responsibility of the landowner to deal with the Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>We did have a budget of £10,000 for treating Knotweed and other invasive on Leisure land but this was removed as part of the cuts last year.</p>
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4	Unsworth resident	Unsworth Pole parking problems. Parking restrictions on Pole lane have been re done, bays have been repainted but yellow lines have not been done and are barely visible. People parking and obstructing post office	Highways	Cllr Jones offered to look into this matter
5	Whitefield resident	A boards and adverts on lampposts obstructing the highway. Carpet and tiling shop next to the police station in Whitefield. Resident has sight problems and this has caused problems. A boards at either side of the road.	Planning enforcement	This issue is being investigated by planning enforcement section

Kim Griffiths
12th September 2012