

East Staffordshire Citizen Jury on the use of Glyphosate on East Staffordshire Borough Council land.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Citizen Jury?

A [Citizen Jury](#) is a form of democracy where a group of people come together to consider a public issue in depth and make recommendations. It is designed to give citizens a meaningful voice in complex decisions that affect their lives. A Citizens Jury is designed to be representative of the local population with regards to demographics such as age, ethnicity, employment status, and urban/rural populations.

Why is a Citizen's Jury being used for this issue?

East Staffordshire Borough Council has previously committed to using 'participatory democracy' processes such as Citizen Juries to help local people have more of an input where there is a relevant and complex council decision to be made. A 'citizen' is classed as anyone who lives, works or studies in East Staffordshire.

This 'Citizen Jury on the use of Glyphosate' is the first Citizen Jury that East Staffordshire Borough Council have commissioned. Support Staffordshire will be independently running this Citizen Jury by recruiting jurors, finding experts to talk about the pros and cons of glyphosate and other alternatives, and helping the Jurors to make recommendations based on information from the experts. Support Staffordshire will then report back to East Staffordshire Borough Council about the process and Jury recommendations.

Why are East Staffordshire Borough Council asking for input into their glyphosate use?

East Staffordshire Borough Council are reviewing their use of glyphosate across different council teams and areas. They would like to include the views of citizens in this process, who will consider the environmental and health related impacts of glyphosate use against the cost and effectiveness of any alternatives.

What is Glyphosate?

Glyphosate is a widely used chemical herbicide that kills weeds and unwanted plants by blocking a key enzyme they need to grow. It is an effective weed killer, and widely

used by councils, conservation organisations and grounds maintenance staff across the UK, but concerns have been raised about associated environmental and health impacts.

How many Jurors will be recruited for the Citizen Jury?

We are looking for 25-30 Jurors to take part in this process. Anyone who lives, works or studies in East Staffordshire can apply to be part of the Jury.

Unfortunately on this occasion we cannot accept applications from Borough, Town and Parish councillors in East Staffordshire, or staff (and family members) who work for East Staffordshire Borough Council, to maintain the independence of the Jury.

What are the Citizen Jury dates?

Jurors will need to be available for two dates to take part in the full process:

- Saturday 21st February, 9.30am-2.30pm
- Saturday 28th February, 10am-3pm.

Jurors will need to attend both sessions.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

Jurors will be offered a £100 shopping voucher as a thank you for participation. This will be paid in instalments: 25% after the first session, with the remaining 75% after the second session. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. We will support jurors with reasonable travel expenses and childcare costs.

What will being a Juror involve?

Support Staffordshire staff will run two days of presentations and discussions to help the Citizen Jury understand the issue. As a Jury member, you must attend both sessions. The sessions will be held on Saturday 21st February and Saturday 28th February 2026, in Burton-upon-Trent (exact location TBC).

You will hear from a range of experts about glyphosate, including arguments for and against its use, its environmental and health related impacts, and the costs and benefits of alternatives. Jurors will also be able to ask questions of the expert witnesses and consider the views of other representatives, for example the Council's Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee.

At the end of the two days, Support Staffordshire will support the Jury as a group, to make recommendations about East Staffordshire Borough Council's future use of glyphosate based on the evidence you have heard. These recommendations will be shared with the Council through a report and presentation created by Support Staffordshire. Your recommendations will play an important role in their decision-making.

Will East Staffordshire Borough Council listen to and implement our recommendations?

East Staffordshire Borough Council Cabinet members will receive a report on the process of the Citizen Jury, and the recommendations put forward by the Jury, based on the evidence that you heard from experts across the two days.

These recommendations will form part of their decision-making when they decide on the use of glyphosate. The Cabinet will consider the recommendations and decide whether any will be implemented.

How will my data be used?

Notes from the Citizens jury will be made by the facilitators. Recordings will be made of the presentations. These will be stored securely on Support Staffordshire's computer system.

Data will be used for the purposes of this project only. The notes will be compiled into a report for East Staffordshire Borough Council which will be used to inform their decisions on the use of Glyphosate. This report is likely to be discussed in public but with any exempt or confidential information either redacted or discussed privately, as is normal Council practice.

Personal data will be held in accordance with Support Staffordshire's [Privacy Policy](#). Your details may be shared with East Staffordshire Borough Council.

For more information about this project, please contact research@supportstaffordshire.org.uk