

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LETTER FOR PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

LETTER SUPPLIED BY HCC FOR OVERGROWN VEGETATION – DEC 2023

Not to be amended

Dear Owner/Occupier

Overgrown vegetation at your property encroaching onto the public highway

I would like to advise you that we have recently (observed/been contacted about) vegetation that appears to be on your property, is overgrown and is causing an obstruction.

Overgrown trees and hedges next to footpaths and roads pose a real hazard to people who are disabled or who are visually impaired, and young children or other pedestrians who risk injury or damage to their faces or clothing from thorns and branches.

If the pavement (footway) is narrow or the obstruction is excessive, they may be forced into the road. This is particularly dangerous for wheelchair users or for people pushing a pram or buggy.

On junctions and bends overgrown hedges may obstruct sight lines and the clear view of motorists. They may also obscure traffic signs or streetlights, increasing the risk of accidents. The Highway Authority has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure that the highway is not obstructed.

Even small overgrowth can be hazardous particularly to blind and visually impaired people who often use property boundaries as a guide, or when a footpath is narrow. It is also a requirement that anything overhanging a footway must be at least 2.1m above the footway or verge, 2.4m above a cycleway and 5.2m above the road surface.

It may be the case that you are not aware of vegetation overhanging from your property. If you would like to discuss this matter further, or if you are not clear as to the extent of cutting back required, please contact the Parish Council.

In the meantime, I would therefore be grateful, if you are in a position to do so, to cut back your vegetation to within your boundary or above the heights previously specified. You may also want to consider regularly maintaining your vegetation, so it does not become an obstruction.

Please note that if you don't take action, this issue will be reported to Hampshire County Council, and they may be in contact to request action be taken.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Yours sincerely