

Is your hedge obstructing the footway, the Highway or a public right of way?

Colwall Parish Council frequently receive enquiries about the management of hedges and complaints about hedges obstructing the Highway, footways and public footpaths,

Do you realise that under the 1980's Highways Act, Section 154 - The Highway Authority may serve notice requiring the cutting or felling of a hedge, tree or shrub which endangers, obstructs or interferes with the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, including the view of drivers or the light from a street lamp.

The work is required be carried out within 14 days.

Note: A 'hedge, tree or shrub' includes vegetation of any description.

The Highway Authority may also serve notice requiring the cutting or felling of a hedge, tree or shrub which by reason of its condition is likely to cause danger by falling on the highway.

Therefore can you please ensure that your hedges are kept trimmed back from the footpaths to allow your fellow Parishioners easy access down the footpaths in the village. It is especially difficult for those with young children, buggies or mobility scooters.

Wildlife Protection - Did you know that from the months of March through to the end of July is the breeding season for birds and as far as hedge cutting is concerned is considered a closed season and unless there exists unavoidable health and safety concerns hedge cutting during this season should be avoided. Ideally, as birds and other wildlife feed off berries and nuts during the winters cutting should also be avoided in the first couple of months of the year.

Under the [Hedgerow Regulations 1997](#) it is an offence to remove any hedgerow, or part of a hedgerow, without the necessary planning consents.

And finally Highway Safety - Landowners and occupiers whose hedges run alongside the highway are responsible for the maintenance of the hedge. Failure to adequately maintain a hedge and prevent a hedge from interfering with the use of the highway may result in a [formal notice](#) being served by the in local authority requiring action.

Landowners are responsible for trees on their land and are required under the Highways Act to ensure that trees are not a danger to anyone using the highway.