

REF: 2015S40/0083

From:

Sent: 09 January 2015 11:46

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Hedgerows Submission

Submission to Dept of AHG regarding Wildlife Amendment Act: Hedgerows

Submission to the Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding the Review of Wildlife Amendment Act Section 40: Hedgerows:

Date: 9.1.2015

I would like to propose that the cutting of hedgerows be eliminated. I accept that there may be exceptions to this but even in the case of traffic visibility, cutting/flailing should be done only as a last resort. In most cases the strategic placing of convex mirrors would be sufficient for traffic safety.

"If it must be done as a last resort, at least the outer hedge should be retained so that there will still be an intact wildlife corridor. Connectivity is all important, especially for bats who when seeking food at night will return to their nest if they come to a gap in the hedge."

www.thehedge.org

As many intact hedgerows as possible should be preserved as a refuge for wildlife. Hedgerows also have a vital importance in aiding soil and air quality.

All around the country evidence of flailing is plain to be seen. Apart from being extremely unsightly, this practise leaves the wounded hedges open to the spread of diseases, endangering plant and animal life alike. Hedgerows should be preserved primarily for the unique habitat they provide and their vital contribution to environmental sustainability as well as aesthetic appeal.

The scuttling of hedgerows around the boundary of the State owned lands at the Hill of Tara has been the subject of previous complaints by the Tara Skryne Preservation Group to the OPW but the practice continues unabated.

I applaud the Dept. of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht for their action on amending the Wildlife Act Section 40 and hope that it will be done in favour of wildlife without delay.

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