

REF: 2015S40/0087

From:

Sent: 09 January 2015 12:26

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Review of Section 40

Currently, the closed dates for cutting hedges are set at 1 March to 31 August, to protect nesting birds. This needs to be extended because the bird nesting season is starting earlier each year and in recent years we are seeing an increase in the number of birds nesting outside the closed period, with many nests being destroyed especially in February. Roadside verges have been decimated in several rural areas and as a result our natural biodiversity of wildlife and wildflowers are dwindling. The period of non cutting of hedges needs to be extended to help increase our natural habitats and nesting ground for our various birds.

Burning of vegetation also needs to be curtailed to prevent loss of vegetation and habitat during the nesting and growth season.

As a Tidy Towns group we encourage non cutting of hedges and hope that you will see fit to make the necessary changes to Section 40 to protect our natural habitat and our nesting birds.

Kind regards,