

**Ref: 2015S40/132**

**Sent:** 09 January 2015 16:55

**To:** Nature Conservation

**Subject:** Glen, Carrigart, Co Donegal

Re

Public Consultation Process on  
Burning and Hedgecutting Controls

During the summer months here in Glen many miles of roadside hedges were cut by Donegal County Council in and around Glen village and the road from Carrigart to Milford.

When I contacted the council I was told that there was an issue on those roads with safety so they had to act. I suggested that instead of acting indiscriminately and removing miles of habitat and food sources from birds and insects, they instead assess what needs cut and leave the rest. I drive one of those roads every day and know the one area that can be overgrown by ferns in summer months. This was in fact the part that was left to the very last day, so weeks of work was done mindlessly leaving lots more time for accidents in the one trouble spot.

I am very aware of the 1976 legislation banning cutting from March to September. As a natural beekeeper I work locally to promote awareness around pollinators and biodiversity.

My suggestion is that the legislation stays in place and the council and landowners are encouraged to act in a more discriminatory way. It isn't nature versus safety. It is finding a way that benefits us all.

An idea I am working on locally is a photography competition to find the most diverse hedgerow/verge. People submit photos of wild areas near their home and the two winners will be the ones with the most species and the most beautiful photograph. Roundup is a massive problem here so I am hoping this will help people get out of this bad habit and back to appreciating the beauty around them.

I hope the feedback you get is life-affirming and helpful.

Best wishes