

**From:** Cllr. Brendan Cronin [mailto:cllrbrendan.cronin@kerrycoco.ie]  
**Sent:** 20 December 2014 20:22  
**To:** Nature Conservation  
**Subject:** Submission on section 40 of the wild life act

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make the following submission as part of the review of Section 40 of the Wild Life Act.

I wish to focus specifically on the current restrictions on Hedge Cutting as defined by the act, where the restricted period is from March 1st to August 31st and the implications and danger this is creating on our Rural Public Roads network and road Junctions.

**My two proposals are in relation to hedges on Public Roads only.**

**1. That in the interest of road safety for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists, the exclusion period for hedge cutting on rural public roads should be reduced by two months setting a new restricted period from April 1st to July 1st.**

**2. That in the interest of road safety for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists all rural public road junctions for a distance of a minimum of 150 meters in all directions, be exempt from section 40 of the wild life act, to allow for hedge cutting, as and when required by Local Authorities or landowners, to ensure proper visibility and sight distance at all times.**

In supporting my proposals I have as a rural dweller and an Elected Member of Kerry County Council witnessed first hand the serious danger that exist for motorist, pedestrians and cyclists from over grown hedges and ditches on narrow public roads, blocking visibility, scraping pedestrians, cyclists and paint on cars.

I have met cyclists who have been badly cut on their face, arms and legs trying to avoid vehicles they met on the public roads. Thousands cycle the Ring of Kerry charity event every year in Kerry and they train all year

round. It is not acceptable to ignore the plight of cyclists or pedestrians who are destroyed by thorns and briars when they shove in to avoid traffic on a rural public road.

I have also witnessed public road junctions in the height of the summer completely over grown, totally removing all visibility of on coming traffic and other road users. This is extremely dangerous and a serious traffic hazard which must be addressed. This County has many miles of public roads which are less than 4 meters in width where thousands of people reside and travel on a daily basis, it is vital that Section 40 of the Act should acknowledge that on all Public Roads, the safety of all road users is prioritised and incorporated into the Act to allow for any necessary hedge cutting to be undertaken when it is required, particularly at all junctions.

I have on many occasions been contacted by Tour operators, school bus transport operators and lorry drivers on the damage done to their vehicles by overgrown hedges and branches, particularly their mirrors which can cost anything from €1,000 to €1,500 each. As a major tourist destination this type of damage from travelling on our public roads is creating a negative impact and must be addressed.

**Again for clarity my proposals are solely in relation to the hedges on our Public Roads only.**

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Regards  
Cllr Brendan Cronin,  
Ballyhar,  
Killarney,  
Co Kerry