

Subject: Review of Section 40

I write on behalf of Coolagown Development Group (North Cork), to support the proposed change on hedge-cutting from end August to end July. In 2014 Coolagown won its 7th consecutive Gold Medal in the National Tidy Towns competition. The main feature of Coolagown is two kilometres of closely trimmed hedging. In early August last year, in response to numerous comments from local residents about the scruffy appearance of the hedges, we agreed to have our hedges trimmed. As a result of this trimming, we were penalised by the judge and marks were deducted. This affected us greatly as we were hoping to win the title of Ireland's Tidiest Village in 2014.

It is strongly felt in this rural area and within our group that since birds have left their nests by the end of July, we should be free to cut our hedges in August.

We strongly support the proposal for a change from end August to end July.

Brian Lowney
Chairman