

From: JOHN McLAUGHLIN [mailto:JGMCLAUG@Donegalcoco.ie]
Sent: 08 December 2014 10:57
To: Nature Conservation
Cc: SEAMUS NEELY
Subject: Comments on Hedge Trimming and Control of Burning

Dear Mark:

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated 1 December 2014 to Mr. Seamus Neely requesting comments that Donegal County Council have regarding your review of the legislative controls around the control of burning and hedge cutting. The Council make the following comment:

“It would be useful if it were allowable to trim the hedges on the approach roads to towns and villages from late July onwards. This would help with the appearance of towns during the summer season and normally those trimming hedges will also trim the verges which often have tall weeds about to shed seeds. Trimming the hedge and accompanying verge helps give a neat and tidy overall appearance. Generally at this time of year there is quite a bulk of regrowth from the previous season and in addition, trimming the hedges at this time when the plants are green gives a much neater finish than if the hedges are dried out. Birds should have left their nests already by late July as you have acknowledged in your letter. A distance of say 3 kilometers from the edge of the town could be included.”

Our observation is that some hedge trimming in these locations already occurs from late July and during August, and the above comment if included would regularise this situation.

Sincerely

John G. McLaughlin