

Hedge Policy

The public highway consists of any verge, pavement, road, bridleway or public footpath, whether or not maintained at public expense and over which the public has a right of way.

Almost all hedges are owned by the adjacent property owner.

If the Parish Council receives complaints about hedges or trees overhanging public highways, it will:

1. Speak to the landowner informally to ask them to cut the hedge back and if they agree, what sort of timescale they anticipate.
2. If the hedge is not cut back within the agreed time, a letter will be sent making the owner aware of his/her legal obligations and asking the landowner to cut back the hedge.
3. If no action is taken, a more formal letter will be sent with a copy sent to Suffolk County Council Highways Department as well.
4. If the work is still not carried out, Suffolk County Council will be notified. Their policy is to ask the owner to cut back branches which are overgrowing the public highway within a reasonable period (usually 21 days).
5. If the work is not completed, Suffolk County Council may undertake the work themselves and seek to recover any costs from the property owner concerned.
6. If several hedges are a problem in an area, the following flyer will be delivered to households in that area with the following wording:

Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council regularly receives complaints about hedges, trees and vegetation which overhang pavements and roads making them narrower for pedestrians and reducing visibility for drivers. Please could you check if there is any vegetation overhanging your roadside boundary which is obstructing the pavement or road and if there is, the Parish Council would be grateful if you would trim it back so that the pavement/road is kept clear.

Your help in this matter is much appreciated.

7. If the problem persists, the Parish Council will instigate its Hedge Policy starting with step one above.

POLICY:	Hedge Policy		
Establishment: 12 th April 2021	Assessment by:	Signed:	Date:
1st Review Date Due :	Clerk Approval:	Signed:	Date:

Hedge Letter

Dear Resident,

Overgrown hedges

I am contacting you on behalf of Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council about the vegetation which runs along the boundary of your property.

Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council regularly receives complaints about hedges, trees and vegetation which overhang pavements and roads making them narrower for pedestrians or pushchairs and reducing visibility for vehicles. Your hedge is encroaching onto the public highway, forcing pedestrians onto the road/reducing driver visibility.

Landowners are responsible for cutting back any hedges or trees on their property which are obstructing pavements, footpaths and roads.

Please could you check if there is any vegetation overhanging your boundary which is obstructing the pavement/road and if there is, Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council would be grateful if you would trim it back so that the pavement/road is kept clear and kept safe for pedestrians and road users.

Yours faithfully

Katharine Bowe
Clerk to Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council