

**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment**

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: dominic.beck@rotherham.gov.uk

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DB/LH	01709 823564	Councillor Beck

3rd August 2022

Councillor Charlotte Carter
Elected Member

Via email: charlotte.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Supplementary question at Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for the supplementary question your raised at the Council meeting as follows:

You had been contacted by a resident who was concerned that some hedgerow near them had been cut during the season, and you asked if you could have a copy of the policy on hedgerows and hedge management and further detail on what training was provided to the operators to ensure that they were aware of the policy?

I can advise that the Council does not have its own policy in place as there are specific requirements laid down in legislation and the Council (and others) has a legal duty to protect nesting birds. The Council does have a specific training programme which is delivered through regular toolbox talks. The training covers the below key elements:

- Nesting birds
 - Provides a definition
- Offences
 - IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE TO:
 - Deliberately take, damage or destroy any active nest or egg of any wild bird
 - Disturb any wild bird whilst nesting unless under licence
- Nests
 - Covers the types of nests operatives may come across

- Nest locations
 - Covers likely locations of nests which are:
 - Vegetation such as scrub/brambles
 - Trees
 - Hedgerows
 - On the ground in grass or bare land
- The bird nesting season
 - The nesting season is covered as early March to late September
- Planning works
 - Provides information on how best to plan work to avoid disrupting nesting birds.
- During your works
 - This makes clear that all work must stop if any nest or nesting bird are identified.

I trust the above information is helpful but if you would like to discuss further with officers, Sam Barstow (sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk) is the current Acting Assistant Director.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward