

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

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Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!

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

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

Councillor Charlotte Carter  
Elected Member

Via email: [charlotte.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Carter

**Supplementary question at Council – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Thank you for the supplementary question you 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](mailto: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**