

## Before you carry out any work:

- Check with your district council planning authority whether or not the tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or whether you live in a Conservation Area. The Planning Officer may wish to supervise the work.
- Make sure the work is carried out in daylight and at a time when it's not busy to reduce congestion and delays.

## What if the work isn't carried out?

We do our best to encourage householders, landowners & tenants to cut their hedges, and work closely with district & parish councils and with local communities to remind them of their responsibilities.

Where vegetation is becoming a problem we may serve a notice on the householder, landowner or occupier requiring the necessary work to be completed within a stated period. Failure to comply may result in the council undertaking the work and claiming back the cost incurred.

Want to report a problem on your road?

Visit

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads)

# Is your over grown vegetation causing others a problem?



# It's important you keep your hedges, trees and shrubs trimmed so that people using the roads and pavements can do so safely.

Hedges, trees and shrubs overhanging the roads and pavements can potentially be a danger to:

- cyclists and motorists;
- visually impaired people;
- elderly people;
- people with disabilities;
- pushchair users; and
- people with children.

## Who is responsible for maintaining them?

If a hedge or tree on your property overhangs the road or may fall on to the road, it's legally your responsibility (under the Highways Act 1980) to keep it trimmed and maintained. The county council has a legal responsibility to protect the safety of highway users by making sure that land and property owners keep hedges, trees and shrubs maintained.

## Make sure you:

- Trim hedges and trees to make sure they don't cover up road signs.
- Trim roadside hedges that could obstruct visibility for road users, particularly at junctions and on bends.
- Trim any hedges next to a road, footway, cycleway or public right of way so that cyclists and pedestrians can pass safely.
- Remove dead or decaying trees that could fall across the road.
- Remove branches and other growth that may prevent high sided vehicles passing or obstruct light from street lights.
- Make sure you clear away all the cuttings (including from the footway, grids & gullies).
- Make sure you check for nesting birds and roosting bats before you cut down trees and hedges. Hedges are not generally cut between March and August unless there is a need to do so.

## Recommended clearances/headroom for trees

