

Hedges – High hedge disputes between neighbours



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Service summary:

North Somerset Council is responsible for the assessment of formal complaints relating to high hedges under Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003.

The Act describes a high hedge as being wholly or predominantly composed of two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs which must be over two metres high with no significant gaps between them and which by virtue of their height adversely affect the reasonable enjoyment of a domestic property by acting as a barrier to light or access.

We will

- offer general guidance to neighbours or hedge owners relating to high hedge disputes
- send out government leaflets: High hedges: complaining to the Council and Over the garden hedge
- answer queries regarding the procedures that need to be undertaken prior to making a complaint and, should it be impossible to resolve the matter privately, explain how to submit a complaint to the Council
- assess formal complaints in a methodical manner in line with government guidance and issue remedial notices for work to high hedges where necessary
- enforce the implementation of works required in remedial notices.

You can help by:

- reading the guidance in the high hedge leaflets
- contacting the owner of the high hedge outlining why it is causing a problem and offering an indication of what works would be considered necessary to remedy this

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- contacting us so that we can discuss the procedures that you would need to follow prior to submitting a complaint to the Council.

Please contact the Tree Officers through Streets and Open Spaces:

01934 888 802

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Streets and Open Spaces, North Somerset Council
Weston Court, Oldmixon Crescent, Weston-super-Mare BS24 9AU

Frequently asked questions and answers on

High hedge disputes between neighbours

1. Is there a standard set height at which a hedge must be maintained?

No, the only time that the height of a hedge can be controlled is if a remedial notice is issued following a high hedge complaint.

2. Can you visit me and assess the hedge before a formal complaint is made?

No, we cannot mediate or give you guidance on a specific case before we receive, accept and investigate a formal complaint.

3. Is there a charge for making a formal complaint?

Yes, there is currently a charge for this of £400 (or £200 if you are receiving an income related benefit at the time of submission).

4. How long does a remedial notice last?

For the life of the hedge unless the remedial notice is withdrawn in accordance with government guidance and the agreement of all parties.

5. Where can I find out more information about high hedges?

You can contact us and we can provide you with government leaflets, and information is available on the government website <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/treeshighhedges/highhedges>