

Risby Parish Council

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:

Risby Parish Council regularly receives complaints about hedges, trees and vegetation which overhang pavements making them narrower for pedestrians. Please could you check if there is any vegetation overhanging your front boundary which is obstructing the pavement and if there is, the Parish Council would be grateful if you would trim it back so that the pavement 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.

Adopted: 7th January 2021

Review date: January 2023

Hedge Letter

Dear Resident,

Overgrown hedges

I am contacting you on behalf of Risby Parish Council about the hedge which runs along the front of your property.

Risby Parish Council regularly receives complaints about hedges, trees and vegetation which overhang pavements making them narrower for pedestrians or pushchairs. Your hedge is encroaching onto the pavement, forcing pedestrians onto the road.

Landowners are responsible for cutting back any hedges or trees on their property which are obstructing pavements, footpaths and roads. Brambles can be particularly dangerous at this time of year.

Please could you check if there is any vegetation overhanging your boundary which is obstructing the pavement (or road) and if there is, Risby Parish Council would be grateful if you would trim it back so that the pavement is kept clear and kept safe for pedestrians.

Yours faithfully

Joanne Kirk
Clerk to Risby Parish Council