

PILOT COMMUNITY HEDGE CUTTING GRANT SCHEME 2025 – For Regional & Local Public Roads

Application Form- Please complete form in print Capitals or in Digital format.

- **Applicant/Community Group Details:**
 - Name of Applicant/Community Group: _____
 - Address: _____
 - Eircode: _____
 - Contact Person: _____
 - Phone Number: _____
 - Email Address: _____

- **Location and Description of Proposed Hedge Cutting:**
 - Please indicate which Municipal/Metropolitan District within the Administrative Area of Limerick City & County that these works will be undertaken:
 - Metropolitan District ☐
 - Adare-Rathkeale ☐
 - Newcastle West ☐
 - Cappamore Kilmallock ☐
 - **Road/Road Network Location:** _____
(Indicate townlands, nearest town or village, eircode and attach a map)
 - **Approximate Length of Public Road/ Public Road Network (km):** _____
 - **Indicate if both sides of road or one side of road** _____
 - **Number of landowners/residents affected:** _____
 - **Description of hedges/trees to be cut and reason for cutting:** _____

- **Consent and Permission**

- I confirm that all relevant landowners have consented to this hedge cutting work.

Signed _____

PRINT Name: _____

- I confirm that I (or the Community Group) will be responsible for ensuring the work is carried out in compliance with all Health & Safety regulations and in accordance with the requirements/conditions set out by Limerick City and County Council.

Signed _____

PRINT Name: _____

- **Scheme Criteria (Please see further terms and conditions in Appendix 1)**

- **Limerick City and County Council** will provide a grant for a **minimum of 5km** for Public Roadside Hedge Cutting at a rate of **€50 per km**.
- The proposed hedge cutting must take place only during the period **permitted by law** and within the timeframe designated by Limerick City and County Council for the Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme. Hedge Cutting, by law, is permitted during period **-1st September to last day in February**. The work must comply with any additional guidelines or conditions set out by Limerick City and County Council.
- The Council will inspect the area before and after completion of works.
- The Council's **adjudication of grant allocation** will be final.
- No payment will be made until the Council is satisfied that the work has been completed to the required standard.

- **Applicant Declaration**

I/We hereby apply for the Hedge Cutting Grant under **Limerick City and County Council**. I/We certify that all information given above is accurate and that I/we will comply with all terms and conditions of the scheme.

Signature(s):

1. _____

PRINT Name: _____

2. _____

PRINT Name: _____

3. _____

PRINT Name: _____

Date: _____

Add an additional page if further signatures are required.

Please return the completed form to:

Email – hedgecuttinggrant@limerick.ie

Or by Post:

Limerick City and County Council,
Roads Section (Community Hedge Cutting Grant)
Council Offices,
Dooradoyle
Limerick
V94 WV78

Appendix 1

Terms and Conditions

- (a) This Scheme is applicable to public roads only and hedge cutting on public road side only. All offending hedges and overhanging trees along the proposed network must be adequately cut back.
- (b) The minimum length of road network to be incorporated in any application is **5km**. However, each application will be assessed on its own merits and, in certain exceptional circumstances, an application may be accepted incorporating a road network of less than 5km in length.
- (c) Grants will be calculated based on the actual estimated length of hedging/trees which need attention rather than on the length of road which is incorporated in the road network submitted in an application. Where hedging/trees on both sides of a particular section of road need attention, the length to be included in the grant calculation will be doubled.
- (d) For the purpose of this scheme, no hedge cutting shall take place until a valid application is received and approved by **Limerick City and County Council**. Where hedge cutting does take place without prior approval, a grant will not be awarded to the applicant.
- (e) To assist in the assessment of your application, a map must be provided showing the hedges along the public road that are proposed for inclusion. Applications submitted without this map identifying the relevant roads will not be considered.
- (f) The Council's adjudication of grant sum to be allocated on foot of an application shall be final.
- (g) This Grant Scheme is **not applicable** to National Roads.
- (h) For **2025**, to avail of this year's grant, all hedge cutting must be carried out and Invoice(s) submitted between **1st September** and the **30th November**.
- (i) For **2025**, Grant applications will be accepted from **June 2025 to 30th September 2025**. No applications will be accepted after **30th September 2025** (except in **exceptional circumstances**).

- (j) Grants will not be issued until the Council is satisfied that all hedge and tree cutting along the proposed network has been completed to the required standard.
- (k) Each community or group must nominate a contact person who will serve as the point of contact for all correspondence and to whom the grant payment will be issued.
- (l) Individual or multiple landowners and/or community groups will be responsible for coordinating the hedge cutting, engaging the appropriate contractor, and managing all related payments.
- (m) The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the contractor they engage is properly insured, competent, and compliant with current Health and Safety Regulations. The applicant must confirm to Limerick City and County Council that these compliance requirements have been satisfactorily verified and must provide at least 7 days' notice before commencing the works.
- (n) Limerick City and County Council will provide a grant, at its discretion, of up to €50 per kilometre per side for the cutting of roadside hedges or overhanging trees. To be eligible, a minimum of 5 kilometres of roadside hedge must be included, with the maximum grant limited to €50 per kilometre.
- (o) If a high volume of applications is received, priority will be given to roads that serve school bus routes, public and special needs transportation, as well as narrow roads.
- (p) For a group of landowners coming together, or for a Community Group, the application shall be signed by at least two representatives of the group, and a contact person shall be nominated to correspond with Limerick City and County Council.
- (q) Although applicants can submit two applications within the same budget year, preference will be given to those who have not yet received grant assistance in that period.
- (r) Bank Details will be required to allow for Grant payment.

Checklist and Information for the applicant.

Under the Roads Act 1993 – (Section 70) (12) (a) (ii) to preserve, fell, cut, lop, trim or remove any tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation to which this section relates, they shall take all reasonable measures to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the safety of persons using a public road.

Adequate sign-posting should be provided, and the Council (Metropolitan East Municipal District Office 061-556000) and An Garda Síochána notified before works commence. Confirmation that the works are complete should be communicated to this office within twenty one days of date hereof.

Note, felling of trees other than for safety purposes as certified by the Roads Authority is subject to normal requirements of a Tree Felling Licence. This notice is not a certification for felling in lieu of a Tree Felling Licence.

Extract from Roads Act 1993 – (Section 70)

- (1) (a) The owner or occupier of any structure and the owner or occupier of any land on which a structure is situated shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the structure or the use of the structure is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.
- (b) Where a structure or the use of a structure is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or where it obstructs or interferes with the safe use of a public road or with the maintenance of a public road, a road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of the structure or on the owner or occupier of any land on which the structure is situated to remove, modify or carry out specified works in relation to the structure within the period stated in the notice.
- (2) (a) The owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.
- (b) Where a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or where it obstructs or interferes with the safe use of a public road or with the maintenance of a public road, a road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of the land on which such tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is situated requiring the preservation, felling, cutting, lopping, trimming or removal of such tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation within the period stated in the notice.
- (3) (a) A person on whom a notice under *subsection (1) or (2)* has been served may, within fourteen days from the date of service, appeal against the notice to the District Court on any one or more of the following grounds:
 - (i) that he is not the owner or occupier of the structure,
 - (ii) that he is not the owner or occupier of the land on which the structure, tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is situated,
 - (iii) that the structure (or the use of such structure), tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation, as the case may be, is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road,
 - (iv) that compliance with the requirements of the notice would involve unreasonable expense,
 - (v) that the notice specified an unreasonably short time for complying with its requirements or any of them.
- (b) Notice of the appeal shall be given to the road authority and that authority shall be entitled to appear, be heard and adduce evidence on the hearing of the appeal.
- (4) (a) On the hearing of the appeal the Court may, as it thinks proper, either—

- (i) confirm the notice unconditionally, or
 - (ii) confirm the notice subject to such modifications, alterations or additions as the Court thinks reasonable, or
 - (iii) annul the notice.
- (b) Where the Court confirms the notice, subject to modifications, alterations or additions, the notice shall have effect subject to such modifications, alterations or additions.
- (5) (a) The jurisdiction conferred on the District Court by this section shall be exercised by the Judge of that Court having jurisdiction in the district in which the structure referred to in *subsection (1)* or the land referred to in *subsection (1)* or *(2)* is situated.
- (b) No appeal shall lie to the Circuit Court from a decision of the District Court under this section.
- (6) A notice under *subsection (1)* or *(2)* shall not have effect until—
- (a) the expiration of fourteen days from the date of service of the notice, or
 - (b) if an appeal is taken and the notice is confirmed, with or without modifications, the date upon which the decision of the Court is pronounced or the date upon which the order of the Court is expressed to take effect, whichever is the later.
- (7) An owner or occupier who fails to comply with a notice under this section shall be guilty of an offence.
- (8) Where an owner or occupier fails to comply with a notice under this section, the road authority may take the action specified in the notice or such other action as it thinks fit.
- (9) Where a road authority considers that a structure (or the use of such structure), tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation presents an immediate and serious hazard to persons using a public road it may, notwithstanding the provisions of *subsections (1) to (8)*, take immediate action to reduce or remove the hazard.
- (10) Where a road authority takes action under *subsection (8)* or *(9)* it may recover any reasonable costs incurred by it from the owner or occupier as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- (11) Where a road authority has entered or proposes to enter on any land under *subsection (8)* or *(9)*, it shall as soon as may be serve on the owner or the occupier of the land, a notice stating that it has entered or proposes to enter on the land and specifying the action that it has taken or proposes to take thereon.
- (12) (a) Where a person takes action—
- (i) to remove, modify or carry out specified works in relation to a structure, or
 - (ii) to preserve, fell, cut, lop, trim or remove any tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation to which this section relates, he shall take all reasonable measures to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the safety of persons using a public road.
- (b) A person who contravenes this subsection shall be guilty of an offence.
- (13) In this section “structure” means a structure or any apparatus, object or thing, attached, fixed to, or connected with such structure.