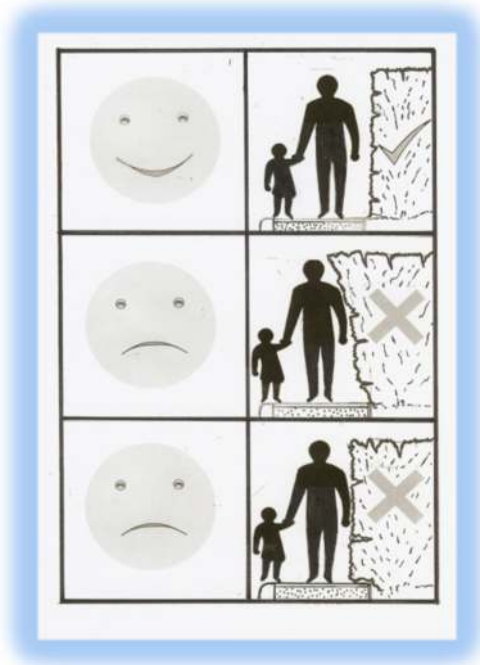


ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL POLICY ON HEDGE TRIMMING AND TREE WORKS

Householders are responsible for maintaining their hedges, trees or other vegetation overhanging the roads or footways (“the Highway”) in the village in good order.

Overhanging vegetation can cause a hazard to people using the Highway and therefore to protect them, highway regulations in the Highways Act 1980, Section 154 state that:

- The full width of any footway must be available to pedestrians and clear to a height of 2.1 metres (7 feet).
- Trees and hedges must be kept clear of the carriageway edges, and to a height of 5.1 metres (16 feet, 9 inches).
- Trees and hedges must not obstruct street lights.



Householders should be aware that if a person has an accident or is injured because of a hazard, they may be liable if a claim for damages is made.

If the vegetation is protected by a Hedge Regulation Order (these are only usually affected by major work i.e. removal), a Tree Preservation Order or located in a Conservation Area, the householder must notify Colchester District Council Planning (Tel. 01206 282 424) prior to any work being carried out as planning permission will be required. Additionally, Essex County Council Planning Division (Tel. 01245 437659) must be contacted if the proposed work involves a Tree Preservation Order, Special Verges or Protected Lanes.

If it is necessary to carry out any of the work from the Highway, any contractor employed must:

- Have public liability insurance cover to the value of £5,000,000.
- Provide adequate warning of works and protection for the public. (Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 8).

If a householder wishes to carry out any work from the Highway him/herself, he/she should be made aware that they are responsible for any accident, injury or damage caused by the works. It is therefore necessary that they:

- Provide adequate warning of the works and protection for the public (Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 8).
- Arrange suitable insurance cover in the form of liability extension to their household policy.