Following an enquiry from a parish council I thought this would be useful and informative guidance on overgrown vegetation plus vegetation on (or from) private land.

There is a lot of information on the Essex Highways website here that the parish/residents could use:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/grass-and-vegetation>

To avoid disturbing nesting birds, it's generally recommended to avoid cutting back trees and hedges during their breeding season, which typically runs from March to August. While legally you can cut vegetation year-round, provided no nests are disturbed, it's more humane to prioritise bird welfare and postpone trimming until after nesting season. Only urgent cuts should be completed and signs of nesting activity should be observed.

I hope this is helpful.

**Cllr Peter Schwier AIEMA**

**Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction & Recycling**

**Chair, East of England Regional Climate Change Forum**