

From: alan moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: CAP SWOT analysis

Dear Department of Agriculture,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Suircan, an environmental organisation based in Clonmel, Co Tipperary.

Following consultation, I would like to submit the following observations on Objective 5 (Biodiversity, ecosystems, habitats and landscapes)

We endorse the SWOT items as presented but would add the following in relation to hedgerows and trees.

1. Need to highlight good hedgerow management practices such as the benefits of not cutting annually so that winter food can be left in place for birds. A three year cycle or even allowing some hedges to fully mature without cutting.
2. Need to highlight the benefits of not cutting hedges too low ie below 2 metres because birds will not nest in low hedges.
3. To highlight the benefits, where possible to carry out hedgcutting as late as possible to allow wintering birds to feed on berries.
4. To promote good hedgcutting practice such as A shape, not flat topped, and sharpen blades to avoid flaying which damages plants/spreads disease.
5. Need to highlight benefit of leaving specimen plants/trees uncut, eg hawthorn or other along length of field boundaries.
6. Need to highlight benefit of hedgerows and coppices/woodland in flood management.
7. Need to highlight role of hedgerows in filtration of floodwater and contribution to cleaner river water via filtration of sediments.
8. Need to highlight benefit of shelter to stock from hedges especially if of adequate height.
9. Finally, need to highlight benefit of hedgerows to pollinators.

These comments are supported by Teagasc Guidelines

<https://www.teagasc.ie/environment/biodiversity--countryside/farmland-habitats/value-of-hedgerows/>

and uk <https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/management-or-restoration-of-hedgerows/guidance-for-management-of-hedgerows>

Yours faithfully ,
Dr Alan Moore