Dear Committee

As a victim of high hedge I thought I would let you know about my experience and my views.

The high hedge bill is welcome news and should prove efficient in purging the land of overzealous growers, but it does not. We have been in dispute with our neighbours for 11 years now and have not got £440 spare for East Renfrewshire council to act on our behalf.

We previously trimmed the hedge that was overgrowing our property and the neighbour called the police and wanted us charged with criminal damage. Yes this was before 2013, but dealing with this individual is pointless. The hedge, at this moment in time, stands around twenty (20) feet and is growing in an access pathway between the two properties. This pathway is shown as an access route on the deed of our property when purchased and is used annually by BT engineers to gain access through our gardens to the telegraph pole.

The neighbour seems to think that he can lay claim to the access path as his garden and plant a hedge (18 years ago) in it and just leave it to grow. We have had to get rid of our greenhouse as there was no light getting to the plants until late afternoon and we have also stopped sitting in the garden because the hedge looms over the patio area where we usually house our table and chairs.

The neighbour has made no attempt to trim or keep tidy the hedge and thinks he is quite within his rights to lay claim to the land that the hedge grows in as his own. On the odd occasion I will trim branches that reach too far into our property, but we have got to the stage that we don’t see any way forward with this enormous hedge and an irate neighbour.

The high hedge bill explains height and size efficiently enough to understand that it should be no higher than two metres in height, but does not explain where these hedges should be grown and what width they should be.

The council asking for a fee to act on the complaint of £440 is a joke as this should be recuperated from the perpetrator and not the victim. We have not had the pleasure of our garden for a number of years now and feel that every household
should be made aware of the high hedge bill and what may happen if it is not seen too within a set period of time.

We have also had this neighbour shouting and screaming at our door about us trimming the hedge and threatening to come in to our garden and trim and cut our shrubs and plants. This is the reason that we do not approach or even contact this individual by letter as the high hedge bill suggests. The hedge is that high and wide it can be seen on Google maps.

Hope this helps in future and may resolve some matters.