Actions to provide **food, shelter & safety** for pollinators on Council land

Benefits to Councils in supporting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

- Enhancing the local landscape for pollinators supports local food producers
- Making the landscape more pollinator friendly protects the ability of local people to grow their own fruits and vegetables
- Taking actions for pollinators will lead to general biodiversity enhancement
- Many actions identified are either cost neutral or could lead to cost savings
- Many actions can be supported by the wider community such as Tidy Towns, Ulster in Bloom, or by local or national NGOs. It may also involve working with Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), Area Working Groups, Development Partnerships etc. to plan and implement actions.
- Actions taken for pollinators can contribute to the Green Flag Award for parks under the sustainability, conservation and community involvement criteria.
- Actions taken may also help local community groups e.g., in the Tidy Towns competition (ROI) or in Ulster in Bloom.

Actions Councils can take to help pollinators - providing food, shelter and safety

Please select some actions you could take and help us work together to protect pollinators

We know that each Council is different, so we have suggested a range of pollinator friendly actions to choose from. Step-by-step instructions on each action are provided.

A Protect what you have

The easiest and most important thing you can do is identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators

- Action 1 — Manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants
- Action 2 — Identify and protect existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators on general council land

B Alter the frequency of mowing

Changing the frequency of mowing allows wildflowers (food) to flower among the longer grass. This is the most cost-effective way to provide food for pollinators

- Action 3 — Identify at least 10 locations that are mown under a pollinator friendly regime (5 cut & lifts per year)
- Action 4 — Aim to create at least 5 meadows (one cut & lift per year)
- Action 5 — Identify at least 10 flagship roadside verges that are managed to be pollinator friendly (one cut & lift per year)
- Action 6 — Introduce a layered mowing approach to other roadside verges

C Pollinator friendly planting

Take the actions below to ensure you have flowers blooming that can provide food for pollinators from March-October

- Action 7 — Plant a native perennial wildflower meadow
- Action 8 — Plant a native hedgerow
- Action 9 — Replace grass with a dense clover sward
- Action 10 — For future ornamental tree planting select from pollinator friendly species

Action 11 — For n… ornar… frien…

Action 12 — In fut… maint… selec… frien…

Action 13 — Make… polli…

Action 14 — Make… polli…

Key
-Costs
-Effor…
-Our f…

Actions Councils can take to help pollinators - other

Please select some actions you could take and help us work together to protect pollinators

F Raise awareness

- Action 21 — Build actions on pollinators into existing frameworks and initiatives
- Action 22 — Fund pollinator projects on council land to demonstrate best practise to other sectors (reference sites)
- Action 23 — Put up signage to identify pollinator friendly habitats on council land
- Action 24 — Promote & distribute pollinator friendly guidelines to other sectors locally
- Action 25 — Promote & distribute the Junior Pollinator Plan to local schools
- Action 26 — Facilitate or deliver training on pollinators and how to take action to protect them
- Action 27 — Fund a special pollinator award in the Tidy Towns or Ulster in Bloom competition
- Action 28 — Promote and get involved in other pollinator related initiatives

G Tracking progress

- Action 29 — Log your 'Actions for Pollinators' on the mapping system to ensure your efforts are recognised
- Action 30 — Take part in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme to help track changes in wild pollinator numbers on council land

COUNCILS: actions to help pollinators

A. Identify and protect existing areas that are good for pollinators

Action 1:

Promote the management and restoration of semi-natural habitats and their native plants on council land

COUNCILS: actions to help pollinators

A. Identify and protect existing areas that are good for pollinators

Action 2:
Identify and protect existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators on general council land

- ✓ Flowering hedgerows (food)
- ✓ Patches of wildflowers on waste ground (food)
- ✓ Small wild areas with bramble/ivy (food)
- ✓ Existing earth banks (shelter)
- ✓ Dry stone walls (shelter)

DON'T REPLACE SOMETHING GOOD WITH SOMETHING THAT IS ONLY OK…

B. Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

Action 3:

At least 10 locations mown under a pollinator friendly regime (5 cut & lifts per year)

Info box:

Mowing Regime	Approximate costs per HA (2016)
22 Cuts per year, grass mulched back in	€2,464.00+vat Cost inclusive of equipment, labour and fuel
5 Cuts per year with cuttings lifted	€2,437.00+vat Cost inclusive of equipment, labour, fuel and waste disposal

Cost benefit analysis based on prices from a large landscaping company in ROI. Prices are based on flat ground accessible with ride on equipment and within a 40km radius of Dublin, rates would reduce for larger areas.

B. Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

Action 4:

At least 5 meadows (one cut and lift per year)

B. Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

Action 5:

10 flagship roadside verges that are managed to be pollinator friendly (one cut and lift per year)

Action 6:

Introduce a layered mowing approach to other roadside verges

Don’t Mow Let it Grow - not cutting grass so often is the best and cheapest way to provide more food for pollinators

B. Pollinator-friendly mowing

NO FOOD
FOOD

Arna bhainistiú
don bFiadhúlra
Managed for Wildlife

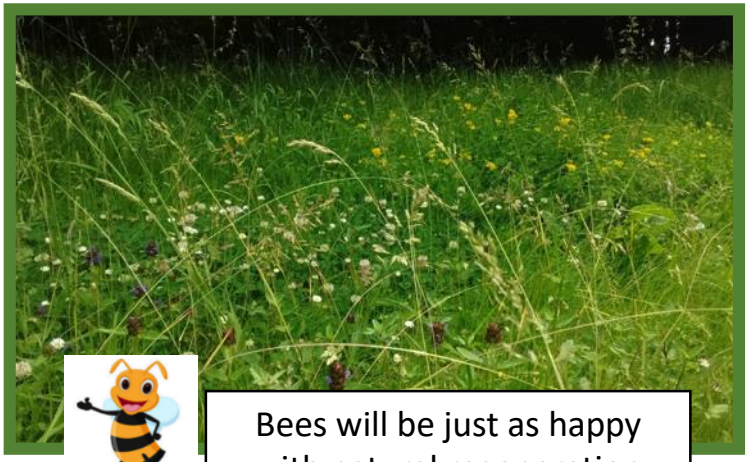
C. Pollinator-friendly planting

FOOD

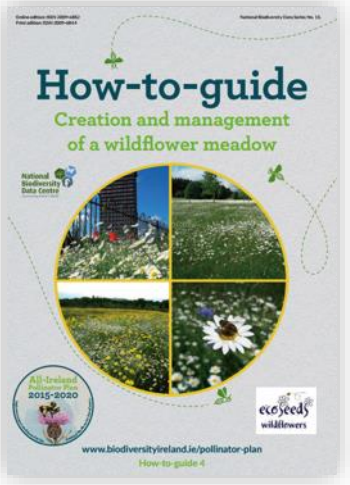
Action 7: Plant a native wildflower meadow.

Source native seed from Ireland and ensure that you plant pollinator-friendly species.

This is difficult and can be costly



Bees will be just as happy with natural regeneration



C. Pollinator-friendly planting

Action 8: Plant a native flowering hedgerow

FOOD

Traditional management of hedgerows on public land is often not pollinator friendly. If Council hedgerows are not in flower in April-May, they are not good for pollinators and other wildlife.

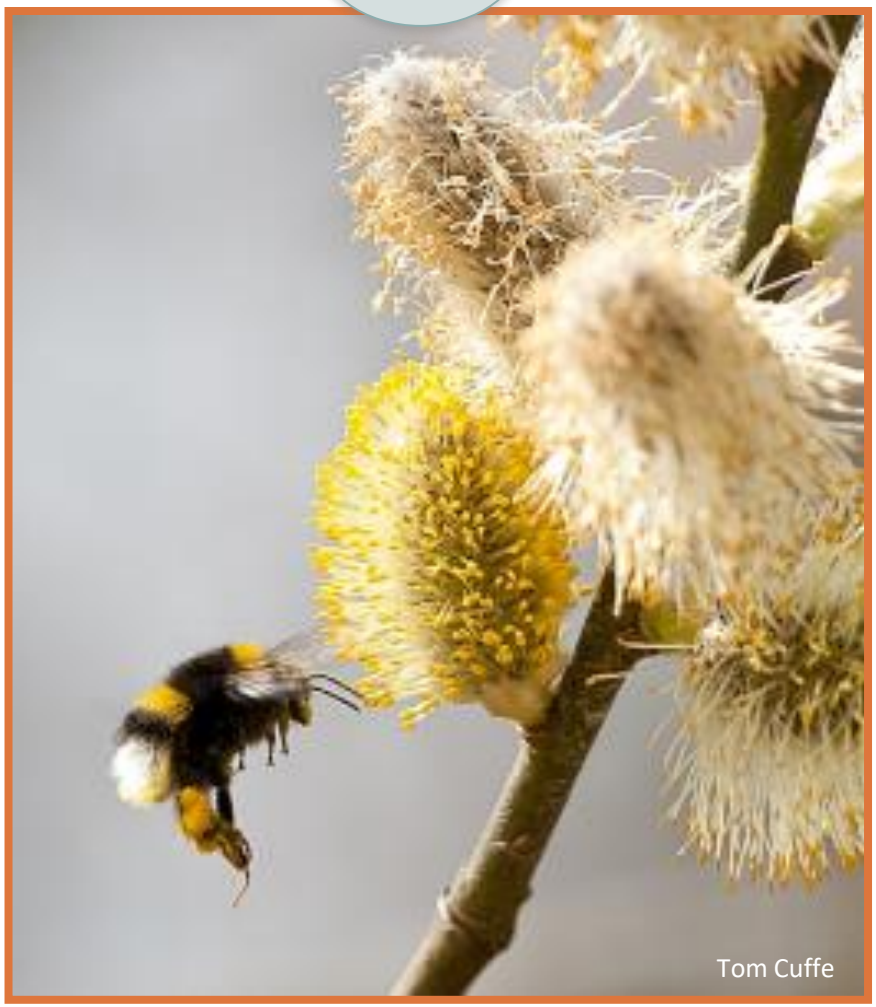
C. Pollinator-friendly planting

Action 9: Replace grass with a dense clover sward

FOOD

C. Pollinator-friendly planting

FOOD

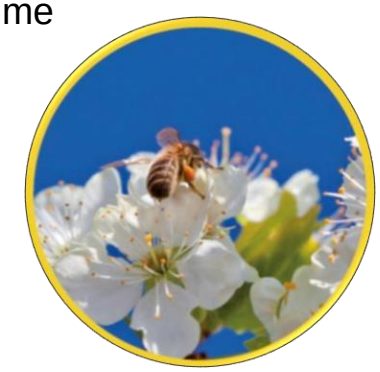


Action 10: For future ornamental tree planting select from pollinator-friendly species

List of 'Street trees' and 'Open Space' trees in appendix in Council guidelines. Examples:

Open Space:
Willow
Lime
Rowan
Wild Cherry
Bird Cherry
Apple
Horse chestnut
Juneberry
Indian Bean Tree
Foxglove Tree
Japanese flowering cherry

Street Trees:
Juneberry
Upright Hawthorn
Pillar Crab
Callery Pear
Rowan
Lime



C. Pollinator friendly planting

FOOD

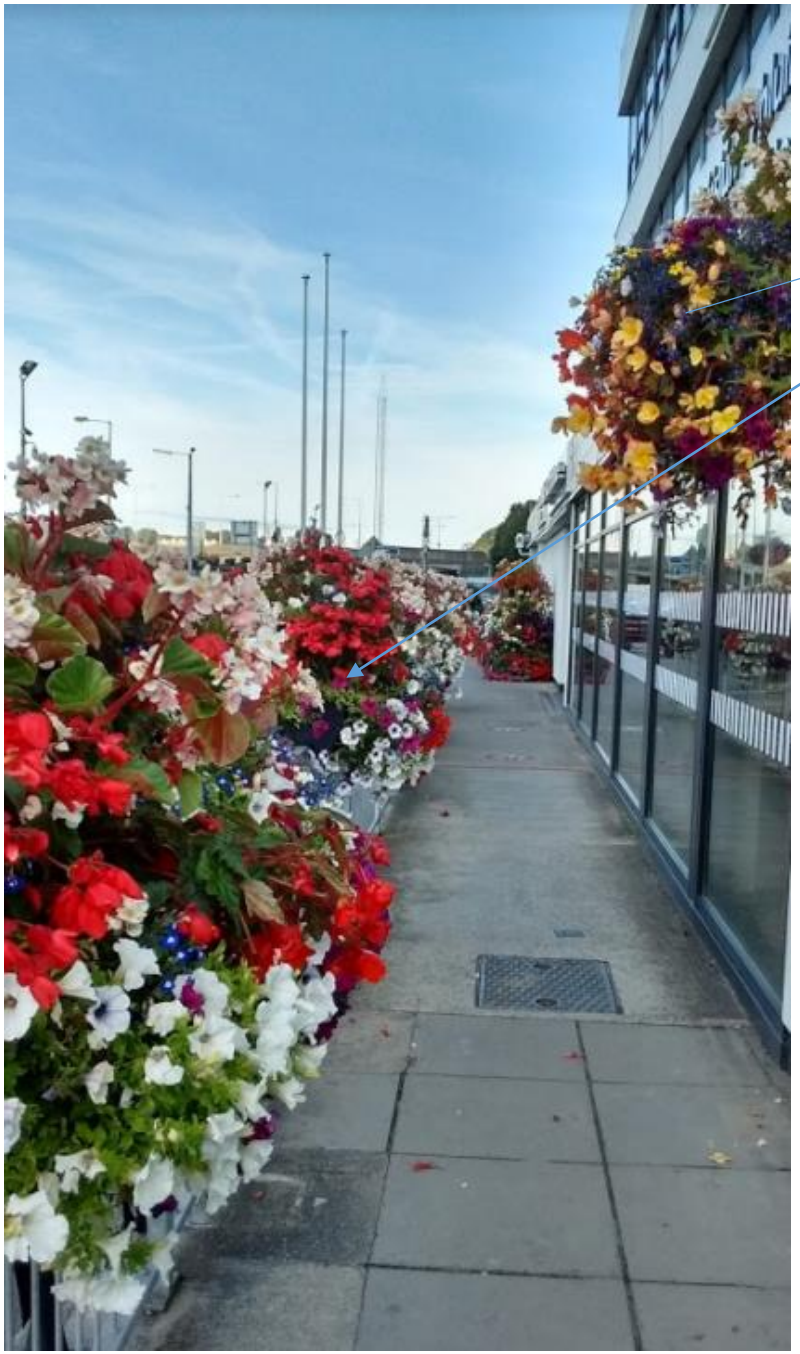
Action 11: For new works ensure 75% of ornamental planting is pollinator friendly

Action 12: In future ornamental maintenance planting, select pollinator-friendly species

Action 13: Make some urban planters pollinator friendly

NOT GOOD FOR POLLINATORS

Very gaudy annuals like Geranium, Begonia, Busy Lizzy, Primula, Daffodil, Tulip, Salvia splendens don't provide food



This might look good to us, but provides no food for pollinators

C. Pollinator-friendly planting

FOOD

Info box: Pollinator friendly perennial planting versus annual bedding

Planting regime	Approximate costs per m^2 (2016)	Typical replacement
Pollinator friendly perennials	€10-13 (9 x 9cm pots)	Life span of 10-12 years if well planted and well maintained. Small amount of annual replacement may be required depending on the site
	€17-19 (6 x 2L pots)	
Annual bedding	€10-29	Twice per year

Based on prices from a large Irish perennial plant nursery. Typical annual bedding costs were provided by a Council in ROI.

C. Pollinator-friendly planting

FOOD

Action 14: Pollinator-friendly roundabouts. Some roundabouts planted in a pollinator-friendly way with bulbs or pollinator-friendly perennials

D: Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat: hedgerows, earth banks and hotels

Action 15: Manage hedgerows for pollinators

*62 mining solitary bee species in Ireland

Action 16: Bare earth/sand banks for wild pollinator nesting

D: Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat: hedgerows, earth banks and hotels

Action 17: Holes in wood or concrete for wild pollinator nesting

Action 18: Bee hotels for wild pollinators

*15 cavity-nesting solitary bee species in Ireland

A number of small hotels is better than one large one in terms of minimising the risks of disease and predators killing the bees.

**Bee hotels can be useful and are a good awareness raising tool, but actions 16 and 17 are preferable ways to create nest sites.*

E. Reduce the use of pesticides

Action 19: Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides

Action 20: Ensure best practice the use of pesticides cannot be avoided

- ✓ Aim to eliminate in some locations
- ✓ Turf - spray only sports pitches, bowling greens, cricket squares
- ✓ Adopt a policy of not spraying paths until the 15th April
- ✓ Have spraying buffer zones around important pollinator habitat
- ✓ Adopt the Pesticide Best Practice Code

F: Raise public awareness of pollinators within the local area

Action 21: Build actions on pollinators into existing frameworks and initiatives

- City, County or Local Development Plans
- Sustainability criteria of the Green Flag Award Scheme (parks)
- Green Infrastructure strategies
- Climate adaptation plans

Action 22: Fund pollinator projects on council land to demonstrate **best practice** to other sectors

Action 23: Put up signage to identify pollinator-friendly habitats on council land

F: Raise public awareness of pollinators within the local area

Action 24: Print & distribute pollinator-friendly guidelines to other sectors

Action 25: Promote & distribute the Junior Pollinator Plan to local schools

Action 26: Facilitate or deliver training on pollinators and how to take action to protect them

F: Raise public awareness of pollinators within the local area

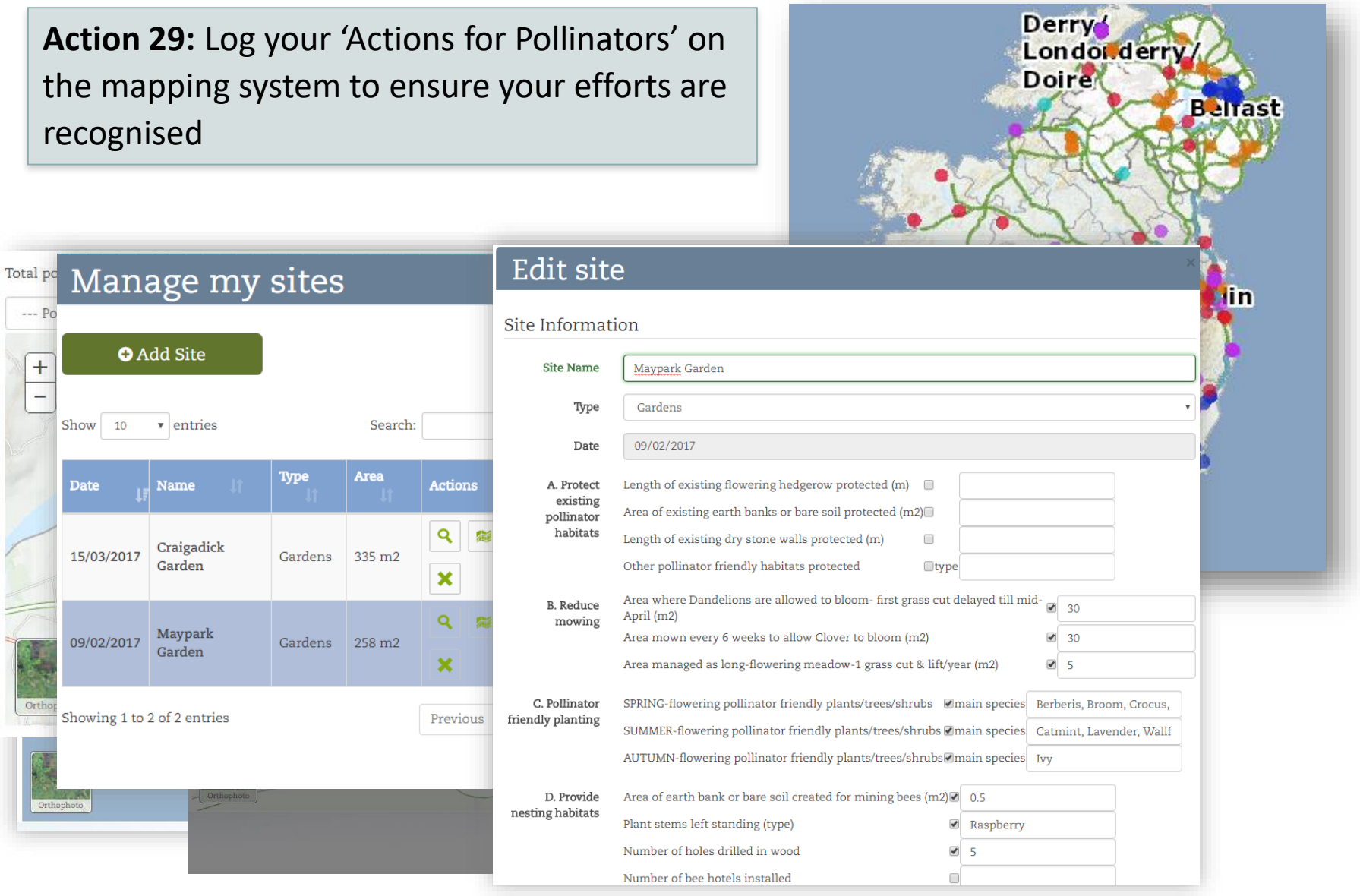
Action 27: Fund pollinator award in the Tidy Towns or Ulster in Bloom competition

Action 28: Promote and get involved in other pollinator related initiatives

Kildare County Council & Wicklow County Council supported animation

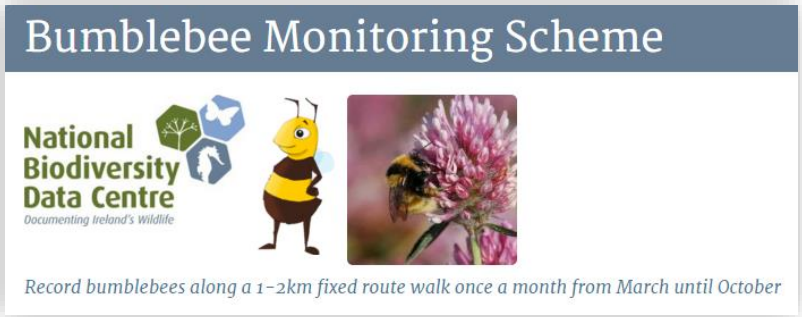
G. Tracking progress and recognition for efforts

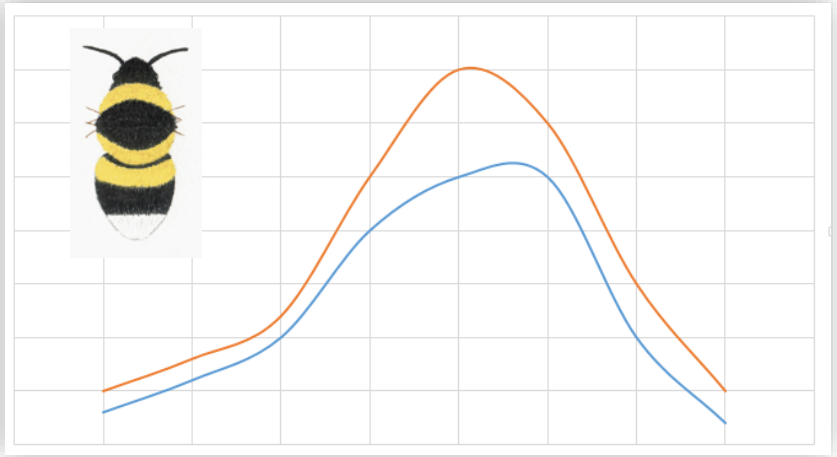
Action 29: Log your 'Actions for Pollinators' on the mapping system to ensure your efforts are recognised



G. Tracking progress and recognition for efforts

Action 30: Take part in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme





CALL TO ACTION

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife

www.pollinators.ie

polinators@biodiversityireland.ie

Many thanks to all those who have donated images to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Origin Green IRELAND
An initiative by
Bord Bia
Irish Food Board

Thank you