

# Local community groups working for pollinators



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# Making room for biodiversity



- Huge benefits for people, the environment, as well as, nature and wildlife
- **Cost-effective**
- **Attractive**
- **Health benefits**
- **Environmentally-friendly**
- **Sustainable**



# Community action



- Tidy Towns
- Residents Associations
- GIY
- Men's Sheds
- Community Employment scheme workers
- Schools/ Youth groups
- Council staff



# Tidy Towns

Pollinator-friendly  
approach

- ✓ Wildlife and Natural Amenities
- ✓ Sustainable Waste
- ✓ Landscaping and Open Spaces



# Making room for biodiversity in our towns and villages

Where?

- Road verges
- Roundabouts
- Parks
- Graveyards
- Housing estates
- School grounds
- Roadside trees and hedges
- Canals, rivers etc.



# Management of green spaces

- **Functional spaces**
- **Considerations**
  - Health & Safety
  - Visual appearance
  - Management requirements
  - Public opinion etc.
- **Huge** potential for protecting and enhancing biodiversity in our towns and villages



# Examples of community action



# Case study- Ennis

- **Clare County Council & Ennis Tidy Towns**
- eTenders specified pollinator-friendly approach required for grassland management



# Case study- Ennis



## A. Reduce mowing frequency

- Where suitable
  - Attractive- more flowers
  - Beneficial for pollinators
  - **Lower costs**
  - **Environmental benefits**



# Case study- Ennis

## B. Create natural meadows

- Road verges, roundabouts, quiet corners in Parks and graveyards
- Mow only early and late in the growing season
- Remove clippings
- Signage to highlight
- Where suitable, mow sharp edge



# Natural meadows

- Beneficial for pollinators and overall biodiversity
- **Lower costs**
- **Environmental benefits**





# Case study- issues

- Public opinion
  - Very few complaints
- Ragwort
  - Issue for farmers
  - Solution: spot spraying
- Removal of clippings
  - Difficult...
  - To be resolved



# Other examples- 1. Natural meadows

Carrick-on-Shannon





# Portlaoise GAA Club



# Portarlington- River Barrow



Riparian edges invaluable habitat and important for  
maintaining water quality

# Canal banks



## 2. Pollinator-friendly landscaping

- Public realm planting
  - Flowerbeds
  - Planters
  - Trees and hedgerows





- Low value for pollinators or wildlife



# Pollinator-friendly approach

- Include perennials
- Adopt more naturalistic-planting style
- Consider structure and texture as well as colour









### 3. Plant native trees/ hedgerows

Hawthorn, Rowan, Crab Apple, Guelder Rose etc.





# Knockdoemore Park Plantathon

March 4th – 11th



#thebigdig  
#clubbingtogether



# Native trees and hedgerows



# Adopt good hedgerow management - see Teagasc guidance





## 5. Adopt biodiversity-friendly graveyard management



- Old graveyards can be havens for wildlife



# Graveyards

- Pollinator-friendly mowing regime



## 6. Reduce chemical use

- Use only if necessary
  - E.g. invasive species
- Ensure best practice (target application rather than broad-scale spraying)



# To conclude



- Community groups have embraced the pollinator plan
  - New ways of looking at things
  - New ways of working with nature

