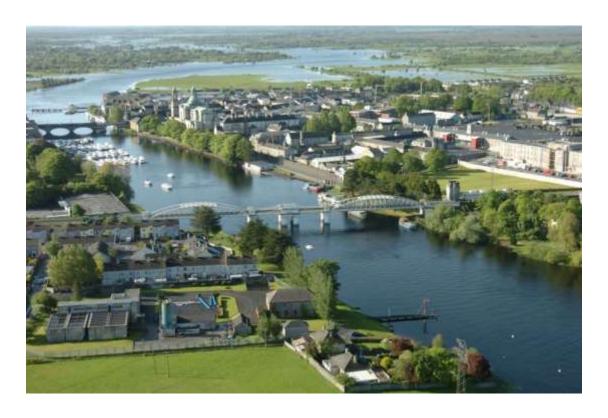
Local community groups working for pollinators



Janice Fuller

Making room for biodiversity



 Huge benefits for people, the environment, as well as, nature and wildlife



- 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
 - Heath & 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







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 naturalisticplanting style











3. Plant native trees/ hedgerows

Hawthorn, Rowan, Crab Apple, Guelder Rose etc.









Native trees and hedgerows





Adopt good hedgerow management - see Teagasc guidance







4. Plant community orchards



Estate creating its own Garden of Eden





5. Adopt biodiversity-friendly graveyard management





 Old graveyards can be havens for wildlife

Graveyards



6. Reduce chemical use

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





To conclude



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

