



KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Report on actions under All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2019

- Kerry County Council (KCC) signed up as a partner to the National Pollinator Plan in 2019.
 - KCC, through its biodiversity office, has been involved since the inception of the *Local Authority Pollinator Plan Award* for the National Tidy Towns Competition. As a special award in the overall competition, the award aims to engage local communities with the Pollinator Plan. This has involved KCC both facilitating the award via administration tasks, but also the adjudication of the award every year. This year saw entries from all over the country, with eight regional winners and two national winners for large and small town/villages announced for 2019. Considerable time and resources are allocated to facilitating the award every year, this is likely to increase as more groups engage with the award.
 - Raising awareness and education around the Pollinator Plan has been undertaken by KCC, specifically again through the biodiversity office. Talks at various events have been undertaken since the plan was first published. Disseminating the resources of the plan at local level has also been a key function. Local communities are provided with hard copies of the guidelines for communities; local gardens, and the planting code, etc. We work with the National Biodiversity Data Centre by providing a local avenue to disseminate their resources including 'Managed for wildlife' signage. The costs of printing, etc. are subsumed by KCC annually.
 - Rolling out *Biodiversity Week*, which continues to provide a platform for people to engage with natural heritage on their own doorsteps – often we find people are not as aware of local wildlife as they are, for example, of international wildlife. The week's activities are entirely funded and coordinated by the biodiversity office of KCC. The week runs in partnership with local groups/communities interested in running events in their locality and has included such events as citizen science around monitoring schemes for pollinators.
 - The biodiversity office provides small pools of funding for particularly interested community groups who are seeking more formal advice, from local providers, on pollinator-friendly practices in their gardens/estates/public spaces – essentially their own pollinator plans for their green spaces. In Tralee town, for examples, several housing estate committees were funded in 2019 to seek advice on pollinator-friendly practises in their estates. This is quite effective as it is a bottom-up approach to the plan and relies on groups seeking measures that they can control.
-