



Monaghan County Council

Report on actions under All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2019

Monaghan County Council is keen to expand its services to include more biodiversity activities, including those necessary to deliver the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. There is no equivalent scheme to the Heritage Officer programme for the engagement of Biodiversity Officers, whereby local authorities are supported through the Heritage Council via the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to employ these personnel. At present, most local authorities such as Monaghan County Council have a single heritage professional in their heritage section who deals with both natural (biodiversity, landscape) and cultural (archaeology, buildings, intangible) heritage.

ADOPTION

The Heritage Officer presented the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) to the County Monaghan Heritage Forum (the multi-stakeholder group that advises on the development and implementation of the County Monaghan Heritage Plan) on the 21.03.2019, who recommended that it be adopted by Monaghan County Council.

Further to a presentation to the Strategic Policy Committee on the 28.03.2019, the Heritage Officer presented the AIPP to the full council meeting on 13.05.2019, where the members agreed that Monaghan County Council become an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner.

IMPLEMENTATION IN 2019

Implementation of the AIPP is described below in accordance with the plan's thematic areas and actions.

C. Pollinator Friendly Planting

Action 13. Make some planters pollinator friendly

The Market House (Arts venue) in Monaghan town changed all its planters to comply with the pollinator friendly planting code.

E. Reduce the use of pesticides

Action 19. Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides

Further to a proposal by a Monaghan County Council elected representative to eliminate the use of pesticides by the local authority, this action was adopted at the July 2019 Council meeting.

F. Raise public awareness of pollinators within local area

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

In late May, bee workshops were held with four national schools in Castleblayney, to assist them in developing their own pollinator plan for their schools and to celebrate World Bee Day. These were hosted by the Irish Wildlife Trust on behalf of Monaghan County Council. 147 children attended the workshops.

Action 26. Facilitate or deliver training on pollinators and how to protect them

On the 29.05.2019 Monaghan County Council held a butterfly Identification & monitoring workshop in north Monaghan on Sliabh Beagh in conjunction with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and the Interreg Collaborative Action for the Natura Network project (of which Monaghan County Council is a partner).

Three bee monitoring workshops were held at the Monaghan County Council *Wild Child Day* during Heritage Week in Rossmore Park, Monaghan Town. Delivered by the Irish Wildlife Trust, over 60 participated in the workshops which included identification skills, practical netting techniques and surveying.

PLANS FOR 2020

Action for 2020 will place more emphasis on themes A-E of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, in order that actions to support the crucial elements of food, shelter and safety for pollinators are taken by Monaghan County Council.

The new Heritage and Biodiversity Plan for County Monaghan, currently being drafted, will contain positive actions in this regard, particularly around the protection of habitats.