

Local Authority Pollinator Award 2019



Heritage Officer Programme

— Celebrating 20 Years in Local Authorities —

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



SuperValu
Tidy Towns



**National
Biodiversity
Data Centre**

Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



Contents

About the Local Authority Pollinator Award	3
A very special award – Dearbhala Ledwidge, Chair of the Local Authority Pollinator Award Committee	4
List of 2019 Local Authority Award winners	6
SuperValu launches ‘Save the Bees’ campaign	8
2019 Winner features:	
Buncrana – Sinead Ní Bhroin	10
Geashill - Caren Carruthers & Pat Foley	13
Dunboyne - Carmel Dillon	18
Tullahought - Richard Walsh	24
Ennis - Cormac McCarthy	29
Belmullet - Margaret Tallot	34
Kilkenny City - Peter Bluett	38
Sneem - Sharon Evans	42
Debunking some myths about bees	44
Top 10 tips to help your entry for the Local Authority Pollinator Award	55
Flower-Insect-Timed Count - Citizen Science Pollinator Monitoring	62





Rewarding local communities leading the way in biodiversity conservation

In 2016, when the Local Authority Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer Network offered to establish and fund the special *Pollinator Award* in the national Tidy Towns competition, the team behind the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan were delighted to support this new way to create awareness of pollinators and increase pollinator-friendly habitats right across the country.

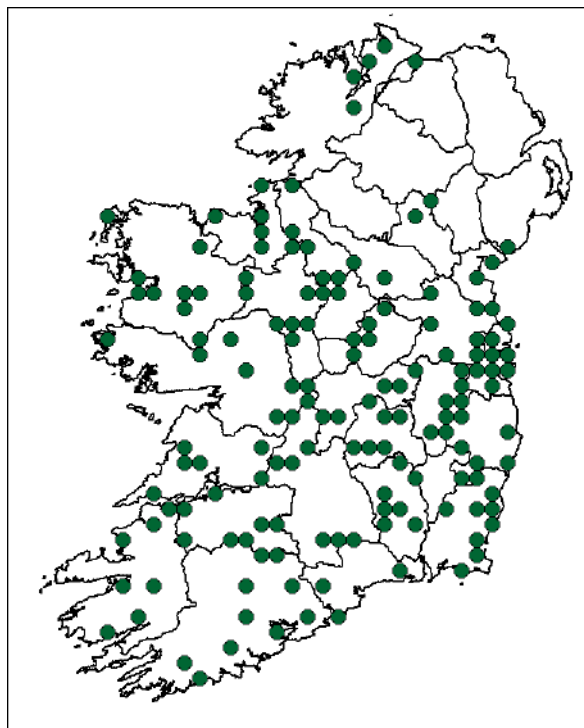
There has been an amazing reaction to this special award and reading about all the achievements and actions taken for pollinators in towns and villages across the country is truly inspirational. Indeed, over 160 individual towns and villages have entered the Pollinator Award over the last four years, and not only that but according to Tidy Towns adjudicators upwards of 80% of all 918 Tidy Towns groups are implementing actions for pollinators. All entries are filled with wonderful projects, each improving and creating much-needed habitats for pollinating insects and biodiversity generally.

The judging process is always very difficult as the standard is so high and it is only a pity that there can only be eight winners! Unfortunately capacity issues prevent us from sending feedback to each entrant, but we hope this

newsletter may provide some assistance for future applications.

We would like to thank you sincerely for all you are doing locally to help create a more pollinator-friendly Ireland, and wish you every success in 2020!

- the *Pollinator Plan* team



Over 160 pollinator-friendly towns and villages, from every county in Ireland, have entered the Local Authority Pollinator Award.



The Heritage Officer Network were delighted to celebrate 20 years of the programme with President Michael D. Higgins last year, with a very special visit to Áras an Uachtaráin

A very special award

Who likes pollinators? Thankfully, for nature, most of us do! When Heritage and Biodiversity Officers from all around the country decided to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan a few years ago, none of us could have guessed how popular pollinators would become, or how much the public wanted to help save them. Everyone loves a competition, so we pooled our resources and set up a special award in the Tidy Towns competition to protect pollinators, with huge support from the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the staff at the national Tidy Towns Unit.

Collaboration

In the last four years, we have received and reviewed over 250 applications to the Pollinator Award from Tidy Towns groups throughout Ireland, and awarded €37,000 in prizes.

In that time we've seen a significant increase in the number of Tidy Towns groups entering the award, and also more importantly, an increase in the quality and diversity of actions that the groups are taking to support pollinators. Likewise, the Tidy Towns Adjudicators have increasingly recognised, highlighted and rewarded pollinator-friendly actions in their adjudication reports.

Personally I feel this is one of the most rewarding projects I've worked on in my 17 years as Heritage Officer in Kilkenny County Council. It is collaborative, positive and produces tangible results. Engaging with and supporting communities to care for and enjoy the heritage in their local area is a cornerstone of what Heritage and Biodiversity Officers do.

Celebrating 21 years of County Heritage Officers:

The County Heritage Officer Programme was established as a partnership between local authorities and the Heritage Council 21 years ago. There are now 29 Heritage Officers around the country, and we were delighted to celebrate 20 years of the programme with President Michael D. Higgins last year, with a very special visit to Áras an Uachtaráin. It was the highlight of my year! In fact the President established the Heritage Council when he was the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and without him the post of County Heritage Officer may not exist. The President gave an inspirational address to the National Biodiversity Conference in Dublin Castle last year. In it he praised the "far-seeing" work of communities in Ireland to protect biodiversity, and he specifically mentioned Tidy Towns committees "...who have embraced biodiversity projects - to add to the list

of contributions that these commendable citizens make to their communities". He also warned that studies suggest that Ireland is losing butterflies and bees "at a faster rate than the rest of the world", and called for all of us to continue to work together. In his words "*Ar aghaigh linn le cheile*".

Thanks

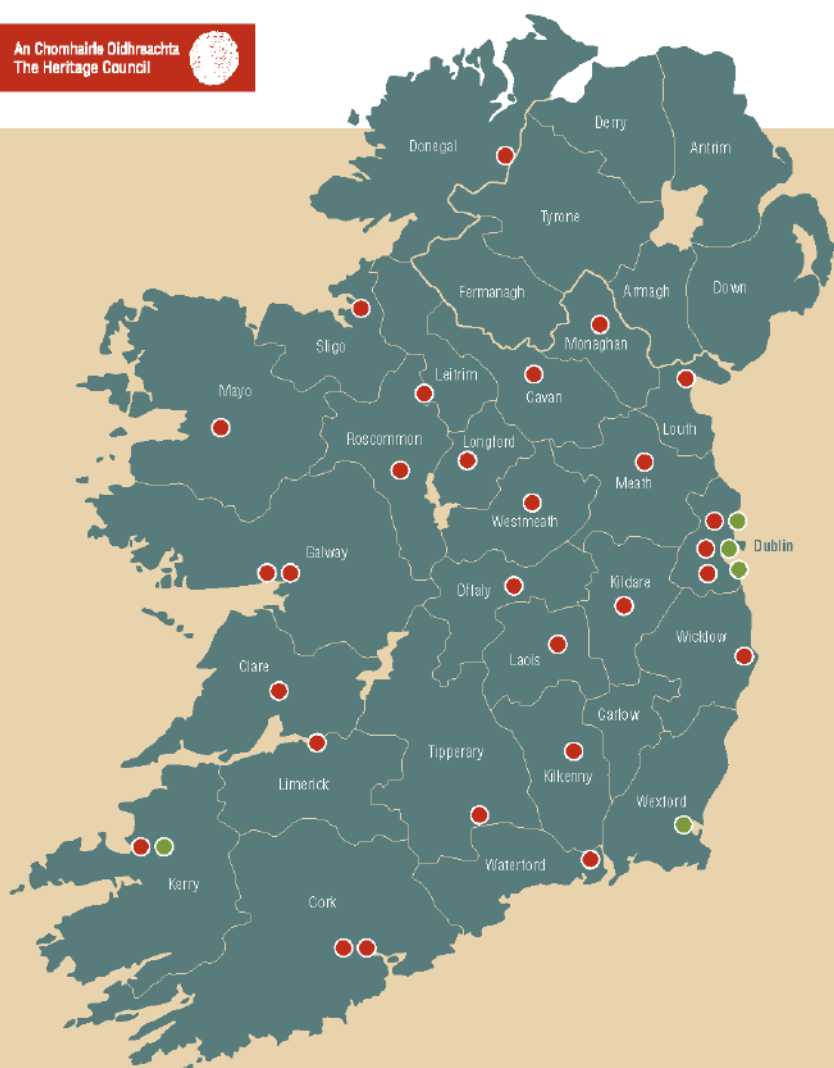
On behalf of Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officers, I'd like to say a big thank you to all the Tidy Towns groups for all your amazing work supporting pollinators, and for taking the time to enter the Local Authority Pollinator Award. We appreciate the extra work that this entails for you. So if there is any way that we can help you, please let us know. To contact the Heritage and/or Biodiversity

Officer in your county, see www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/county-heritage-officers or contact your County/City Council directly.

And finally, thanks also to Una Fitzpatrick and Juanita Browne in the National Biodiversity Data Centre for their inspirational guidance and work on making the All Ireland Pollinator programme such a success. It's been a pleasure.



– Dearbhala Ledwidge
Chair,
Local Authority Pollinator Award
Committee,
Kilkenny Heritage Officer



Local Authority Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer Networks

● Location of Heritage Officers

Cavan	Louth
Cork City	Mayo
Cork County	Meath
Clare	Monaghan
Donegal	Offaly
Dublin City	Roscommon
Fingal	Sligo
Galway City	South County Dublin
Galway County	Tipperary
Kerry	Waterford
Kildare	Westmeath
Kilkenny	Wicklow
Laois	
Leitrim	
Limerick	
Longford	



Heritage Officer Programme

● Location of Biodiversity Officers

Dublin City
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown
Fingal
Kerry
Wexford

2019 Local Authority Pollinator Award winners



Winners of the National Local Authority Pollinator Award for Small Towns 2019 (€1000): Geashill, Co. Offaly



Winners of the National Pollinator Award for Large Towns 2019 (€1000): Buncrana, Co. Donegal

The Tidy Towns committees in Buncrana and Geashill have made a determined long-term commitment to help pollinators, managing their town's public spaces in a pollinator-friendly way, protecting existing native hedgerows as well as planting new native hedgerows, a pollinator-friendly orchard; reducing mowing to allow wildflowers to grow; and by planting pollen-rich flowers. They have also done so much to help create awareness of our biodiversity and of the importance of pollinators by working with the local national schools, Beavers, ICA, and through a local garden competition.

Juanita Browne, Project Officer with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: "It's amazing to see what all the Tidy Towns groups are doing for biodiversity. We hope this will continue long into the future. Ireland recently declared a Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Emergency, and it is the local community groups who are actually leading the way and showing us what can be done to

help biodiversity and help tackle climate action at the same time. With so much of our landscapes being intensively managed and one third of our bee species at risk of extinction, these towns and villages, where they are protecting their flowering hedgerows, planting wildlife-friendly trees, eliminating pesticide use, and reducing grass-cutting, act as much-needed safe refuges for biodiversity across the country."

According to Colette Byrne, Chief Executive Kilkenny County Council "Tidy Towns groups are the unsung heroes of the country. As Local Authorities, we recognise this. We also recognise that the Tidy Towns competition has wholeheartedly embraced work to support pollinators, including our special Local Authority Pollinator Award. I'm personally delighted as Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, the first local authority to sign a framework agreement to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, that this award has been so successful".



Large Town Regional Winners – Local Authority Pollinator Award (€1000):

Midlands & East:	Dunboyne, Co. Meath
South & Mid-west:	Ennis, Co. Clare
South East:	Kilkenny City
North-west & West:	Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Small Town Regional Winners – Local Authority Pollinator Award (€1000):

Midlands & East:	Geashill, Co. Offaly
South & Mid-west:	Sneem, Co. Kerry
South East:	Tullahought, Co. Kilkenny
North-West & West:	Belmullet, Co. Mayo



SuperValu launches Save The Bees campaign

SuperValu want to help local communities, schools and families lead the way in creating an Ireland where pollinators can thrive. Therefore, earlier this year, in collaboration with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, SuperValu launched their Save the Bees campaign in an effort to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and to support the local biodiversity in communities around Ireland. The campaign aims to educate and empower school children to make a difference.

In late February, every primary school in Ireland received a *SuperValu Save the Bees Pollinator Pack*. This pack contains guidebooks, posters and bookmarks, in

addition to a wildflower garden kit, with native Irish seeds and a garden sign, to allow every school to create their own wildflower patch, which can be replicated in home gardens across Ireland.

Unfortunately due to the COVID19 outbreak and subsequent school closures, this programme has had to be put on hold for the time being, but these educational materials will be useful classroom resources for teachers for many years to come.

Dr. Una Fitzpatrick, Chair of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan said, *"Ireland's wild pollinators are in serious decline, but we can change this. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a call to action to all of us. It is about communicating to*



everyone exactly how to help in the most effective way possible. The new 'Save the Bees' campaign epitomises this, and we are delighted to partner with SuperValu in educating and empowering children across 3,200 primary schools on how to help change the fate of our pollinators for the better. "

Commenting on the campaign, Des O'Mahony, SuperValu Strategy Manager said "Pollination is key for crop production, without it a number of the products, particularly in the fruit and veg section of our stores, would disappear from our shelves. In SuperValu we understand how serious the problem

of pollinator decline in Ireland is and are delighted to work with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan to make change through our Save the Bees campaign. This new initiative will help families and schools around Ireland take steps to reverse pollinator loss in their communities. SuperValu Save The Bees packs have been sent to every school in Ireland, these packs will support awareness, education and action for school children."

For more information on the SuperValu Save the Bees campaign visit <https://supervalu.ie/real-people/save-the-bees>

Buncrana is still buzzing about bees



Sinéad Ní Bhroin
Chairperson of
Buncrana Tidy
Towns on their 2019
national award



2019 was Buncrana Tidy Towns' best year yet, and hopefully our local bees and bugs feel the same way, too!

Winning the national Tidy Towns Local Authority Pollinator Award for Large Towns was fantastic, not just for our volunteers, but for all those who have driven this project for a number of years now. Special mention must go to our Town Gardener George McDermott; Colm Grant of Wild Inishowen; and local Donegal County Council management.

Buncrana is the sum of all its wonderful parts, and that, of course, includes our beautiful natural environment. Building on previous workplans, our pollinator priorities for 2019/2020 include looking after our dandelions for the town's bees, beetles and other hungry pollinators.

We've looked again at the frequency of our mowing regime, have worked hard to maintain our meadows and we continue to plant new native hedgerows, including Hawthorn and Holly. In these hedgerows, we have added

pollinator-friendly trees like Mountain Ash, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry and native Dog Rose.

Pollinator-friendly planting has been prioritised for our baskets, containers and beds. We are particularly delighted with the town's response to this approach. George McDermott has a great eye when it comes to planting, with a beautiful mix of colours and wildflower design.

Garden Pollinator Award

Buncrana Tidy Towns have expanded our annual garden competition to include a Garden Pollinator Award, which also extends to the businesses' flower displays.

We are also delivering the Pollinator Plan to local school groups and give biodiversity talks to junior school classes in our Amazing Grace Park, which provides some pretty snazzy homes for solitary bees. Scoil Íosagáin deserves a special bualadh bos for its Black Swan Hotel, a particular favourite of visitor bees. The residents of St John's Park have also installed a sand bank for solitary bees in their wildlife and pollinator area.



Buncrana Tidy Towns volunteers with town gardener George McDermott at Amazing Grace Park



Reducing frequency of mowing and layered mowing allows wildflowers to grow



Don't Mow Let it Grow:
Dandelions allowed to flower



Large display of Cuckoo Flower



Buncrana Tidy Towns invested in a piece of land by the new Cockhill Bridge, sowing a pollinator mix of seed and planting native trees and hedgerow.



Colm Grant providing a Pollinator Plan Workshop at the Mazing Grace Park in Buncrana



Buncrana won the national large town Pollinator Award at the Tidy Towns awards on September 30th, at the Helix in Dublin, recognising all that has been done by the town to help pollinating insects. Having also won a regional Pollinator Award in 2017, and again in 2018, Buncrana continues to excel in this competition and this year proudly took the top award for most pollinator-friendly large town in Ireland.



George McDermott and Karl King at Wild Inishowen's Fort Dunree pollinator patch

We've also learned some great lessons over the last couple of years. Wildflower areas can be difficult to establish but the trick is not to give up!

[Ed's note: we have a blog on this that might be useful: <https://pollinators.ie/reducing-mowing-for-pollinators-brilliant-for-bees-harder-for-humans/>]

We invested in a piece of land by our new Cockhill Bridge, sowing a pollinator mix of seed and planting native trees and hedgerow. It took so long for anything to emerge we nearly gave up. Then lo and behold there was a pre-autumnal flourish of clover and cornfield annuals. How fantastic was that!

We also sowed perennials and biennials at the Cockhill site so are hopeful that 2020 will see a greater array of plants take hold.

We have a great range of species planted and think it would be good to share what we think works - Birds-foot-trefoil, Black Meddick, Cowslip, Devil's Bit Scabious, Meadow Buttercup, Field Scabious, Hemp Agrimony,

Kidney Vetch, Lady's Bedstraw, Lady's Ann lace, Lesser Knapweed, Meadowsweet, Mullein, Ox-eye Daisy, Purple Loosestrife, Ragged Robin, Red Campion, Red Clover, Ribwort Plantain, Rough Hawksbit, Sorrel, St Johnswort, Wild Angelica, Wild Carrot, Yarrow, Yellow Agrimony, Yellow Rattle and Teasel.

2019 was Buncrana Tidy Towns' best year yet, and hopefully our local bees and bugs feel the same way too!

Our work has not been without challenges. Endless wet weather impacts on our grass cutting and the required frequency of what's needed does cause us difficulties. That said, we know that it has to be done, so advise everyone to keep at it as there is a heavy price to be

paid for long wet grass.

One final thank you must be extended to the National Biodiversity Data Centre and those working on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for providing the leadership, support and structure to groups like ours across the island.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Geashill - still winning in the fight for pollinators

Having won the national Pollinator Award in 2017, and a regional award in 2018, Geashill continues to excel in this competition and this year proudly took home the top prize for most pollinator-friendly small town in Ireland. Pat Foley and Caren Carruthers explain their success.



Eddie Kelly, Maureen Maher, Caren Carruthers and Pat Foley, Geashill Tidy Towns, celebrating yet another Pollinator Award at the Tidy Towns awards on September 30th 2020, at the Helix in Dublin.

It's results day. We're heading up the A4 on our annual pilgrimage to the Helix – and we're buzzing!

National Pollinator Award Winners in 2017 – Regional success in 2018. Could we dare hope for lightning to strike three years in a row? Hardly.

Somewhere outside Enfield; the decision is made without any need for a vote. Win, lose or draw – we're done. We'll give it a break for a while after this.

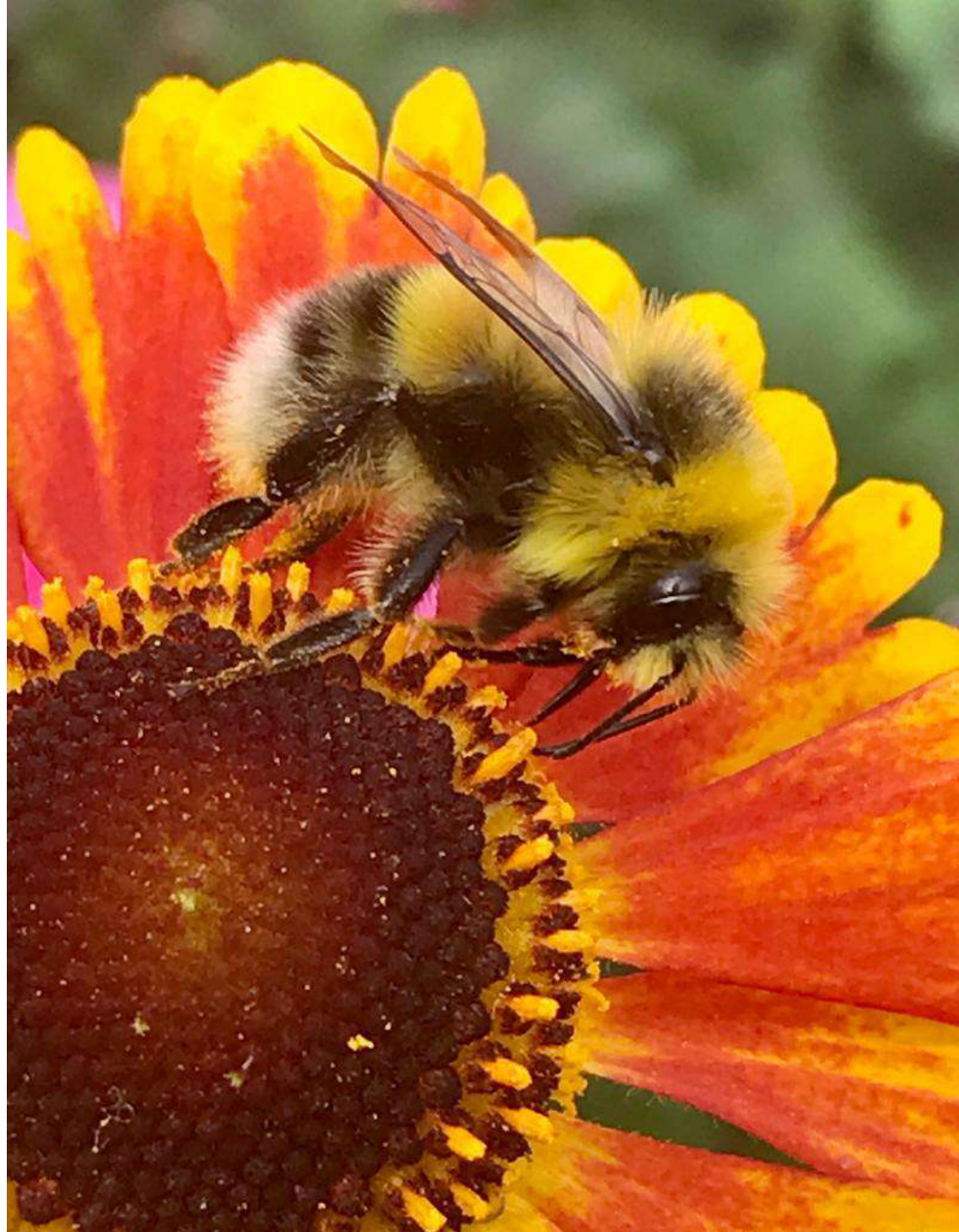
A few hours later and the announcements are being made. We're named as Midland and East Regional Winners – we won't be going home empty-handed. Then the big one – Overall Winner Small Town – a long pause... Geashill, County Offaly!

There's no leaping about; there's just relief and satisfaction. We join Buncrana – winners of the Large Town Category – for photos with Una, Juanita and the Data Centre crew – and then it's homeward bound, tired but happy.

Since then, we've had a chance to reflect on our 5-year involvement with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan; what we've learned and what it has meant to us, both as individuals and as a Tidy Towns group.

First off, it's been good to get to know the bees. Five years ago, we were looking up definitions of the word *pollinator*. Every Bumblebee seemed to wear bewildering variations of Kilkenny or Down GAA jerseys. Now, we know it's not obligatory to get to know the colours and patterns of all 21 species of bumblebee in order to provide for them, but it is helpful to know which one is enjoying the flowers you planted! By the time you've sorted out the first few, you're probably hooked and it isn't like you have to do this all on your own.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre puts on excellent identification courses, with practical demonstrations on how to capture bees in a net so that you can better identify them. What used to be a stroll in the garden or



along a hedgerow becomes a mini safari with a Bumblebee Swatch and notebook in hand. Then the camera must be brought along so that you can sort out some of the trickier ones when you get home.

We also made the decision to switch from blowsy but nutrition-less annuals to bee-friendly perennials, but we really didn't know our plants, bulbs and trees well enough. So began another absorbing journey of learning for us; one that has informed all of our planting in the village over the past 5 years. We have planted over 1,500 native trees in and

around our little village, with every crown of every Rowan; Crab Apple or Wild Cherry a mini blossom garden for pollinators of all kinds in Spring and early Summer. Along the way we have also learned how to leave the earth alone, primarily by not spraying everything on it and in it to death and also by valuing those flowers we call weeds, which are essential to insect life and therefore all of life.

These approaches came as a challenge to some in our community, but we found we had the staunchest of allies. In fact, we had about 140 of them! These



Perennial Container Planting
Geranium Rozanne



Úllord na Nóg Geashill National School



Spring dandelion campaign



Pollinator Promise barrels

Sensory Garden
Geashill NS



Tree Planting at the Glebe Walk, Geashill



allies came in the form of the children, Principal and teaching staff of Geashill National School.

They've been with us right through the 5 years of our implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan; planting a native apple orchard – Úllord na n'Óg; building a Sensory and Pollinator Garden; recording the insect life of the village; constructing a Vertical Herb Garden and even recording the song we adapted with them "Where Have All The Wildflowers Gone". Children are so open to working with nature and their enthusiasm is infectious. They are our hope for a better future and definitely keep us young.

To any Tidy Towns group out there who hasn't yet entered for the Local Authority Pollinator Awards – we say – do it this year! You and your children will benefit. Your village or town as a living organism will benefit and – most important of all – your bees, pollinators and wildlife will reap the rewards of your labour. Oh – I almost forgot. It will also help you pick up some marks not just in the Nature and Biodiversity category but across the entire application. And - it's lots of fun!



Garden Bumblebee foraging on Nasturtium

The amazing Bee Mural created at Geashill National School







Businesses and residents helping bees in Dunboyne



Carmel Dillon,
Dunboyne Tidy Towns,
a true Pollinator
Champion, explains
how they have
engaged with so many
sectors in the town

Many thanks to the staff in the National Biodiversity Data Centre for the wonderful resources of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Dunboyne Community has embraced the plan and was thrilled to be awarded a regional award in the Midlands and East category of the Local Authority Pollinator Award 2019.

Getting Started

As with all Tidy Towns associations, our volunteers work full tilt. We wanted to adopt a biodiversity project, but wondered if we had

the personnel. In 2018, following some research, we discovered the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We had little knowledge about the topic, but were prepared to learn. The website and resources (pollinators.ie) clearly illustrated the current danger to our bee population and subsequently to humanity. We knew that if we were to make any impact we would need to engage with our community in a cohesive manner. The strength of the Pollinator Plan for any community is the clarity of the Actions for Pollinators.



Over the last 50 years Dunboyne and District Credit Union has been at the heart of Dunboyne and has financially supported many worthwhile local projects. When we approached them about the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, they provided a grant to launch the project. Our aim was to raise awareness about the plan and to encourage Dunboyne residents to carry out Actions for Pollinators. We started tentatively by planting pollinator-friendly plants in our village and erecting signage to inform residents and visitors about the project.



Dunboyne Senior Primary School displayed 100 actions for pollinators in Dunboyne Library.



We then piloted 'Dunboyne for Pollinators' in Dunboyne Senior Primary School. Twenty workshops on the topic were provided to classes by a member of Dunboyne Tidy Towns and the pupils were asked to carry out at least one action for pollinators at home.

This was the basis for a competition funded by Dunboyne Credit Union. During Biodiversity Week in 2018, the pupils

displayed 100 actions for pollinators in Dunboyne Library. With the help of Tidy Towns members, they recorded their actions on the Actions for Pollinators database (<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>).

Thanks to the generosity of our Credit Union, the competition has become an annual event and will take place in three schools this year.

Dunboyne and District Credit Union sponsored a pollinator-friendly bed.



A disused phone box was wrapped in All-Ireland Pollinator Plan graphics and became an information hub on pollinators

'Dunboyne 2020'

In our second year we sought to further embed the plan within our community. In 2018, a three-year plan to plant 2,020 spring flowering bulbs and plants in Dunboyne was devised. Bulbs were distributed to school pupils to plant at home and again the actions were recorded on the Actions for Pollinators Database.

In autumn 2019, snowdrop, crocus, hyacinth and allium bulbs were planted by a preschool,

four primary schools, a second level school, First Meath Dunboyne Scouts, Rehabcare, Dunboyne and District Credit Union, Dunboyne GAA Club, 12 residents' associations, a faith community and Dunboyne Tidy Towns. Funding from the Community Environment Action Fund through Meath County Council made this possible.



Dunboyne 2020: This three-year plan to plant 2,020 pollinator-friendly bulbs in Dunboyne included planting by schools, scouts, GAA, faith communities, and local residents.

Business

We work with several businesses to promote pollinator-friendly planting and preservation of bee habitat. These are two examples of very different but equally beneficial actions taken by local businesses. Our traditional flower displays in tubs and hanging baskets are loved by residents. Last year we integrated **bidens** and **bacopa** into our displays. We posted information about these pollinator-friendly plants and Kelly's Hardware sourced the plants and sold them. We posted information about the availability of the pollinator friendly plants on our Facebook page and they sold well. The convenience of having pollinator friendly plants available locally proved popular and will continue.

Bidens and *Bacopa* are great pollinator-friendly plants to add to hanging baskets and planters.



SuperValu Dunboyne

A new addition to our village in 2019 was a **Supervalu** store. While the store was in construction, Tidy Towns met with Stephen Nally of Supervalu and introduced him to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We asked if Supervalu would consider planting pollinator-friendly plants when landscaping. We were delighted to see such a spectacular display thanks to Ciara Croffy, Project Manager and Stephen Nally. The pollinator-friendly landscaping has encouraged others to embrace the plan. The planting template will be shared with other Supervalu sites throughout the country.



Fite Fuaite

Dunboyne for Pollinators is a thread running through our community. A Tidy Towns visit to Dunboyne Senior Primary School led to the design, construction and decoration of a five-star bee hotel by pupils who subsequently visited First Meath Dunboyne Scouts. Their enthusiasm motivated the scouts to make bee hotels. A member of Dunboyne Tidy Towns was invited to see the new bee hotels and to hear about the design and construction process. Two hotels are now in the Scouts Den, one is on a green on a housing estate and two were erected in a pollinator-friendly bed in the Supervalu carpark.

Learning about our Natural Environment

Parallel to planting year-round pollinator-friendly plants and constructing bee hotels we are conscious of the need to conserve naturally growing pollinator-friendly plants and bee habitats.

We have compiled a booklet showing photos of our native plants and bee habitats. These booklets can be used for schools when on nature walks. The photos were taken in May 2019 and the walks will be piloted with local schools in May 2020.

These follow on successful Autumn nature walks led by Dunboyne Tidy Towns. The pupils got a chance to plant pollinator-friendly plants and bulbs in planters in the village and to see bee habitat. They

also learned to scrape back soil to enhance bee habitat for the winter.

Promoting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has created an integrated community plan. Links with schools, colleges, community and sporting groups, faith communities and businesses have been developed. A framework for further social and ecological plans has been built.

'Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine'



By working with local Scouts and schools, Dunboyne Tidy Towns are actively creating awareness of the importance of pollinators.



Dunboyne Tidy Towns also produced a booklet and have lead walks to show important bee habitat, such as flowering hedgerows, and actions such as scraping back soil to create bee nesting habitat.



An aerial photograph of a rural village nestled in a valley. The village features several buildings, including a large dark-roofed structure, surrounded by green fields and scattered trees. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a bright blue sky with fluffy white clouds.

Tullahought – a village for pollinators

Richard Walsh, secretary of Tullahought Tidy Towns, on the journey to their 2019 Pollinator Award for the South East



The Tullahought Tidy Towns committee and the residents of the village were delighted to win the South East Region Pollinator Award for small towns for the second consecutive year in 2019.

Tullahought has been competing in the Tidy Towns since 1992 and while we have been making steady progress over the years in the main competition, to a point where we are now at silver medal status, we had not achieved any success in the Special Awards categories until 2017 when we won a Value Water Award. This combined with the Pollinator Awards in 2018 and 2019 gives us a unique three in a row of special awards.

Much of this success can be attributed to biodiversity friendly actions over the years by past committee members and the understanding that any new projects would need to blend in with and complement the natural rural landscape of the village.

Our tidy towns committees have been drawn from a population of predominantly small farm holdings in an era when every household would have their own vegetable garden, leading to an understanding of nature and the importance of pollinators.

Following our success in winning the Pollinator award in 2018 we looked to see what further actions could be taken around the village to help our pollinators.

In 2018, we engaged an Ecologist to produce a comprehensive Biodiversity Plan for Tullahought and its environs, with a special emphasis on pollinators. Many of her short term suggestions had been implemented in 2018, however there were some longer term objectives outstanding which we addressed for 2019:

- Planting spring flowering bulbs to provide nectar for pollinators emerging from hibernation.
- Adopting 6-8-week grass-cutting cycle where suitable, allowing wildflowers to grow.
- Maintaining pollinator-friendly hedgerows, cutting in rotation.
- Planting Pollinator-friendly trees.
- Surveying Bird, Bat and Bee populations, protecting their nesting sites and environment.

Biodiversity-friendly projects from previous years included:

- Creation of a wildlife area on the outskirts of the village, which contains two ponds fed from a spring which supplied water to village residents of past generations.
- Re-building and repairing ancient dry stone walls in the area.
- Removing a mass concrete surround at the village well and replacing it with stone surround.
- Creating a waterside retreat at Kearns's bridge with stone walls, cobbles and pollinator-friendly planting.
- Set aside area behind Community Centre where wildflowers and grasses can flourish, supplemented with raspberry, blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes with the fruit left for the wildlife.
- Planting of new community orchard.



Bombus lucorum with white pollen sac collected from a mixed variety of wildflowers.



Bombus lapidarius carrying a sack of purple pollen a result of collecting from continuous foraging in purple clover

- Building a stone viewing tower overlooking the village with picnic area and pollinator friendly planting.
- 1916 Memorial garden planted for pollinators.
- Facing a roadside bank with a dry stone wall and planting with a herb garden.
- Developing the Kilmacoliver Loop Walk rich in biodiversity.

The various stone projects mentioned above compliment the many beautiful ancient stone walls in the village.

Our actions for pollinators and biodiversity in 2019:

In 2018/19, we extended our stock of stone-walling by removing a concrete wall outside a holiday home in the centre of the village and replacing it with a stone wall planted with pollinator-friendly sedum and alpines.

Our local sports field has remained unfertilised for many years. It is normally used in February/March for training when the main sports field in the parish is too wet to be used. It is used again in late August during our Heritage weekend. Outside these times it is only used by local children for recreational sport.

In 2019, we introduced a six-week cutting cycle for the pitch itself (App. 4,800 m²) and allowed a natural wildflower meadow to flourish outside the pitch boundary(App. 2,700 m²). This has been supplemented with a 140 m² strip of wildflowers along the south facing boundary.

Our re-landscaped bed on the Kilmoganny road has been planted to benefit pollinators with: Lavender, Wallflower, Irish Wildflowers, Clover, Forget me not, Dandelion, Nettle, Sedum, Primrose, Chive, Foxglove, Lupin) included. New planters in the church grounds are also planted with pollinator-friendly species.



A derelict stone house was demolished to create this stone wall for pollinator-friendly planting at the village car park.



New stone wall in village



We removed two Lelandi trees from front of community Centre and replaced them with pollinator friendly planting



Re-landscaped bed on approach road



Preparing sports field for sowing of wildflowers

Public awareness

Many of the actions and decisions taken by the tidy towns group to help pollinators can go unnoticed by the general public. Our widespread use of the Pollinator Plan's *Gardening for Wildlife* signage throughout the village is one way to educate the public on a simple action to help pollinators. With many villages and towns adopting these signs, they have become instantly recognisable.

Similarly in our wildlife area, we use novelty signage to draw attention to different

biodiversity actions which anyone could adopt for their own garden: bug boxes, solitary bee nesting sites, log piles, bird and bat boxes, etc.

In 2019, we also made Solitary Bee Nesting lodges from the thinnings from a local woodland and we have provided them free to the general public by leaving them at our surplus produce stand at our wildlife area. These proved to be in great demand both with locals and visitors to the village. Hopefully they have served the bees well over the winter.

Solitary Bee
Nesting Lodge



Grass verge and
hedgerow with exposed
beech root - perfect for
mining bees.

Two Tullahought examples of nature providing for its own (helped by pollinator-friendly humans): An old sycamore tree which was struck by lightning a number of years ago was pruned back to make it safe. The remaining trunk has been the home to a nest of honeybees for the past few years. In 2019, the rotted trunk finally collapsed and fell on to the adjoining lawn. After a few days, the bees readjusted to the new position of their

home and the wildlife-loving house owner has decided to leave the tree where it fell and avoid the area when cutting the grass.

In another location, on the Carrick-on-Suir road, a beech tree fell to the winter storm, the uprooted tree bringing a section of earth with the roots. This clump of earth has now become a perfect habitat for mining bees.



When the Pollinator Award was launched in 2016 we felt we now had a Special Award suited to our rural village of Tullahought where we felt we could benefit from our past efforts. Of course we also realised that we had to continue to improve our efforts if only to save our pollinators.

Participation in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme is an essential tool to help guide the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. However, more efforts

need to be implemented nationally, at EU level and worldwide to eradicate the use of harmful pesticides which are wiping out our populations of pollinators.

The Tullahought Tidy Towns committee look forward to 2020 and beyond with plans to continue to improve our pollinator-friendly village.



Tullahought accepting their award for South East regional winner Small town 2019, presented by Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer, Kilkenny County Council (far left); and Dr Una FitzPatrick, National Biodiversity Data Centre (far right).



Ennis - proving you can feed the bees and still win the Tidiest Town award!



Cormac McCarthy explains how they transformed Ennis into a bee-friendly town

Ennis: Regional winner, South/MidWest
Regional winner Large town 2019

Well to everyone's delight and excitement in Ennis Tidy Towns we managed to retain our Pollinator Award for 2019. When you see the tremendous work being undertaken by communities, large and small, throughout the country it is such a testament to all of us of the real impact we have, and that how, once again, communities are leading the way in the protection and promotion of our native wildlife and biodiversity.

Following our success in 2018, we knuckled down immediately after the Awards to start planning out not only our 2019 National Awards project list, but investigating if could we build on the success of our Pollinator work and bring it to the next level.

First and foremost, we were still grappling with the logistics of how to effectively manage our pollinator roundabouts. Being on busy roads, like the town bypass, the Council were justifiably concerned about volunteers raking the cut

material by hand. So with the change in management came increased biodiversity, but there had to be a more effective way of cutting and removing the grass. By chance we came across the Biodiversity Zero Grazer which was trialled with great success in October of 2019. More details on this trial can be found here: <https://pollinators.ie/ennis-tidy-towns-transform-roundabouts-into-wildlife-havens/>.

We are investigating purchasing the unit for community use throughout the county and are hopeful of positive news. Though at the time of writing this article Coronavirus has come into full swing and potential corporate sponsors are, needless to say, cautious about what the future will bring.

Since the 2019 Awards, we have upped our pollinator roundabouts from 3 to 5, leaving just 1 grassed roundabout not managed for wildlife. We will be rectifying this in the near future so 100% of the roundabouts will be managed for



Pollinator Planter at O'Connell Square



Pollinator Disc Planters by Ennis Friary



Solitary Bee Hotel with removable trays so you can see cells with developing larvae, and you can access for cleaning.



Biodiversity signage at Ennis



 **Pollinator Planters** 

DEVELOPED BY HORTICULTURIST SINEAD MONAHAN, THE STUDENTS OF THE
LCETB & ENNIS TIDY TOWNS. SUPPORTED BY CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Plant List

PLANTS LISTED BELOW ARE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY
AND WILL PROVIDE A FOOD SOURCE FOR BEES AND BUTTERFLIES

Nemesia Blue Bicolour	Lavandula
Lavandula Bandera Pink	'Strawberry Ruffles'
Dianthus Cranmere Pool	Cosmos
Dianthus	Camassia
'Whatfield Can-Can'	Osteospermum 'Lady
Dianthus Charmy	Leitrim'
Nepeta glechoma	Bacopa
Hedera helix variegata	Margarette
Osteospermum jucundum	Allium millenium
var. compactum	Creeping Jenny

IN SUPPORT OF THE ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN
WWW.POLLINATORS.IE



Pollinator Planter by Ennis Friary



Staff and Students of LCETB

pollinators and biodiversity. We have also had very positive engagement with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, who have partnered with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and will see can the many motorway roundabouts follow suit. Other stakeholder engagement has included Irish rail, local GAA clubs, Macra na Feirme and faith communities. There seems to be cross-sectoral support of our efforts and we are delighted to have such support from our community partners.

All of the above sites are being monitored by a local Botanist and we can prove there is up to 55% greater diversity on our managed-for-pollinators sites when compared to more manicured areas. In quantifying our success, we can show others that this approach works and the benefits are not just anecdotal. This approach has encouraged our partners in Clare County Council and this year, we agreed to a management plan, developed by Ennis Tidy Towns and their

We feel that Tidy Towns groups do so much good throughout the country, it is important that we support each other and there is no point all of us continually reinventing the same wheel!

volunteer botanist Donncha O'Cathain, of the local Post Office Field. This site, a lovely mixture of wet grassland, scrub, trees and meadow, regularly floods but will be a tremendous town-

centre biodiversity asset. By adding this site, we begin to add to the tapestry of sites throughout Ennis thereby decreasing fragmentation and proving food sources for pollinators and other wildlife. As well as management of areas to make them more natural, we also forged a partnership with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board who run a dedicated horticultural class.

We negotiated the transfer of three large tiered planters that are stationed throughout the town by the Ennis Municipal District Gardening Team and we funded the planting of these with 100% pollinator-friendly plants. These were complemented by two large disc planters as well as the base of our IBAL sculpture.



The Biodiversity Zero Grazer was trialled with great success in October of 2019. More details on this trial can be found here: <https://pollinators.ie/ennis-tidy-towns-transform-roundabouts-into-wildlife-havens/>.



Orchids at one of Ennis's pollinator-friendly roundabouts

We labelled the planters showing the change in planting regime and received significant positive feedback from the public. We are indebted to lecturer Sinéad Monahan and students of LCETB, along with Brendan Keogh and all the Gardening Team for their ongoing support and assistance. We have arranged for more of the Council planters to migrate to this planting regime for 2020.

The last 12 months has seen a new commitment by Ennis Tidy Towns to focus on knowledge sharing. To this end, we shared the planting regime for the above planters widely on social media.

We feel that Tidy Towns groups do so much good throughout the country, it is important that we support each other and there is no point all of us continually reinventing the same wheel! In addition, we launched our Community Biodiversity Toolkit. The rationale behind this was communities manage a wealth of communal green spaces that are important recreational assets. However, there is always scope to make room for wildlife and this toolkit aimed to provide no nonsense, plain English tips on how to do this in a range of case study sites including a park, GAA grounds and housing estate green area. The toolkit cost €4,000, of which €750 was grant-aided from Greener Clare as part of the

Local Agenda 21 grant scheme. The Toolkit is available to download, free of charge, from www.ennistidytowns.com. Please feel free to use it and let other groups know about its existence.

All of the above culminated in Ennis launching itself as Ireland's First Pollinator Town in December 2019. This was in recognition not only of the tremendous work done by the entire community in winning the Pollinator Award for Large Urban Centre, but also in the knowledge that we hadn't reached the pinnacle of what was achievable and that we would continue to strive for more and more projects that benefited pollinators and biodiversity in general. The 'title' is not an award, it is an ever-present reminder of the obligation we have to address the decline of pollinators and the Biodiversity Crisis which we face. We are hopeful that competitions like the Tidy Towns Awards can be a significant player in addressing this issue.

Best of luck to everyone in this year's competition from all in Ennis Tidy Towns. Please feel free to get in touch if there is any project you've read about here that you would like to replicate and learn from our success and, of course, failures!

www.ennistidytowns.com

www.facebook.com/ennistidytowns

www.twitter.com/ennistidytowns



Belmullet & the Great Yellow Bumblebee



Margaret Tallott, Baile Slachtmhar Bhéal an Mhuirthead, Regional winners, North-west and West, 2019, explains how Belmullet are helping to protect Ireland's most endangered bee

Bhéal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet) is situated on an isthmus between Blacksod and Broadhaven Bays in the heart of the Erris Gaeltacht in County Mayo. Belmullet has had an active Tidy Towns Committee dating back to the 1950s. In recent years the committee has made steady progress, gaining one bronze, five silver and two gold medals in the national competition, and winning Gradam na Gaeltachta on three occasions.

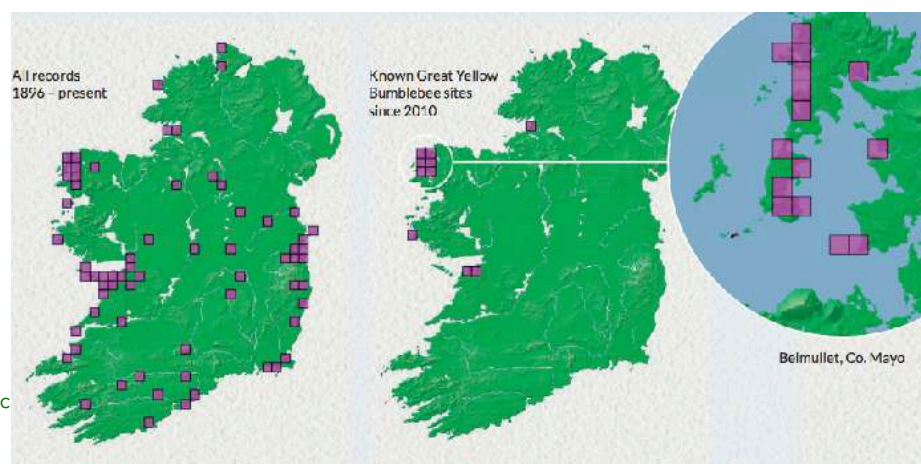
Baile Slachtmhar Bhéal an Mhuirthead have been endeavouring for some years to create an awareness of the wealth of wildlife to be

found on our doorstep and in recent years we have become more aware of the importance of bees to pollination, and are concerned about the decline in bee populations.

The Mullet Peninsula is home to Ireland's rarest bee – the Great Yellow bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) and is one of very few places in Europe with a sustainable population. Working in conjunction with Mayo County Council and Birdwatch Ireland, we are doing everything we can to show what can be done to help the Great Yellow Bumblebee and other pollinators.

In Ireland, the Great Yellow Bumblebee was never common, but it was found across the island prior to 1960. It is now confined largely to the Mullet Peninsula

Top left image © Dara Stanley



Protecting Endangered Pollinators

The Great Yellow Bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) is in decline across Europe, with populations falling by more than 30% over the past 10 years. In Ireland, the Great Yellow Bumblebee was never common, but it was found across the island prior to 1960. With the large-scale replacement of hay meadows by silage, the flower-rich areas this bee needs have largely disappeared from the Irish landscape. It is now found only on the west coast, primarily on floral-rich coastal grasslands, such as machair. It is listed as Endangered in the Irish Regional Red List of Bees (2006) and as Vulnerable in the European Red List of Bees (2014).

Resources have been produced to help communities protect the Great Yellow Bumblebee. On this page, you will find:

- Guideline document: *Protecting rare pollinators: Great Yellow Bumblebee*
- Poster or information panel
- Print-ready signage templates
- A pdf talk on the Great Yellow Bumblebee that can be downloaded and delivered to interested groups

Download a copy of this booklet and signage templates (below) here:

<https://pollinators.ie/helping-endangered-pollinators/great-yellow-bumblebee/>



Mayo County Council kindly sponsored this great information poster on the Great Yellow Bumblebee. To request copies, please contact
Deirdre Cunningham,
Heritage Officer,
Mayo Co. Council





Social Croí Mhuire, Belmullet

Following training workshops in 2018, our mentor, Dr Karina Dingerkus, from Giorra Environmental, encouraged us to apply for the National 'Together for Biodiversity Awards 2019'. Our project 'It's all about the Bees and the Seas' aimed to create more awareness of the wealth of biodiversity in our area, and to our delight we won the **Small Community Project Award** and this win encouraged us to enter the Pollinator Award for the first time in 2019.



Willow tunnel



Herb Garden



Baile Slachtmhar Bhéal an Mhuirthead Biodiversity Cycle

Drawing on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, we first identified 10 sites within Belmullet town that we could maintain under a pollinator-friendly regime. This includes:

- Reduced mowing
- Maintaining and planting natural meadows
- Planting hedgerows
- Planting orchards
- Planting spring-flowering bulbs
- Creating a herb garden
- Constructing bare earth banks, bug hotels and nesting sites for solitary bees
- Reduced use of pesticides and other chemicals
- Planting an organic food garden
- Planting a willow tunnel
- Collaborating with Erris Bee Keepers and other community groups
- Organising community training
- Giving advice and tips through social media
- Holding an exhibition of our wildlife photographs
- Hosting heritage and nature trails
- Engaging with MSLETB to offer ecotourism as an adult education module

Having had a really positive response to our 'Bees and Seas' photographic exhibition, the next stage of our biodiversity cycle will include, bringing training to a much wider audience of young people, farmers, gardeners, tourism and accommodation providers, and implementing the recently published guidelines on protecting the Great Yellow Bumblebee. In doing so, we hope to create a more sustainable future for both wildlife and residents in Belmullet and on the Mullet Peninsula, where we are all endangered species!

The team after their win at the Tidy Towns awards in September 2019 at the Helix in Dublin.





Kilkenny – a bee-friendly city

Keep Kilkenny Beautiful (KKB), Kilkenny City's Tidy Towns group, were really honoured to receive the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Local Authority Pollinator Award 2019 under the large town category for the south-east of Ireland.

We have been working for many years to improve biodiversity and increase the range of pollinator-suitable plants throughout our city. We have also tried to encourage early or late-flowering plants, which extend the season for pollinators. There have been many successes and also some unexpected results, which we would like to share with you.

It has been really heartening to see the re-establishment of wild beehives in our city. These hives have survived a number of winters and continue to thrive notwithstanding the potential damage caused by the Varroa mite.

Peter Bluett, Chair of Keep Kilkenny Beautiful, explains how they have made Kilkenny a pollinator-friendly city



Top: the 'bee motorway' at Kilkenny Castle Park
Below: Forget-me-not at Dukesmeadows Wildflower Park

Members of St Kieran's College TY group getting ready for action



Plant-based wall painting at the good Earth Store, Kieran Street.

Bees can be quite smart in the selection of their hive location. Unfortunately, but in an exciting way, they moved into a number of large owl boxes which had been put in place in Kilkenny Castle park to encourage owl nesting. To make up for this, we commissioned three new owl boxes from the Kilkenny Men's Shed.

We are fortunate to have a large number of wildflower grassland areas along the river Nore. KKB is working with Dukesmeadows residents Association and Kilkenny County Council to maintain and enhance Dukesmeadows wildflower Park as a fantastic community resource. The wildflower areas also extend to

the canal walk, Lacken walk, Bishop's Meadows, Richview and Talbot's Inch. The aim is to have just one grass cut a year (outside the flowering season) to encourage wildflowers. Residents have had to learn about the importance of not cutting too often so that wildflowers can be encouraged.

Rothe House garden is a wonderful visitor destination also. The aim is to maintain the garden without use of chemicals and to maximise pollinators by using in many cases historic plants which would have been typical in the 17th century medieval kitchen garden. KKB worked closely with Future Proof Kilkenny in developing and implementing the *Kilkenny*



Bee theme at St. Patrick's Day parade 2019.



Grass is cut just once a year at County Hall, to allow wildflowers to grow as food for pollinators and to also provide nesting habitat for bumblebees.



St John's Church planted wildflower area



Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) Network helping with removal of the invasive Himalayan Balsam.



Wildflowers and apple trees at Rothe House garden

400 *Fruit Tree Project* in 2010 which marked the 400th Anniversary of the Signing of the Kilkenny City Charter. We planted 400 native and heritage varieties of Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry and other types of fruit trees in new orchards throughout the city and environs.

We continue with extensive fruit tree planting, including the establishment of two new community orchards, one at Waterford Road and the second at Bennettsbridge Road, with a third community orchard commenced at Glendine.

We liaise with up to 80 different housing estates/communities throughout Kilkenny city and have encouraged many estates to undertake substantial planting, including apple, pear, cherry and various fruit bushes.

Kilkenny city has a relatively compact urban centre, however it has a range of important habitats which are



Wildflower bank on Ring Road



Owl box at Castle park now being used as a wild bee hive



Wildflowers at entrance to Glendine Heights



Wild cherries on
Bennetsbridge Road

attractive to pollinators. This is reflected also in the number and range of birds, which are much more extensive and varied within the city area. We work closely with BirdWatch Ireland Kilkenny branch throughout the year.

A recent project we commenced is the re-wilding of a number of the riverbanks on the River Breagh by planting Willow cuttings. Willow is a very early flowering tree which is attractive to pollinators early in the season when there are very few other flowers. Students in St Kieran's College TY Tidy Towns group have been working with us on this project.

We also work hard to remove invasive weeds which tend to smother out native species. A good example of this is the removal of Himalayan Balsam from the river Nore and Breagh riverbanks. Over the last number of years we have succeeded in controlling this species to a point where native plant species have again been able to grow. When we started this task, it looked like it was going to be impossible, however, with some persistence over a number of years we have been successful. The impossible sometime takes a little bit longer!

Keep Kilkenny Beautiful celebrate their win!



Sneem - counting their bumblebees and awards

Sharon Evans explains what their 2019 award means to Sneem Tidy Towns



Juanita Browne, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan; Sharon Evans and Jane O'Sullivan, Sneem Tidy Towns, winners of the South and Mid-west regional Pollinator Award 2019, and Dr Una FitzPatrick, National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Sneem Tidy Towns were so thrilled to win a pollinator award again for 2019.

Boosted by our All-Ireland Pollinator Plan win last year, our Tidy Towns Working Group have continued to meet regularly.

It was recommended in the Tidy Towns Adjudication Report that we should update our Biodiversity Action Plan. This we completed in April thanks to funding from Kerry County Council's Community Support Fund. Niamh Ní Dhúill from Natural Kitchen Gardens, toured the village with us in January and gave us some very practical suggestions on how to proceed with areas within the village which were already established and ideas for new wildlife corridors to encourage biodiversity.

Niamh Ní Dhúill then returned with Ian McGrigor from Gortbrack Organic Farm, this resulted in a very practical working document. Our €1000 winnings included funding for a visit

from Niamh to St. Michael's National School under the Heritage in Schools Scheme to advise them on implementing the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We applied to Leader for funding to employ Ian to help us in developing plans for a Community Orchard with native hedges, nuts and child-friendly berries and an educational wildlife haven in the field beside St. Michael's church.

In 2018 we planted our first pollinator-friendly flower bed on the North Square Fair Green. In 2019 we redid an existing bed in the South Square Fair Green to create a second pollinator bed. We also planted wildflower seed in the two beds alongside Sneem Digital Hub. These all flowered and looked wonderful this summer and autumn and more importantly, were full of bees and other pollinating insects. This year, more pollinator-friendly plants were included in window boxes and containers, such as



Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme workshop in Sneem, 2019

nasturtiums, bidens and bacopa. A special mention to all those who quietly went about tidying, deadheading, watering and weeding, your efforts were greatly appreciated. Thanks as always to Joe Murphy and the CE workers who look after the village so well.

In April, we invited Dr. Tomás Murray from the National Biodiversity Data Centre to deliver a Bumblebee Monitoring Workshop. This was a fascinating workshop which opened our eyes to the world of bumblebees. We have been working on our identification skills in 2019 with a view to setting up transects and carrying out monthly surveys in 2020 and submitting the results to the National Biodiversity Data Centre as part of the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme.

We have been getting familiar with bumblebees in our area. Two of the most common we see are the white-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*) and the common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*).

When trying to identify bumblebees, first look at the tip of the tail, then the thorax. The white-tailed bumblebee has a white tail and one yellow band on its thorax. The common carder bee has a fluffy ginger thorax. Once you get familiar with these two bumblebees, you might start seeing some with a white tail but two yellow bands on their thorax. These could be a Heath Bumblebee (*Bombus jonellus*) or a Garden Bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*).

You can tell them apart by looking at their faces - the garden bumblebee has a long horse-shaped face and the heath bumblebee has a short face. For more information, see the Crash Course on Bumblebee Identification: <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/id-guides/> or the new interactive course at <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/identifying-irish-bumblebees/lesson.html>

Everyone is encouraged to become a Citizen Scientist by submitting sightings to the biodiversityireland.ie website. The National Biodiversity Data Centre also have a handy app that you can download on your phone.

Our events for this year's Biodiversity Week are to include a butterfly monitoring workshop 16th May and a swift survey with Lynda Huxley on 12th and 13th June.



One of Sneem's new pollinator-friendly flower beds

Debunking some myths about Bees

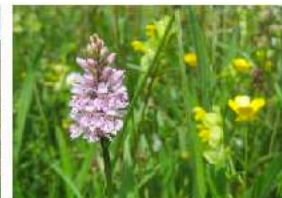
Are you doing the right thing to help?

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has received a huge amount of support across all sectors. We are incredibly grateful to each and every person who has answered the call to action. Thousands of positive changes have already been made to help address the critical problem of pollinator decline.

It is the beginning of a long journey, but pollinators are undoubtedly better off than before we all began this process. However, sometimes certain ideas can take hold that are not necessarily the most effective evidence-based actions. If you are generous enough to help we want to make sure that what you are doing is the right thing and is having as positive an impact as possible. Some common myths are addressed in this section 'Debunking bee myths'.

We need to manage the landscape in a way that provides these wild bees with the **food, shelter and safety** they need to survive

- ✓ As pollinators, they are a keystone group so protecting them helps protect biodiversity generally



The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan provides evidence-based actions for each sector outlining ways to help. See the website for more information:

www.pollinators.ie

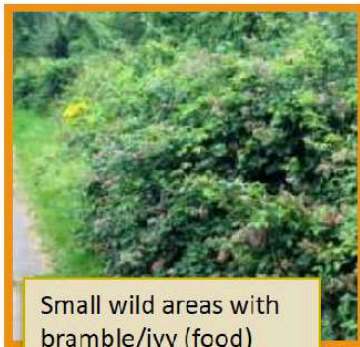
Debunking bee myths no. 1



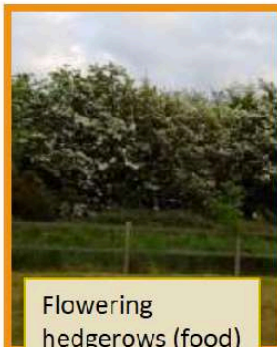
MYTH: I need to change what I am already doing



Protect what you have: Always think carefully about what already exists within the land you manage. Our landscape is full of little pockets of excellent habitat for pollinators. These might not be what we humans think of as good, but they are lifesavers to our insects. Always be careful not to replace what is already important!



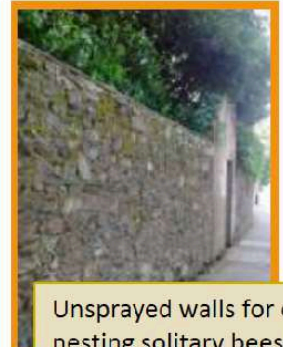
Small wild areas with bramble/ivy (food)



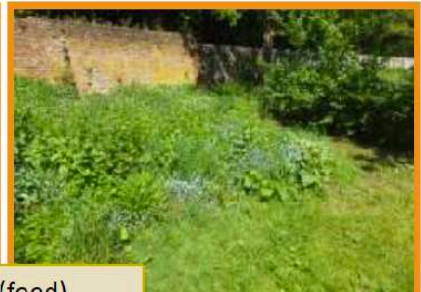
Flowering hedgerows (food)



Earth banks for mining solitary bees to nest (shelter)



Unsprayed walls for cavity nesting solitary bees (shelter)



Small patches of naturally occurring wildflowers (food)

To help bees, we must manage the landscape in a way that provides the **food, shelter and safety** they need to survive.

✓ As pollinators, bees are a keystone group so protecting bees helps protect all biodiversity generally.

Debunking bee myths no. 2

✗ MYTH: Honeybees need our help

✓ No, it is actually *wild* bumblebees and solitary bees that need our help.

Of our 98 *wild* bee species in Ireland, one-third are at risk of extinction:



- * There is just one species of Honeybee, and Honeybees are not in decline in Ireland.
- * Honeybees are a **managed** pollinator and are often classified as *livestock*.
- * **Adding honeybee hives to the landscape is NOT a biodiversity action.**
If you need more hives, you can get a new nucleus colony from existing stock.
But if we lose *wild* bees, they will be almost impossible to replace.
- * The number of beekeepers continues to increase. If we have too many hives in the landscape, honeybees will compete for food with *wild* bees, making their situation even more precarious.
- * Honeybees need care and attention from trained beekeepers because poorly managed hives can create a disease risk for wild bees.
- * To maintain pollination services, we need an abundance and diversity of wild bees and other pollinating insects, in combination with healthy honeybees.
- * Beekeeping is extremely important. You should keep honeybees if you want to make honey or to start a new hobby, but please don't do so if your sole motivation is to conserve bees or biodiversity.

Debunking bee myths no. 3

✗ MYTH: It's difficult to provide food for bees

✓ It couldn't be easier!

We know the flowers on which our wild bees are most dependent.
Even by simply taking these actions, you can help:

- ✓ Reduce grass-cutting so that Dandelion, Clover (Red and White) Knapweed and Bird's-foot-trefoil have a chance to grow



✓ Plant some Willow to flower in early spring

- ✓ If you have wild corners, tolerate some Bramble and Bush Vetch



✓ Add some pollinator-friendly plants to your garden e.g., Lavender, Comfrey



Ireland's wild bees – favourite food in 2019!



(based on 1,500 bee records submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2019)

Top 10 plants across the year:

In order of number of submitted foraging sightings:

1. Dandelion
2. Bramble
3. Bush Vetch
4. Knapweed
5. Lavender
6. Bird's-foot-trefoil
7. Clover (Red & White)
8. Willow
9. Cotoneaster
10. Comfrey

Debunking bee myths no. 4



MYTH: Hanging baskets/planters can't be pollinator-friendly



While traditionally used annual bedding plants are not pollinator friendly, because they don't offer pollen or nectar, the good news is that by adding two excellent plants, your planters will look just as good *and* provide food for pollinators.

NOT GOOD FOR POLLINATORS



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

Mix the following plants into your hanging basket to make it pollinator-friendly: Bidens, Bacopa



Bacopa



Bidens



Debunking bee myths no. 5



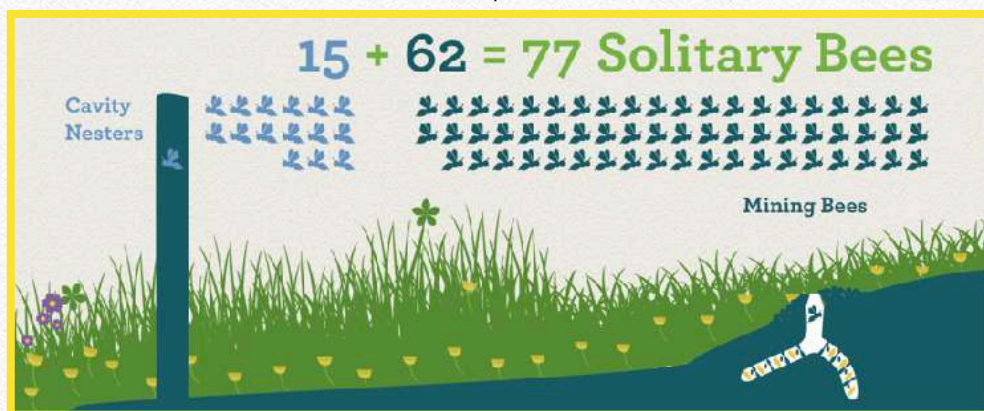
MYTH: A very large bee hotel is a good action to help bees

Small bee hotels should be placed 1.5-2m off the ground in a sheltered south or east facing location

- They must be close to food sources – solitary bees don't fly far!
- You'll know your box is being used if the cavity entrances have been closed off with pieces of leaf or mud. If it's not being used consider moving it to a new location



Bee nest boxes only target a small number of our cavity-nesting solitary bees. Don't forget that 80% (62 species) of our solitary bees nest in bare ground which is even easier to create by scraping back vegetation!



Debunking bee myths no. 6



MYTH: Not cutting the grass is not working - I need to plant wildflower seed!

Natural meadows:

- ✓ Reducing mowing is the most cost-effective way to help pollinators
- ✓ Can provide food from spring through to autumn

Options:



A: Long-flowering meadow – one cut and lift per year

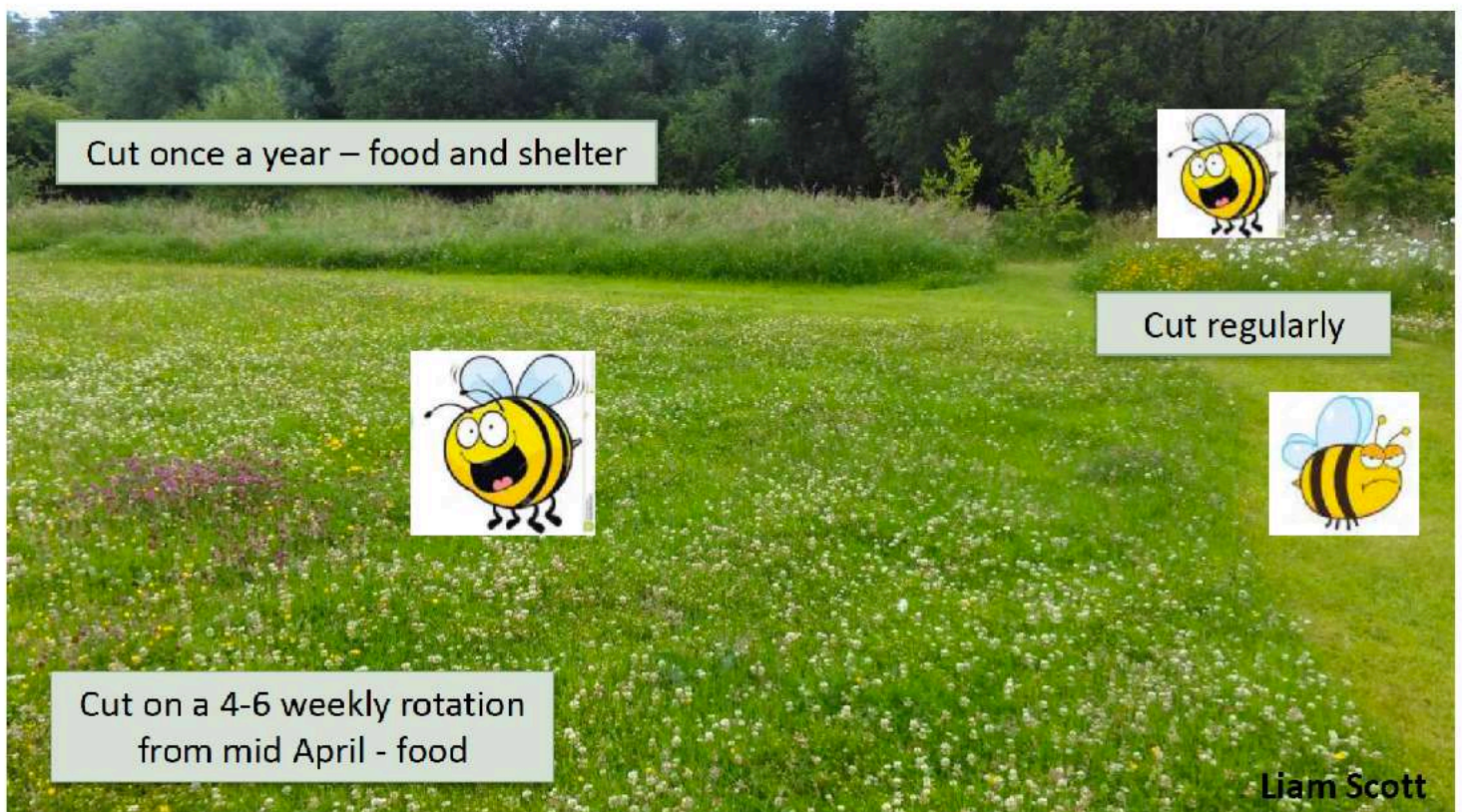


B: Short-flowering '6-week meadow' – cut and lift



C: Let the Dandelions bloom! Cut as normal but delay first cut to allow Dandelions to flower in March-April

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





One of our Pollinator Plan champions Donna Rainey took these photographs of a lawn in Co. Mayo last summer. It just shows the potential of reduced mowing. The house was probably built on an traditional hay meadow, so when the owners left a patch unmown, this array of wildflowers appeared.



Meadow myth: this doesn't look good to me so it mustn't be working!

Meadows don't have to look spectacular to humans to be good for pollinators!



Meadow myth: If I stop cutting the grass it'll be lovely straight away and I won't have to do anything else!

Natural meadows still need some management and you have to be patient



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE MEADOW

We have never planted wildflower seed. This meadow is natural – we simply mow once in September and remove the cuttings

In the initial years we manually removed these species:



Ragwort



Docks



Nettles



Hogweed

It can take up to 7 years for areas of grass to develop into a stable flower-rich meadow. The annual cut in September must be removed to reduce soil fertility over time and give the wildflower seeds in the soil a chance to compete with the grass.

Most natural meadows take a number of years to develop!

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE MEADOW



Year 1-2 (mainly grass)



By year 4 (mix grass & wildflowers)



It will never look like this – but this is not a natural habitat and is not better for pollinators

The annual cut in September should be removed to reduce soil fertility over time. Over a number of years the meadow will naturally become more flower-rich on its own with local species that are adapted to the site's conditions.

Other meadow tips:



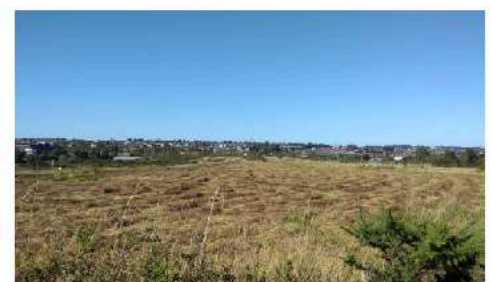
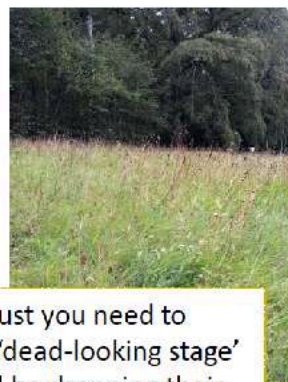
If you don't want a full meadow it is fine to cut around where flowers are naturally growing.



If the grass growth is very strong cut sooner e.g. in July and again in September. After a few years as soil fertility is lowered, this earlier cut will no longer be necessary and one cut at the end of the summer will be enough.



In mid-late August you need to **persevere** with the 'dead-looking stage' as many plants will be dropping their seed now. If you let this happen you'll have more flowers the following year.



Where possible, let the annual cut lie for a few days before lifting, again so that the seeds have a chance to disperse. However, don't worry if this is simply not practical.

Debunking bee myths no. 7



MYTH: There is no easy way to track if my actions are having a positive impact

The National Biodiversity Data Centre runs various monitoring schemes that you can participate in <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/>

The simplest one only takes 10 minutes of your time!



This survey takes place between April and September. Repeat across the year and in future years to see how your site is doing. For more information visit the website and click on the link:



Visit the website to learn more:

<https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count/>

FIT Count Instructions

- This survey takes place between the beginning of April and the end of September. Wait for a good day. The weather should be warm and dry. If the sky is clear (less than half cloud) the minimum temperature for a count is 13°C. If the sky is cloudy (half cloud or more) the minimum temperature for a count is 15°C.
- Find a location containing target flowers. Your location can be anywhere e.g., garden, farm, park, school. You will need to watch insects in a 50cm by 50cm square patch. Try to select one of these flowers: Buttercup, Dandelion, Fleawort, Bramble, Lavender, Hogweed, Knapsweed, Ragwort, White clover, Red Clover, Butterfly bush, Heather, Thistle, Ivy. If you cannot find any of these flowers at your location it is fine to choose another flower that is attracting insects.
- Take a photo of your target flower patch.
- Use one of the recording forms in this bi to information about the weather and your
- Set a timer for 10 minutes. Stand close to insects landing on the flowers but don't prevent insects from visiting.
- Count every insect that lands on one of the 50x50cm patch. Try to count each insect from flower to flower in your patch (if of insects. If you can, put them into the don't expect you to be an expert, we just
- Add your results to the online data-sub <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/>
- If you can carry out multiple counts e.g. the year that would be fantastic and will counts are those that are repeated over. You can use different target flowers at d

4. FIT Count

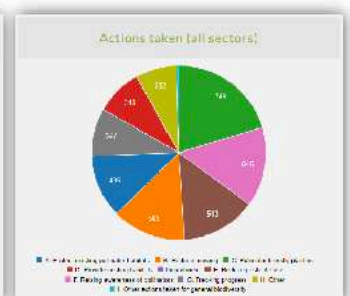
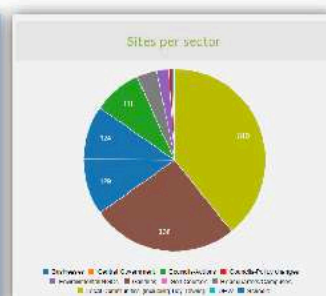
Once you are ready to start, check your timer so that you can record for exactly ten minutes. Please count **EVERY** insect that you see that **LANDS** on one of your target **FLOWERS** (if you're not sure what type it is just add it to the "Other insects" category). Please try to count each individual insect just once, and try not to lean over the flowers you are watching, as this can cast shadows and prevent insects approaching.

Time of count start: _____

Insect group	Tally of number seen: IIII = 7, etc.
Bumblebees	
Honeybees	
Solitary bees	
Wasps (including)	

Don't forget to register your actions and put your pollinator-friendly location on the map

<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie>



Top 10 tips to help your entry for the Local Authority Pollinator Award



The Local Authority Pollinator Award is a special Tidy Towns award, sponsored by the Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland.

www.pollinators.ie

1. Please fill in the proper application form completely.

- Some entrants do not fill in the application form but provide their own project descriptions/presentation. Unfortunately no matter how impressive these entries are, this makes it very difficult to judge one application against the next.
- Every question should be answered as points are awarded for each question.
- Please tell us about the work that you are doing in partnership with your Local Authority to support pollinators. Many local authorities are very involved in projects to protect pollinators, and are a great source of advice, information and grants. Contact your local Heritage Officer or Biodiversity Officer, and don't forget to let us know about it in your application form. It may be worth a few extra points!

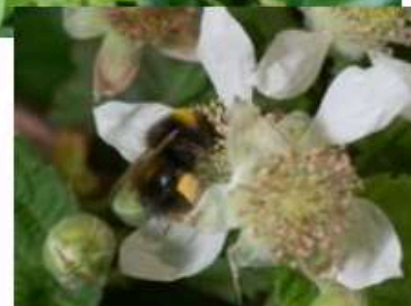
2. Try to adopt a whole-town approach to your Pollinator Award entry

Where a project is limited to a small area, for example one town park, this can only compare poorly with entrants who have taken a whole-town approach, with pollinator-friendly sites at various spots around the area.



3. Remember to protect what you already have

This is a very important aspect of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan—to protect what you already have (Action 1). Care should be taken not to remove good habitat in favour of new planting. In the past, some groups have removed areas of bramble and ivy—which are already really important food sources for bees and replaced them by planting wildflower seed. In such cases, we would encourage you to try to keep the bramble and ivy where possible, and choose different areas for new planting schemes. This will increase your bee area



4. Don't forget to protect your hedgerows

We cannot overestimate the importance of flowering hedgerows (Action 12). Flowering hedgerows that contain Hazel, Willow, Blackthorn and Hawthorn provide food in spring when wild bees come out of hibernation. Bramble is a good source of food in summer, and Ivy in the autumn. Bumblebees often nest in long grass at the base of hedgerows.



Native flowering hedgerow plants that are good for pollinators:



5. Nesting habitats

Creating nesting sites doesn't just mean bug hotels. Bare earth banks will attract our 62 species of mining solitary bees – many more species than catered for by bee hotels.



Bigger isn't always better!

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommends smaller bee hotels. The very large hotels can be more susceptible to pests and disease.

See our How-to-guide 'Creating wild pollinator nesting habitat' for more details.

6. Make sure your planting follows our Pollinator-friendly Planting Code

There are useful plant lists at the back of our 'Local Communities' guidelines, and the longer Planting Code is available at www.pollinators.ie/Resources. Daffodils and tulips produce negligible pollen and nectar so they are not beneficial in pollinator-friendly planting schemes. Care should also be taken to select local provenance when sourcing native wildflower seed, trees and shrubs.



How do you know if a plant is pollinator friendly?

- Single instead of double flowered varieties: double flowered varieties provide almost no nectar and pollen for pollinators
- Perennials over annuals: perennial plants are generally better sources of pollen and nectar
- Do you see pollinators visiting it? When choosing plants to buy at a garden centre, you will quickly realise what flowers pollinators visit most. Also keep an eye out for the Royal Horticultural Society's "Perfect for Pollinators" logo, which is now used by many suppliers of garden plants



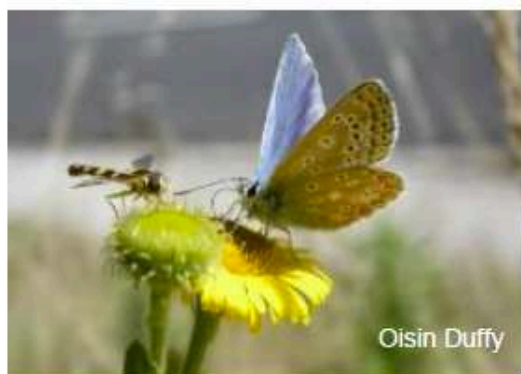
Info Box:

Daffodils or Tulips are not a good source of food for pollinators. Bees will only use Daffodils if there are no other food sources available.



Info Box:

Traditional bedding plants like Geraniums, Begonias, Busy Lizzy, Petunias, Polyanthus or Salvia splendens have virtually no pollen and nectar and are of little value to pollinators.



Oisín Duffy

PLEASE NOTE: The more information you can give us in your application form to explain what actions you're taking the better. Remember, we won't know anything about your pollinator project unless you include it in your application.

7.

Don't forget that hanging baskets or planters can also be planted with pollinator-friendly plants such as Verbena and Bacopa.

Even small planters and window boxes can be planted with pollinator-friendly species.



A NOTE ON PESTICIDES:

While the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommends the reduction or elimination of pesticides where possible, it must also be noted that **it is necessary** to use pesticides to treat certain invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed.

Please engage with your local authority in relation to mapping and treatment of Invasive species.



Anneke Vrieling



Info Box:

If we could learn to love Dandelions and see them as a welcome splash of colour many more of our pollinators would survive spring

8. Please include a map and captioned photographs with your application.

By including a marked map of your town or village, and well captioned photographs you will help us to fully understand your pollinator actions.



9. We have some new tools to help create awareness of pollinators

For the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 to be successful we need to raise public awareness so that people know the importance of pollinators and understand why we all need to take action. Local communities can play a vital role in this regard.

Our newest How-to-guide explains how to make a Pollinator Plan for a school.

Both this new How-to-guide and the Junior version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan can be downloaded from our website, www.pollinators.ie



NEW VIDEOS AND ANIMATIONS

With the support of the Heritage Officers of Kildare, Tipperary, Wicklow, and Waterford County Councils, we have produced some videos and an animation to help explain the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Please help to show/share these in your community and through social media. See www.pollinators.ie or <https://www.youtube.com/user/biodatacentre>

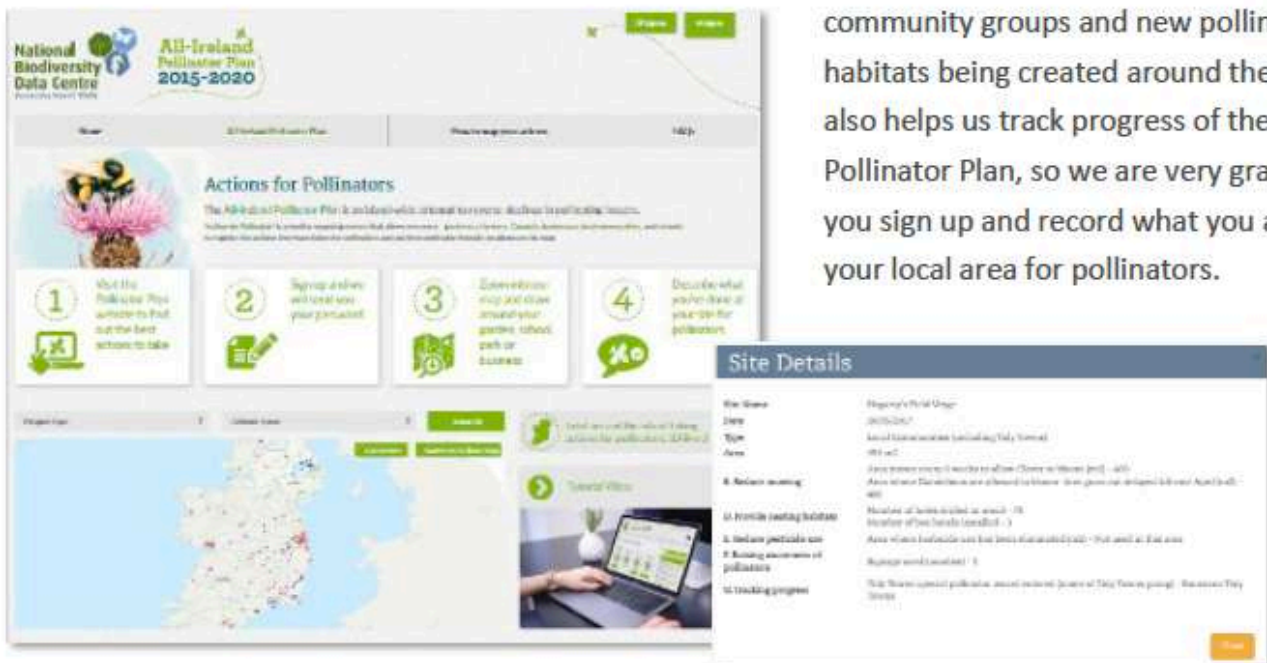


10. Make sure you tell us about your good work— log your actions for Pollinators on our online mapping system

We would like to encourage you to log your actions for pollinators on our online mapping system:

<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>

This helps us to track the amazing work of community groups and new pollinator-friendly habitats being created around the country. It also helps us track progress of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, so we are very grateful when you sign up and record what you are doing in your local area for pollinators.



Our guidelines for Local Communities explain in detail 24 evidence-based actions that will help pollinators in your area.

By studying these in detail before carrying out works you will take the correct actions!

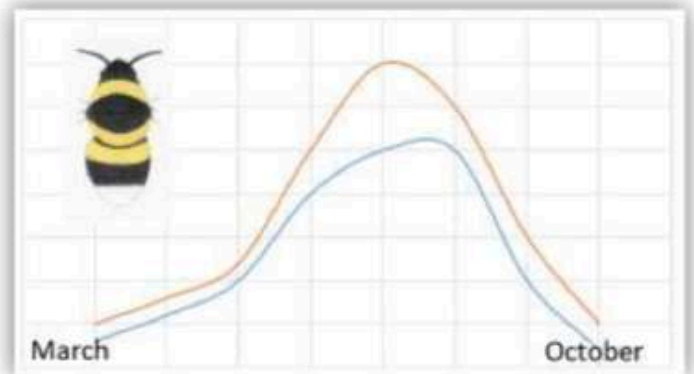


www.pollinators.ie

Bumblebee monitoring scheme

Action 23: Take part in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme. Identify interested people and set up at least one bumblebee monitoring scheme walk within your local community. In this scheme volunteers walk a fixed 1-2km route once a month between March and October and record the diversity and abundance of bumblebees that they see. The scheme is run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre who provide full support and training.

The scheme is vital in tracking what is happening with wild pollinators in the landscape, and can be used to assess the effectiveness of any pollinator-friendly actions that are being taken locally. If interested in taking part please contact: info@biodiversityireland.ie



The Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme supports and co-ordinates a network of volunteers across the island of Ireland. In collaboration with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in Northern Ireland, the scheme now records >13,000 bumblebees from >100 sites each year.



Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme sites in 2017 (blue circles, ongoing yellow triangles, new in 2017)



Don't be afraid! Everyone can take part in monitoring bumblebees, from bumble beginners to experienced recorders. See how to get involved at: <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/>



Citizen Science Pollinator Monitoring

www.pollinators.ie

**National
Biodiversity
Data Centre**

Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



Flower-Insect Timed Count (*FIT Count*)

Watch a 50x50cm
patch of flowers
for 10 minutes and
record how many
insects visit.

There are concerns that the numbers of pollinating insects such as bees and flies are declining, but we need more data to be able to track changes in abundance. You can help by doing a Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) which is designed to collect new data on the numbers of flower-visiting insects.

NIEA Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency
www.dair-ni.gov.uk



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.dair-ni.gov.uk



This survey is a collaboration between the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

FIT Count Instructions

-  This survey takes place between the beginning of April and the end of September. Wait for a good day. The weather should be warm and dry. If the sky is clear (less than half cloud) the minimum temperature for a count is 13°C. If the sky is cloudy (half cloud or more) the minimum temperature for a count is 15°C.
-  Find a location containing target flowers. Your location can be anywhere e.g., garden, farm, park, school. You will need to watch insects in a 50cm by 50cm square patch. Try to select one of these flowers: Buttercup, Dandelion, Hawthorn, Bramble, Lavender, Hogweed, Knapweed, Ragwort, White clover, Red Clover, Butterfly-bush, Heather, Thistle, Ivy. If you cannot find any of these flowers at your location it is fine to choose another flower that is attracting insects.
-  Take a photo of your target flower patch.
-  Use one of the recording forms in this booklet and fill in the background information about the weather and your flower patch.
-  Set a timer for 10 minutes. Stand close enough to the patch so that you can see insects landing on the flowers but don't lean over the top of the patch as this can prevent insects from visiting.
-  Count every insect that **lands on** one of the flowers of your **target species** within the 50x50cm patch. Try to count each individual insect just once. If a bumblebee goes from flower to flower in your patch that just counts as one. Count the total number of insects. If you can, put them into the different groups on the recording form (we don't expect you to be an expert, we just ask that you do this as best you can).
-  Add your results to the online data submission system at:
<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/fit-count>
-  If you can carry out multiple counts e.g. once a month or even once a week during the year that would be fantastic and will add value to your data. The most useful counts are those that are repeated over time at the same location (or very nearby). You can use different target flowers at different times of year.

Target Flowers

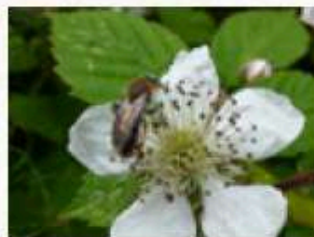
Where possible, try to do your FIT Count on one of the 14 flower species listed in the table below. You don't have to find a large patch of the target flower, and the target flower can either be growing in a patch all of the same flower, or among different flower species.

Main Flowering Time	Target Flower Name	Flower Type
Apr to Sep	Buttercup - <i>Ranunculus species</i>	individual flowers
Apr to Sep	Dandelion - <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	flower head
Apr to Jun	Hawthorn/Whitethorn - <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	individual flowers
May/Jun to Sep	Bramble (Blackberry) - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	individual flowers
Jun to Aug	Lavender (English) - <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	flower spike
Jun to Sep	Hogweed - <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	umbel
Jun to Sep	Common Knapweed - <i>Centaurea nigra</i>	flower head
Jun to Sep	Ragwort - <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	flower head
Jun to Sep	White Clover - <i>Trifolium repens</i>	flower head
Jun to Sep	Red Clover - <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	flower head
Jul to Sep	Butterfly-bush - <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	flower spike
Jul to Sep	Heather - <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> or <i>Erica species</i>	flower spike
Jul to Sep	Thistle - <i>Cirsium</i> or <i>Carduus</i>	flower head
Sep	Ivy - <i>Hedera helix</i>	flower head

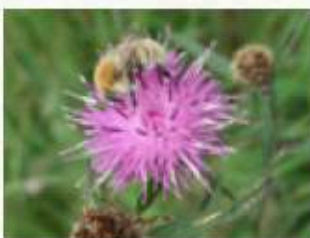
If you cannot find any of these flowers at your location it is fine to choose another flower that is attracting insects.



Lavender



Bramble



Knapweed



Butterfly-bush



Using a quadrat with Dandelion as the target flower. This quadrat has 3 flower heads - don't count those that have gone to seed.

FIT Count Field Recording Form

A Flower-Insect Timed Count can be carried out at any time of day between the beginning of April and the end of September, wherever a suitable target flower can be found, and when the weather is dry and warm:

- If sky is **clear** (less than half cloud) the minimum temperature for a count is **13°C**
- If sky is **cloudy** (half cloud or more) the minimum temperature for a count is **15°C**

1. About you

Your name: _____

- ☐ I am new to identifying wildlife
- ☐ I am familiar with identifying some wildlife (e.g. birds or butterflies) but not most pollinating insects
- ☐ I am familiar with recognising the main **groups** of pollinating insect
- ☐ I am confident in identifying the commonly-occurring pollinating insects **to species level**

2. Date and location of count

Date of count: _____

Location name (e.g. town/village, not full address): _____

Grid ref if known (or select from online map later): _____




Habitat (tick one box that is the best match):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Amenity grassland (usually mown short) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm crops or grassy pastures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland with trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Upland bog/heath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchyard | <input type="checkbox"/> Lowland bog/heath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassy verge or hedgerow edge | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste ground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassland with wild flowers (e.g. meadow) | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland |

☐ Other habitat type (please describe): _____

3. Target flower (from the list on the previous page if possible)

Which target flower have you chosen?

- ☐ Target flowers cover less than half of 50x50cm patch 
- ☐ Target flowers cover about half of patch 
- ☐ Target flowers cover more than half of patch 

Number of
flowers in patch:

I counted: ☐ individual flowers



☐ flower heads



☐ flower umbels



☐ flower spikes




Is your 50x50cm patch of target flowers:

- ☐ Growing in a larger patch of the same flower
- ☐ Growing in a larger patch of many different flowers
- ☐ More or less isolated

4. FIT Count

Once you are ready to start, check your timer so that you can record for exactly ten minutes. Please count **EVERY** insect that you see that **LANDS** on one of your **TARGET FLOWERS** (if you're not sure what type it is just add it to the "Other insects" category). Please try to count each individual insect just once, and try not to lean over the flowers you are watching, as this can cast shadows and prevent insects approaching.

Time of count start: _____

Insect group	Tally of number seen:  = 7, etc.
Bumblebees	
Honeybees	
Solitary bees	
Wasps (including <i>ichneumon</i> wasps)	
Hoverflies (including 'non-typical' hoverflies)	
Other flies	
Butterflies and moths	
Beetles (larger than 3mm)	
Small insects (such as pollen beetles) less than 3mm long	
Other insects	

5. Weather conditions

Sky above your location:

- ☐ All or mostly blue
☐ Half blue and half cloud
☐ All or mostly cloud

During the 10-minute count, was your 50x50cm patch:

- ☐ Entirely in sunshine
☐ Partly in sun and partly shaded
☐ Entirely shaded

Wind strength (for all plants in area, not just target flowers):

- ☐ Leaves still/moving occasionally
☐ Leaves moving gently all the time
☐ Leaves moving strongly

Don't forget to take a photo of your target flower species and add your counts to the online form:

<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/fit-count>

(Please don't take photos during the count as this may disturb the visiting insects).

*This survey follows the methodology of the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme.
We thank them for their generosity in sharing resources.*

Becoming a business supporter

As part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, there is a framework within which businesses can sign up as a business supporter of the Pollinator Plan. Under this framework a business agrees to take one action within their first year and another two by 2020.



You might like to promote

the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to local businesses and encourage them to make their outdoor spaces pollinator friendly or to sponsor local pollinator-friendly actions, such as a roundabout, or a print run of guidelines to clients, gardeners or local schools.

Why not share our guidelines with other sectors in your area?

Download all our materials at www.pollinators.ie



National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



Contact

See our website
www.pollinators.ie

Follow us on Twitter
[@PollinatorPlan](https://twitter.com/PollinatorPlan)

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West Campus,
Carriganore, Waterford

(051) 306240

Email: Pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Heritage Officer Programme

— Celebrating 20 Years in Local Authorities —