

# Creating Town Pollinator Plans

## Case Study – Midleton Pollinator Plan

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**Cork  
County Council**  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

# Writing a Town Pollinator Plan

## Steps

- List Council managed open spaces i.e. parks, road verges, open spaces, flower beds etc. in the town and approaches
- Review appropriate pollinator supporting actions for each open space i.e. Protect existing – Regenerate – Replace
- Prescribe the appropriate achievable action for each site
- Log sites and the actions on Pollinators.ie
- Monitor implementation of the plan and review annually
- Be dynamic - update and alter the plan based on lessons learned at sites






## Midleton Pollinator Plan



East Cork Municipal District  
Cork County Council

# Include tables of location specific actions in Pollinator Plan

- Sample Action: Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

Midleton Pollinator Plan	
B. Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower	
Action	Location
Create meadows (one cut & lift per year)	Midleton Lodge Park Bailick Park (part of) Youghal Road/ N25 Triangle (part of)
Roadside verges managed as Meadows (one cut & lift per year)	R530 Ballymacorney Road Verges
*Introduce a layered mowing approach to other verges	Midleton Northern Relief Road Embankments Northern relief Road Verges
Short flowering '6-week meadows'	Ballynannan Woodland Walk path edges
	R567 Youghal Road Verges
	Rocky Road 'Small Area' (South of N25)
	Kennedy Park near River & Riparian Area
	Youghal Road to N25 Triangle (Part of)
*Similar actions will be undertaken at other locations as the plan develops	
 Pathways cut through Long flowering Meadows along desire lines and edges cut to form Meadows	
 Buff Toped Bumblebee on Self Heal	
 Opportunities for '6-week meadows'	

## Midleton Pollinator Plan - Action B Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

	Location	Action	Cut Frequency		
MPP1	Midleton Lodge Park	Create meadows (one cut & lift per year).	September only		
		Mow paths & frame with collection box mower very frequently			
MPP2	Bailick Park (part of around Choctaw Monument)	Create meadows (one cut & lift per year).	September only		
		Mow paths & frame with collection box mower very frequently			
MPP3	Youghal Road at the N25 Triangle	Create meadows (one cut & lift per year).	September only		
		Mow paths & frame with collection box mower very frequently			
MPP4	Youghal Road GAA to N25 Triangle (Part of Eastern side)	Short flowering '6-week meadows'. Mow with collection box mower After 15th April	After 15th April. Where the management regime is a six week cut, the site should be subdivided and the sections cut in rotation to maintain floral availability.		
		Mow paths & frame with collection box mower very frequently			



## Maintenance Staff Engagement:

- Acknowledge the ask for a change in traditional open space maintenance methods
- Organize training & information via on site workshops, presentations and site walk overs
- Engage with feedback and concerns received from staff such as litter concerns in long grass, public perception that they are not keeping up with maintenance etc.
- Discuss and agree the framing of the meadows and designated pathways through which will be frequently cut by staff
- Plan and discuss how grass will be lifted at the end of season and where it will be disposed
- Pass on positive feedback received from the general public

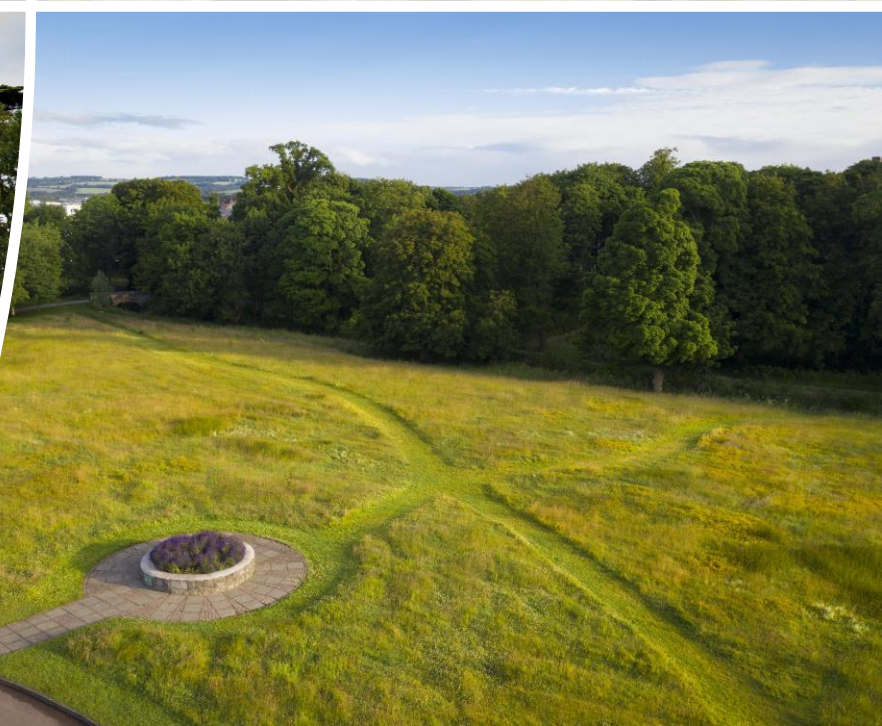




## Parks:

**Action:** Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

- Frequently cut frame and pathways on desire lines
- Always cut highly used open play areas & visitor areas
- Meadow cut & lift every September using a local Agri Contractor to cut, turn, bale and remove grass. Turning helps seeds drop as grass is baled on same day and not left on site
- Bales from one site go to a local farmer and at other sites due to dog fouling they go to a local composting facility
- Some small areas are left long for over wintering bumble bees





## Road Verges:

**Action:** Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

- Manage Road verges as long flowering meadows or 6-week short flowering meadows.
- Natural regeneration of seed banks – treasures waiting to be discovered in seed banks! No packet wildflower seeds here!!
- Cut & Lift long flowering meadow verges in September using a Zero Grazer hired from an Agri contractor which will cut, collect and remove cuttings
- Cuttings brought to nearby Waste Centre for composting
- Sightlines and drainage edges are always maintained cut throughout the season





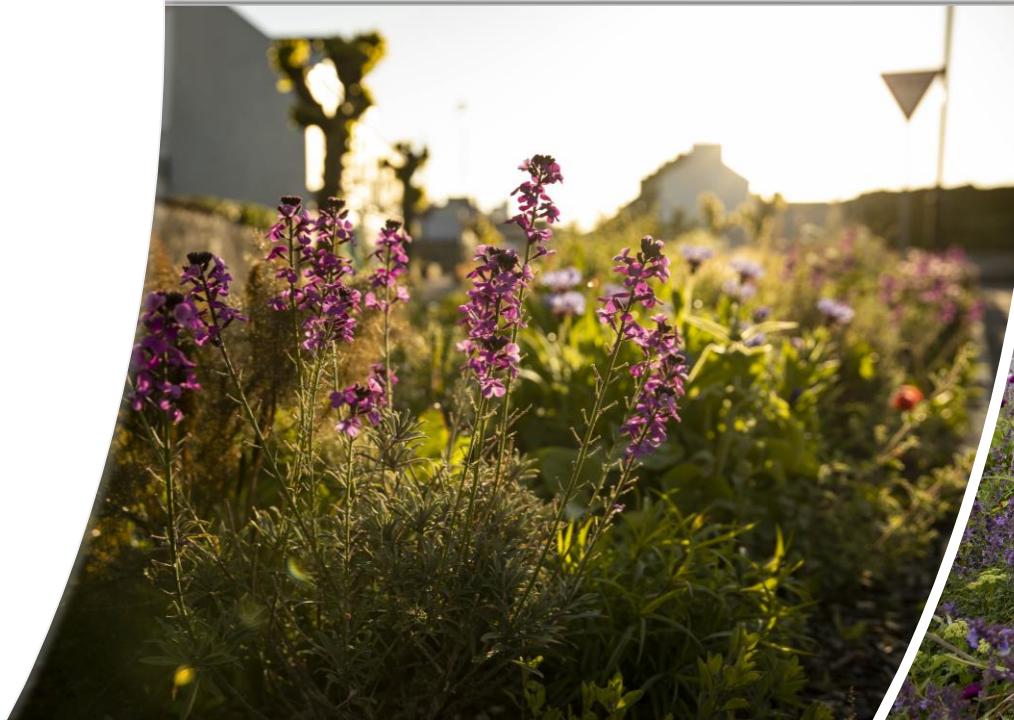
Various locations in Midleton Town:

**Action:** Plant Pollinator Friendly Beds,  
Trees & Bulbs

- Existing council maintained flower beds changed over from annuals and overmatured shrubbery to pollinator supporting perennial flower beds in a phased plan
- Perennial beds only requiring maintenance approximately 4 times a year now and left overwinter until early April when previous years growth is removed. Significantly less management required
- Pollinator friendly native trees and bulbs planted when opportunities arise



A bumblebee can only fly  
out 40 minutes  
in feeding stops. So  
if you allow  
a pollinator-  
friendly flower, shrub or  
plant, could be





# Ecological Monitoring:

Have a plan – but know its working

- Ecological monitoring, reporting and recommendations by professional ecologist - 5 sites..monthly monitoring
  - Transect surveys
  - Timed-Insect flower counts
- Training in Citizen Science for staff
- Log species with National Biodiversity Data Centre





# Monitoring - You never know what you might find!!



**Tom Gittings** @tfgittin... · 29/05/2021 ···

ESB "bee hotels" on the Midleton Northern Relief Road, with solitary bee/wasp nests in metal holes in the side of the boxes (at least 9 out of 16 occupied). Female *Ectemnius lapidarius* (solitary wasp) hanging around nearby.





# Public Engagement:

Have a plan – let everyone know

- Erect signage to provide information for all
- Schools mentorship and assistance with Biodiversity Green Flag, biodiversity walks etc
- Communications through Council social media channels to promote positive message
- Workshops for staff, contractors and service providers





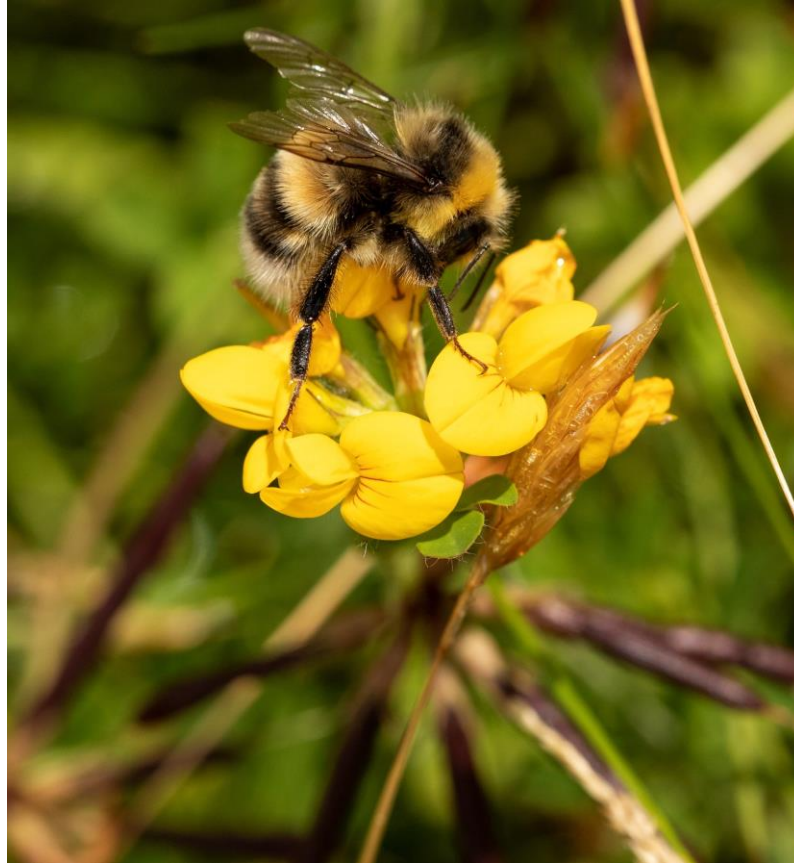
# More Town Pollinator Plans:

- 11 more towns
- Funded through NBAP
- New challenges in each town
- Plan leaders
- Supporting Implementation
  - FAQs Toolkit
  - Procuring equipment
  - Standardised signage

Challenge: Monitoring and Review





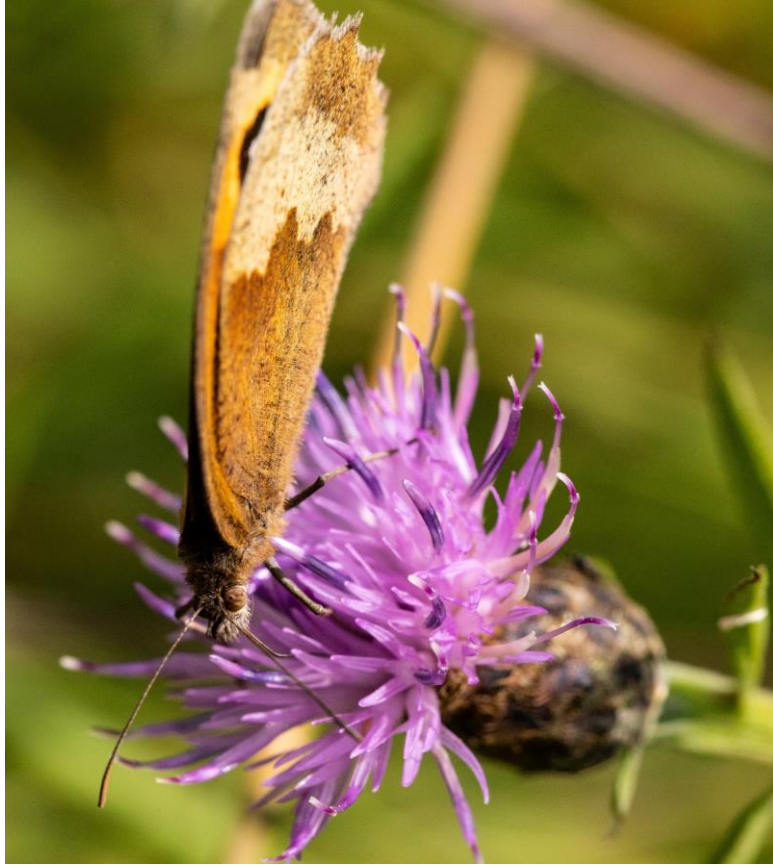


# Midleton Species Rich Pollinator sites

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Sample of recorded species





# Midleton Species Rich Pollinator sites

Sample of recorded species



# Thank You for listening

#allirelandpollinatorplan #dontmowyet

Photography Cathal Noonan



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