



## NEWSLETTER FOR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS: DECEMBER 2021

Dear All

We are delighted to welcome the following companies/organizations as business supporters of the AIPP.

*New business supporters include:* The Square Towncentre Tallaght, Boann Distillery, GMC Civil & Mechanical Engineering Ltd., North Cork Creameries, Maldron Hotel, Shandon Cork City and Hotel Solutions DMC.

Thanks to all of you for your support and we look forward to hearing what actions you have been taking for pollinators-biodiversity.

**Sarah Kelly**  
**Agri-business Officer**

\*The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#), managed by the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*, a Heritage Council programme, actively addresses the time-critical pollinator-biodiversity challenge. It is a shared plan of action for the island now in its sixth year, which builds on the targets within *The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy*, Ireland's *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021* (Objective 4) and Northern Ireland's *Biodiversity Plan to 2020*, to halt and reverse pollinator decline by 2030. It is also, aligned with Bord Bia's Origin Green programme with reference to 'pollinator actions', and supports members' biodiversity targets.

### 1. BEE WATCH: Winter Bumblebees

The normal lifecycle of most Irish bumblebees ends when the workers and males die

off and the newly mated queens hibernate through the cold winter months. However, in recent years, the Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) has been seen foraging during winter months in both Ireland and in southern Britain. It is not known for certain what exactly is causing this. You can help improve our understanding by letting us know if you spot winter-active bumblebee workers.

**PLEASE SUBMIT SIGHTINGS** to the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* here:  
<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/bumblebees>



## **2. IT'S HERE: Business Supporters Annual Review 2021**

The much anticipated Business Supporters Annual Review 2021 is complete.

The Business Supporters network continues to grow with an additional 142 companies joining the Plan in 2021 (up to end of October 2021). In joining, they commit to taking evidence-based actions for pollinators and reporting on their activities. This brought the total number of business supporters to 416. However, as of 2021, annual reporting for Businesses is now mandatory. To maintain the integrity of this network, those who did not submit an update of their activities in support of the Plan in 2021 have been removed from the supporters list (they can re-engage at any point). The adjustment is reflected in the overall figure for AIPP Business Supporters, which now stands at **327**.

These companies are all taking genuine actions for biodiversity.

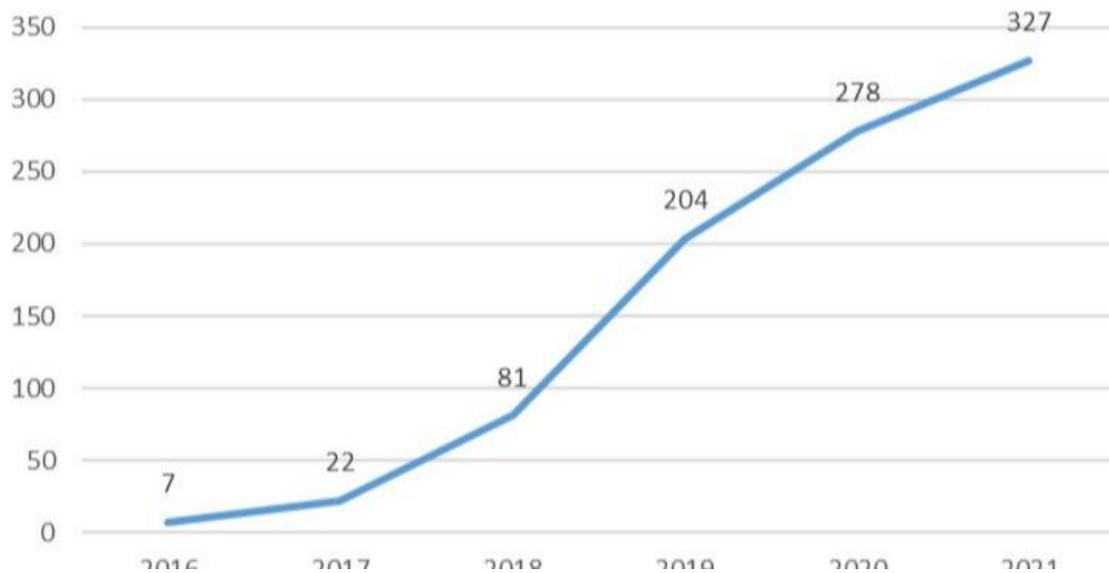
We thank all our Business Supporters and encourage you to read about the fantastic actions for pollinators-biodiversity they have delivered in 2021.

These are your stories. This is your report.

[\*\*READ THE BUSINESS SUPPORTERS ANNUAL REVIEW\*\*](#)

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## Growth in the number of AIPP business supporters



### 3. CHECK OUT WHAT COUNCILS ARE DOING IN YOUR AREA:

#### Council Partners Annual Review 2021

Annual reporting is a very important part of the AIPP and is carried out across all our networks of partners and supporters. This report shows the incredible work carried out by our Council Partners to support the Pollinator Plan in 2021. Each Council is different, as reflected in the differing focus and the very wide range of actions reported. What is very clear, is that Councils have embraced the Plan and are changing the way our landscape is managed for the better.

For each existing Council Partner, the point of contact was requested to provide up to five short bullet point updates on their activities in 2021. The photo below shows a native grassland meadow managed by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

### CAN YOUR BUSINESS SUPPORT WHAT COUNCIL IS DOING IN YOUR AREA?

[READ THE COUNCIL PARTNERS ANNUAL REVIEW HERE](#)



#### 4. CHAMPIONING POLLINATORS IN OUR TOWNS & VILLAGES:

##### Tidy Towns Pollinator Award Winners 2021

Local Communities continue to carry out inspiring work in support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Local Authority Pollinator Award aims to encourage Tidy Towns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the Tidy Towns competition. It is coordinated and sponsored by the Heritage Offices and Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

To date more than 200 communities have become pollinator friendly through the award. In 2021, 55% of entries were from new entrants.

Congratulations to ALL award winners but particularly to the overall 2021 winner, **Buncrana Tidy Towns** in County Donegal.

Other awards:

- **Best Newcomer:** Woodstown Village Residents Association
- **Regional Winners Large Town:** Dundalk, Ennis, Clonmel, Buncrana
- **Regional Winners Small Town:** Abbeyleix, Castlegregory, Leighlinbridge, Belmullet

**CAN YOUR BUSINESS SUPPORT TIDY TOWNS IN YOUR AREA?**

[READ MORE HERE](#)



#### 5. THE PARKS HAVE IT: 2021 Green Flag Pollinator Award for Parks Congratulations to Kilbarry Nature Park in Waterford City!

The Green Flag for Parks Pollinator Award is jointly run with An Taisce Environmental Education to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and is kindly sponsored by Young's Nurseries. There are pollinator awards across different park categories. The overall 2021 Pollinator Award went to Kilbarry Nature Park, managed by Waterford City & County Council. Management at the Nature Park have invested a lot of work in making the site more pollinator-friendly in recent years, including protecting large areas of natural biodiversity meadows, extensive native hedgerows, and elimination of pesticide use. It also encompasses an integrated wetland and all this on a remediated landfill! This Park is unique in being focused on nature yet offering a great public amenity area.

Congratulations to all the Category winners in 2021:

- **Country Park:** Wild Nephin Ballycroy NP Visitor Centre (National Parks & Wildlife Service)
- **Town Park:** Kilbarry Nature Park (Waterford City & County Council)
- **Community Garden:** Julianstown Community Garden (Julianstown & District Community Association)

[READ MORE HERE](#)



#### 6. THANK YOU to Juanita Browne

The AIPP was incredibly fortunate to have had Juanita Browne as Project Officer from 2017 until September 2021. Juanita made an enormous contribution throughout her time working on the Plan and has been truly instrumental in its success. On behalf of the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* and the AIPP Steering Group, we thank Juanita sincerely. We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with her over the last number of years and to have been able to draw on her unique skill set to get the AIPP to where it is today.

She will be sorely missed but we wish her all the very best for the future.

#### 7. TO DO: Plant a bare root apple tree

From November to March is a good time to plant bare root apple trees. Their spring blossoms provide food for pollinators, who in return ensure that you get a healthy crop of fruit in autumn. You can add a single tree (as in the photo below) or create a mini orchard. Where possible, it's good to try to source Irish heritage apple trees.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Solitary bee on apple  
©Andrew Malcolm

#### 8. THANK YOU & HAPPY XMAS

The second phase of the AIPP was launched at the end of March 2021. Already we

are seeing very positive engagement and real commitment from all our partners. Together with our partners, we have completed an Annual Review of the 186 actions in the new Plan for 2021. Many of these actions are either completed for this year or in train. We will make this review publicly available at the beginning of January.

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a *shared plan of action* to create an island where pollinators can survive and thrive. Its success is entirely due to your support, goodwill and enthusiasm. We extend our enormous thanks to everyone who has taken actions and engaged with the Plan this year. We look forward to lots more progress and new initiatives in 2022.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.



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