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NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2021

Dear All

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

New business supporters include: Nektr Technologies Ltd., Jacobs (Engineering), Shannon Airport Authority DAC, Shaffrey Landscaping Ltd., Barretstown Children's Charity, Slieve Elva B&B, Kleeman Tours, Fanad Lighthouse, Annaveigh Plants Ltd., Lagan Materials Ltd., Vinehall Displays, The Honeysuckle Bee and Me, Tricel, Sysco Ireland, Lough Mardal Lodge, George Best Belfast City Airport and Leahy's Open Farm.

It's **Annual Review** time, which is now MANDATORY and requires you to submit a short, sharp 250 words within 6 questions (see details below). We really appreciate that it has been a tough year/eighteen months for businesses so if you feel that your pollinator actions have had to take a *back seat* for the last year all we need is a response indicating 'No Actions due to Covid-19'. Those who have already submitted their report - **THANK YOU**.

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: Ivy bee

It has never been spotted in Ireland, but it is now common in Britain and seems likely to arrive on our shores very soon. This solitary bee has an autumn flight period to match the flowering of its favourite plant - Ivy. In Britain it can be found from early September until early November. It nests in south facing banks of light soil, you might even be lucky enough to have it set up home in your garden!

The Ivy bee is quite large and has very distinctive bands of white on the abdomen. To make it a little easier, most of our solitary bees have completed their life cycles now, although there will still be hoverflies, wasps and honeybees on the wing. If you think you have spotted this bee, please try to take a photograph and email it to

ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie for validation.

<http://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/watch-for-new-arrivals>



2. IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

AIPP Annual Review for Business Supporters

To maintain the integrity of the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025* in its new phase, **a mandatory 250-word Feedback Report is now required** on the pollinator-biodiversity actions delivered by your business/organization during 2021. The *National Biodiversity Data Centre* and the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan* team appreciate the enormous challenges businesses have faced in the past year and are so grateful for all your amazing and inspiring work on pollinator-biodiversity!

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK REPORT by completing the 6 short questions in the [Annual Review Questionnaire](#) and submit to skelly@biodiversityireland.ie by **Friday 15 October 2021**

THANK YOU - to those who have already submitted some amazing work!

Impacted by Covid-19? (eg hospitality/leisure) Please respond with '*No Actions taken due to Covid-19*'. **OR New AIPP business supporter?** We are keen to hear about the start of your journey so please respond with that in mind.

NOTE: Should a business/organization not submit a Feedback Report by 15 October 2021 then AIPP will assume that you no longer wishes to participate. Businesses/organizations which do not provide a Feedback Report will be removed from the business supporters list **HOWEVER** may re-engage at any time by emailing skelly@biodiversityireland.ie



3. THE FULL MONTY FOR POLLINATORS: The Montenotte Hotel, Cork

The inclusion of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan within The Montenotte Hotel's environmental policy has given focus to 'on point' communication actions including; awareness raising of the Plan within new team member inductions; inclusion in the hotel guests' email newsletter and the 'Full Monty' news leaflet available in hotel guests' rooms from Q1 in 2022.

Striving for a balance between nature and a 'working' hotel garden, The Montenotte has also created food, shelter and safety for pollinators. A 'bee friendly' mowing

regimen, 2 bee hotels, a range of planting such as Catmint and Stachys within the rockery, hellebores in shady spots, and moving through this month ongoing planting of Autumn perennials (Asters and Rudbeckias) and spring bulbs (Crocus, Aliums and Bluebells).

Marketing Manager, Zusana Brosnan, says of the hotel's focus: *'We are committed to carrying out long term, proactive measures to help protect and sustain the environment for future generations with the entire team on board to do their bit. Miguel Gonzalez Carrascosa, our head gardener is so passionate, and his ethos of doing everything he can to create a balance in nature is so inspiring!'*

Photograph: Zuzana Brosnan



4. CARBERY GROUP – carving out an exceptional niche for our pollinators

Biodiversity, and pollinators, are a key aspect of Carbery Group's Sustainability Strategy and aligned with their **Origin Green** commitments.

Physical actions at Carbery Group this year have included; participation in the Pollinator Plan's initiative 'No Mow May' on green areas; planting 400 ivy plants; planting a new mixed native hedgerow (holly, hazel, hawthorn, beech); and sowing wildflowers. Surrounding plants such as verbena, sedum and buddleja are proving to be a haven for bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

Communication actions have included; celebrating Biodiversity Day (21 May) and employee participation in a Flora & Fauna photo competition; donating plants for Biodiversity Day to both of the local schools; and riverside talks with senior classes at the schools on water quality and biodiversity.

Orla Hurley, Sustainability Officer, says of Carbery's 2022 focus; *'Carbery is*

developing a climate neutral dairy farm in West Cork. The project entitled Farm Zero C, sees biodiversity as an area of major focus. We are always looking at ways of enhancing biodiversity on our supplier farms as well as at the plant in Ballineen’.

Photograph courtesy of Carbery Group - Phacelia Meadow, June 2021.



5. NEW: BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

The *National Biodiversity Data Centre* is delighted to be working with **Natural Capital Ireland** and **Business in the Community Ireland** to develop an online hub to support businesses to act to combat the biodiversity crisis - through practical actions, tools and case studies, webinars and networking and promoting shared learning.

Already, over 350 companies have signed up as supporters of the Pollinator Plan and have committed to taking action for biodiversity. We are excited to be part of this innovative new platform to develop biodiversity indicators for businesses. In future years, it will allow companies to transparently measure the direct impact of their actions; and will better demonstrate the contribution of the sector to helping reverse biodiversity loss. [READ MORE HERE](#)

Announcing NCI's new platform to help businesses take action for biodiversity

Updated: Sep 23

Minister of State for Heritage Malcolm Noonan TD and Minister of State for Land-Use and Biodiversity Senator Pippa Hackett have announced joint departmental backing for Natural Capital Ireland's national Business and Biodiversity Platform to help the private sector take action to address the biodiversity crisis.



6. TO DO: BULB PLANTING FOR SPRING - go pollinator-friendly!

Crocus (pictured), Grape hyacinth and Allium are all great options! Now is the time to get your bulbs planted and pollinators will thank you next spring-summer.



7. DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: WEBINAR

Origin Green 'Farmland Biodiversity'

27 October 2021, 1000-1100

Origin Green, Bord Bia's food sustainability programme, in conjunction with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) will be hosting the second of three '*Pathways to Biodiversity*' webinars. This time, the webinar will focus on how AIPP and Bord Bia are seeking to improve 'farmland biodiversity'.

The webinar will include an overview of the AIPP [European Innovation Project \(EIP\) project 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators'](#) which is developing and testing a whole-farm pollinator scoring system to identify which management practices on Irish farmland benefit pollinators.

In addition, Bord Bia will unveil their ***new online training course** on Biodiversity for Origin Green farm members, which will detail the importance of maintaining farmland biodiversity and the practical actions farmers can take. Bord Bia will also provide an update on collaboration on the *Farming with Nature* initiative which is being developed as a holistic biodiversity brand from the ground up.

[**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR**](#)



An initiative by

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

8. CHANGEX SOCIAL INNOVATION PLATFORM - funding for community projects taking actions for pollinators

We are delighted at the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to partner with ChangeX.

A social innovation platform, ChangeX provides the interface between business and community. Companies/businesses can direct their local Community partners wanting to take actions for pollinators to this platform OR find out how to become involved as a funder to their local community through this turnkey solution.

[**CHECK OUT FUNDING AVAILABILITY HERE**](#)



9. 'BULBS FOR BEES': A Gaisce Award Challenge

Each autumn, we always encourage you to plant pollinator-friendly bulbs. This year we have an extra reason. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is honoured to support Gaisce in a campaign to celebrate their 35th anniversary. To mark this milestone, Gaisce identified a special challenge to help Ireland's biodiversity. They are asking everyone to plant pollinator-friendly bulbs to help safeguard the future of our wild bees and other insect pollinators. Bulbs are a sustainable way to help in your business, garden, school, or local area. By making the effort to plant bulbs this autumn, they will pop up each spring over the coming years to support our struggling pollinators. Everyone can get involved in the Gaisce challenge and make a difference. [READ MORE HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



10. IDEAS HUB: GROW NATIVE TREES FROM SEED - and help pollinators!

With beautiful autumn colours appearing, this is the perfect time to start collecting seed from our native trees. The Rowan, Hawthorn and Elder berries are looking splendid this autumn and the flowers from these native trees are a valuable food source for our pollinators in the spring. Collecting and growing seeds from healthy trees on the island is the best way to ensure that local trees can flourish, and gaps are restored with native species. [READ MORE HERE](#)

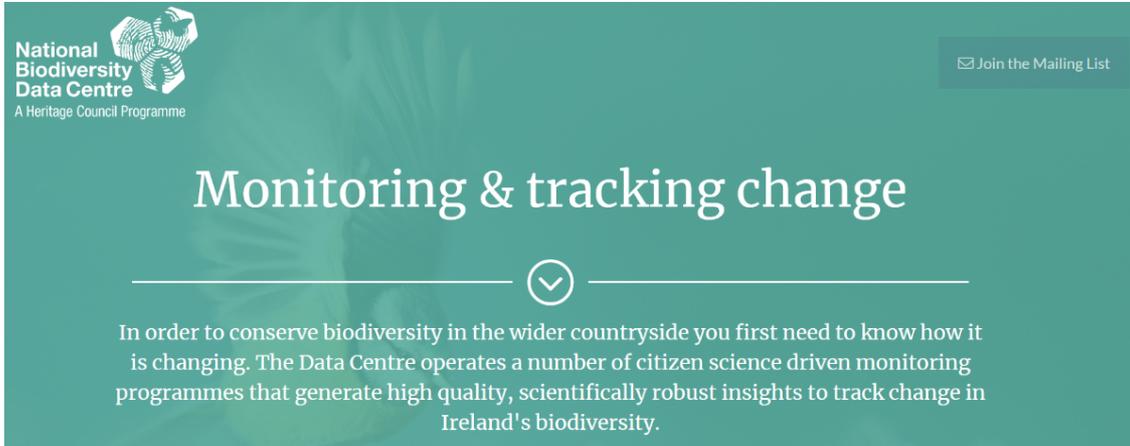


11. NEW WEBSITE: National Biodiversity Data Centre

We are delighted to announce the launch of the NEW *National Biodiversity Data Centre* website <https://biodiversityireland.ie/>

Help us track changes in the island's biodiversity, including pollinators.

[VISIT THE SURVEYS PAGE TO LEARN MORE](#)



National Biodiversity Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme

Join the Mailing List

Monitoring & tracking change

▼

In order to conserve biodiversity in the wider countryside you first need to know how it is changing. The Data Centre operates a number of citizen science driven monitoring programmes that generate high quality, scientifically robust insights to track change in Ireland's biodiversity.

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