



NEWSLETTER FOR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS: FEBRUARY 2022

Dear All

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

New business supporters include: Vagabond Tours Ltd., Griffin Landscaping Ltd., Beara Bitters, Ballykilcavan Brewing Company, Milltown Organic Store, Landtech Soils Ltd., Clayton Hotel - Silver Springs, Clayton Hotel - Dublin, KPMG Ireland, Greenan Maze, and Sow Diverse.

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 seventh 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.

The two most common bumblebee queens you will spot this month are the Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) and the White-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*). They are similar to each other – both have one band on the thorax, one band on the abdomen and a whitish tail. The Buff-tailed bumblebee has orange bands and a buff or off-white tail. The White-tailed bumblebee has lemon yellow bands and a clean white tail.

PLEASE SUBMIT SIGHTINGS to the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* here:

<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/bumblebees>

Not sure if you've correctly identified? Then attach a photo to the record.



2. ACTION STATIONS AT ABBOTT FOR POLLINATORS-BIODIVERSITY

With the completion of construction activities at the Donegal site and despite the global pandemic challenges, improvement and enhancement of the Abbott Diabetes Care (ADC) Donegal biodiversity environment continued through 2021. Circa 48 mature and semi mature native trees were planted including *Oak*, *Rowan*, *Silver Birch* and *Scots Pine*. 100 native saplings were also planted including 130m of native mixed hedging (*Whitethorn*, *Blackthorn*, *Ash*, *Holly*, *Birch*).

Karen Quinn of Abbott confirmed: *'We conducted an extensive planting programme and also reduced mowing/cutting in other areas. Other pollinator-biodiversity actions included; maintaining the site's wonderful Wildflower Meadow Walk which was positively buzzing with wild pollinators during the summer. An Abbott volunteering group also planted native bulbs, flowers and shrubs as part of a project at a local HSE Day Services centre for clients with special needs. We will continue highlighting all our actions and the importance of pollinators to our staff through our EHS Newsletter and EHS Notice Board through 2022 as we increase our pollinator-biodiversity activity on and off site.'*



3. NEW BUSINESS FOR BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM |

Short Questionnaire - What are your challenges around biodiversity action?

Ireland's new 'Business for Biodiversity Platform' is in its early stages of development with partners Natural Capital Ireland, Business in the Community Ireland and the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*. Funded by the *Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine* (DAFM) and the *Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage* (DHLG) it will provide, a peer learning platform, policy updates and science based information on a cross-sectoral basis specifically in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services. To help steer what business might need in terms of biodiversity knowledge we invite you to complete the short 15 question survey.

Please pass on to EHSQ/Sustainability/ESG/CSR Colleagues.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SURVEY](#)



Ireland's National Business & Biodiversity Platform: What are your challenges around biodiversity action?

4. MORE THAN A FEELING: Keelings Taking Actions for Pollinators

Origin Green member and AIPP business supporter Keelings were firmly focused on pollinator actions in 2021. The Keelings Team Physical Actions included: i) Reduced mowing across the entire farm from March to November. ii) Increased wildflower

meadows. iii) Creation and maintenance of pollinator friendly habitats, bare earth, sand piles and bee hotels. iv) Hedgerow maintenance managed for pollinators and other wildlife, wild areas of large *Willows* etc... left untouched for early pollination, *Elder*, *Blackthorn* and *Whitethorn* in abundance. And v) Reduced pesticides. They also delivered Communication Actions including: several in house biodiversity and 'SDGs Under Land Use' talks. Denis Kenny, Keelings Senior Grower Manager confirmed: *'Our focus has always been on the sustainable, but we have biodiversity and the AIPP principles now housed firmly within our Sustainability Strategy. We are working to raise awareness of natural capital for example with suppliers via surveys and communication on sustainability goals including land use and biodiversity.'*



5. TO DO THIS MONTH: Carpark Reimagined

Why not plant a herb bed/planter?

Herbs are not only useful to us, but are also a great source of food for pollinators [READ MORE HERE](#). *Rosemary* can be an important source of food for bees in March, could work well in your carpark *and* look good all year. *Rosemary* plus a range of herbs will flower and provide food for pollinators from spring through to late summer. To see other easy planting (bulbs and shrubs) and management ideas for your carpark

[READ MORE HERE](#)



6. EASY AS 1-2-3: Actions for Pollinators - data mapping portal

Don't forget to map your actions as part of your SMART targets on the unique AIPP data-mapping portal 'Actions for Pollinators', managed by the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*. The more specific your action reporting, the more data we have to provide *evidence-based* actions.

Register, sign in and quantitatively map your actions - easy as 1, 2, 3.

Map Your Actions

'Actions for Pollinators' – online data mapping
 recognition | local coordination | evidence-based data | national | publicly available
pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie



7. NEWS FLASH

*NEW WILDFLOWER SEED ACTION PLAN:

Addressing the negative impact of unhelpful wildflower seed planting

We now know, planting wildflower seed mixes is *not* the best action for biodiversity on the island. To address the negative impact, we are working with experts across a

range of organisations to develop a specific *Wildflower Seed Action Plan*. This action plan, to be published shortly, aims to increase awareness of the impact of commercial wildflower seed mixes across the public and private sectors, discourage the use of these mixes in inappropriate settings, and provide a roadmap for alternative, positive actions for biodiversity. The photo below shows the kind of meadow bees actually want; achieved simply by reduced mowing!
At the AIPP our advice is always **#DontSowLetItGrow** [READ MORE HERE](#)

FARMLAND

***AIPP BLOG SERIES: Plan for pollinators and biodiversity on your farm**

From AIPP Farmland Officer Ruth Wilson [READ MORE HERE](#)

***RESEARCH | PROTECTING FARMLAND POLLINATORS:**

How farmers might best protect pollinators on farmland

Learn about the fantastic work taking place through the *National Biodiversity Data Centre's* European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project on *Protecting Farmland Pollinators*. This research project with 40 participant farmers has developed a whole-farm pollinator scoring system to help farmers understand how pollinator-friendly their farm is and to identify how best to make farms more biodiversity friendly in a way that works for farmers and nature. In the last year more than half of the participant farmers increased their score! Its findings ensure that we provide the right farmland pollinator advice through the AIPP. Given that 65% of the island's land is devoted to farmland this can only be good for our pollinators!

[READ MORE HERE](#)

COMMUNITY

***NOW POPPING - 0.5 MILLION BULBS: Gaisce *Bulbs for Bees* initiative**

In autumn 2021 AIPP supported [Gaisce](#) in a campaign to celebrate their 35th anniversary. To mark this milestone, Gaisce asked everyone to plant pollinator-friendly bulbs to help safeguard the future of our wild bees and other insect pollinators. Those half a million bulbs are now popping up to provide food for hungry pollinators. Share your pictures as spring approaches using [#BulbsForBees](#)

***WELCOME: Our new Communities & Engagement Officer**

Within the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*, we are delighted that Kate Chandler has joined us as the AIPP Communities and Engagement Officer. We already have lots of plans for 2022. Thanks to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for funding this position. [READ MORE HERE](#)



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