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## **BUSINESS SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2022**

Dear All

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

### ***New Business Supporters include:***

Aurivo Co-operative Society Ltd., Shannon Vale Foods, Dromod Boxy, DGD Shredding, Travelodge PLUS Hotel (Dublin), Clayton Hotel Limerick, Core Landscaping Ltd. (FH Designs).

### **Mapping Actions**

Many thanks to all of you who have already mapped your evidence-based actions on our GIS ['Actions for Pollinators'](#) - accountability-mapping portal. To those who have yet to map, please remember it is now MANDATORY and it is part of the requirement for participation in AIPP.

N.B. No physical site? No problem; there are lots of communication actions in which you can participate. OR Delivering physical actions for a third party? You can list those as a communication action. OR if you have permission from the landowner, map on their behalf.

### **Tracking/Monitoring**

Thanks too, to all of you who are already tracking and monitoring on your sites through the FIT Count App [Flower-Insect Timed Count \(FIT Count\) » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#) Maybe something to think about for 2023?

### **Business and Community Engagement**

Thinking about a community-focused project for 2023? Why not follow the

simple evidence-based actions to support our rare Large Carder Bee (*Bombus muscorum*) [Large Carder Bee » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#) - we know if this wild bee appears in your area that wider biodiversity is being supported!

**Socials & Website** - to find out more follow us on: Twitter @PollinatorPlan and Instagram @allirelandpollinatorplan OR visit the website [Latest News » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#)

**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 is mentioned in Northern Ireland's *Biodiversity Plan to 2020*, to halt and reverse pollinator decline by 2030. It responds to the Irish Government's 2019 Biodiversity Emergency Declaration which happened alongside the Climate Declaration. It is also aligned with Bord Bia's Origin Green programme with reference to 'pollinator actions', and, supports members' biodiversity targets.

#### **1. BEE WATCH: Keep an eye out for queen Bumblebees**

The normal lifecycle of most Irish bumblebees ends when the workers and males die off and the newly mated queen hibernates through the colder winter months.

Occasionally, at this time of year you can still see some bumblebee queens fattening up for hibernation. If you spot any queen bumblebees that you're able to identify, it's very useful to let us know what plant it was feeding on. Last November, queens were observed feeding on Ivy and on garden plants like Mahonia, Comfrey and Hebe. PIC: Buff-tailed Bumblebee - Joe Curtis. **SUBMIT SIGHTINGS** of bumblebees to the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*:

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

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## 2. COMMUNICATION ACTIONS: Which actions might my business deliver for pollinators-biodiversity in 2023?

We talk about **IMPACTS** and **DEPENDENCIES** when referring to biodiversity.

You will read in this newsletter that:

- i) We are **dependent** on pollinators (for pollination) AND they are struggling to survive.
- ii) We can have almost an immediate **impact** on their survival by taking AIPP evidence-based actions - an entry level into biodiversity on any site.
- (iii) And we know, that as we take evidence-based actions for pollinators we impact on wider biodiversity. [READ HERE Physical Actions.](#)

As with all things in life if you can't measure you can't monitor - and that goes for work on pollinators-biodiversity. So, can you set SMART communication targets for pollinators-biodiversity in 2023?

### Your Business - do you have SMART targets for pollinators-biodiversity?

- Is Biodiversity within your ESG/CSR Strategy/Plan? And can you set SMART targets against some of the list below? N.B. [AIPP is aligned to ISO14001:2015](#)
- Do you have a Baseline Survey for your site(s) to then [track changes](#) over time?
- Can you map your [evidence-based actions](#) on our [GIS system 'Actions for Pollinators'](#)?
- As a micro-enterprise/SME - are you following us on socials? Twitter@PollinatorPlan and Instagram @allirelandpollinatorplan
- Can you avoid [non-native wildflower seed packets/bee bombs](#) as corporate gifts?
- REMEMBER honeybee hives are a wonderful hobby but NOT an action as part of this plan. Increased numbers may create competition for food for our wild bees. Honeybees are a managed pollinator and not under threat on this island.

## Employees - can you identify simple SMART targets for 2023 ?

- [Pledge Your Garden](#) OR [pot/planter](#) - include some [herbs](#), larger [garden](#) options or [pollinator-friendly trees](#).
- Launch a 'Wild Bee Garden' OR [Mini-Meadow \(i.e. non-mowing for pollinators\)](#) competition ([World Bee Day - 20 May](#)) for staff. [N.B. sowing wildflower seeds doesn't count!](#)
- Encourage [e-Learning](#) - free pollinator/biodiversity courses.
- Encourage monitoring ([FIT Counts](#) - via easy App) and [Citizen Science - Beginners Guide to Recording](#)
- Encourage employees to share with family and community: [Junior Pollinators](#), [Sports/GAA Clubs](#), [Golf](#), [Faith Communities](#).

## Suppliers - can you identify simple SMART targets for 2023

- Are they signed up to a pollinator-biodiversity initiative such as [AIPP](#)?
- Are pollinators/biodiversity included in your procurement/tender process?
- Are Landscape Contractors following the [evidence-based guidelines](#) and [Planting Code](#)?
- Mitigation Actions: are you using Peat-Free and Neonicotinoid Free products? Is the provenance of native trees Irish? (e.g. if you purchase a Blackthorn from Central/Eastern Europe it will flower at the wrong time for our wild bees).
- REMEMBER [non-native wildflower seed may contain invasive species such as Black Grass](#). Please choose instead a [pollinator-friendly mowing regime](#).

## Community - can you identify simple SMART targets for 2023?

- Sponsor a local [Tidy Towns](#) initiative or spring bulb planting (*Crocus or Grape Hyacinth*) at a local community centre.
- Print the [Junior Pollinator Plan](#) or [Bee Posters](#) for a [local school](#).
- [Develop a 'connecting habitat' initiative to support our beautiful and rare Large Carder Bee](#).
- Encourage your local community to participate in an [AIPP/ChangeX](#) project. Or [fund a project](#) in your area..



### 3. REPORT RELEASED: All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme: 2012-2021

The *All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme*, established by the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* in 2012, is one of the first of its kind globally.

#### [READ THE REPORT HERE](#)

- It tracks bumblebees and uses the status of the 8 commonest species to generate a multi-species population index as a measure of the health of Ireland's bumblebee populations.
- It provides vital baseline data that will be used to assess the impact of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- The scheme involves volunteers walking a fixed route (transect) each month from March to October and counting all the bumblebees seen.
- It represents a huge voluntary effort by citizen scientists.
- In 2021, 74 volunteers walked more than 1,000km and counted 17,607 individual bumblebees.

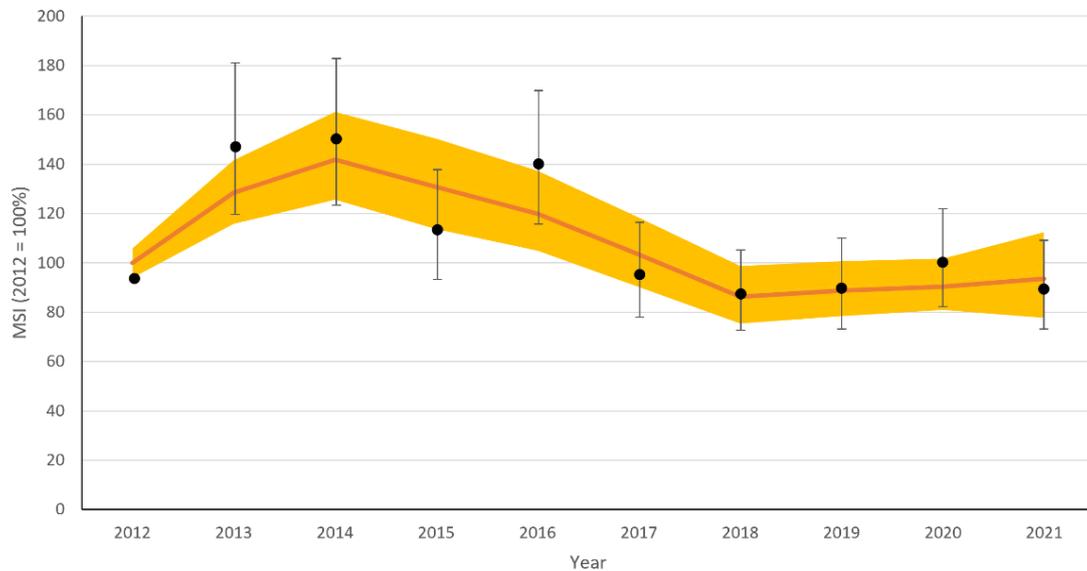
#### BIODIVERSITY TRENDS

- The current overall trend from 2012-2021 is a year-on-year decline of 4.1%.
- *Bombus pascuorum* (Common Carder Bee) has traditionally been one of our most common bumblebees, but is now showing a moderate decline.

- Unfortunately, *Bombus muscorum* (Large Carder Bee) is in severe decline.
- 2021 saw *Bombus hypnorum* (Tree Bumblebee) picked up in the scheme for the first time. It was recorded in low numbers on two transects in N. Ireland. The Tree Bumblebee is our most recent bumblebee arrival, being first recorded from the island of Ireland in Autumn 2017.

### ACTIONS - thinking of supporting a pollinator-biodiversity initiative in 2023?

In response to the findings of the scheme, an evidence-based guideline document on how local communities can help protect the Large Carder Bee was published by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2022: [READ MORE HERE](#)



#### 4. TO DO THIS MONTH: Grow native trees from seed

Now is a great time to collect seeds from native trees on your business site. The Rowan, Hawthorn and Elder berries are looking beautiful at the minute, 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 in Ireland is the best way to ensure that local trees can flourish, and gaps are restored with native species. This is especially important at a time when trees and native plants are under attack from imported pests and diseases. Also remember that the provenance of a tree is important e.g. if you source a *Blackthorn* is from for example Central/Eastern Europe it will flower at the wrong time for our pollinators. [READ MORE HERE](#)



## 5. IS YOUR BUSINESS THINKING OF SUPPORTING/SPONSORING A LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECT IN 2023?

### Check out our most pollinator friendly towns and villages - Tidy Towns Pollinator Award Winners 2022

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. [READ MORE HERE](#)

Congratulations to all award winners but particularly to the

Overall 2022 Winner **\*Cobh Tidy Towns\*** in Co Cork.

- Best Newcomer: Cratloe Tidy Towns, Co Clare
- Regional Winners Large Town: Cobh, Skerries, Clonmel, Buncrana
- Regional Winners Small Town: Geashill, Belcarra, Castlegregory, Tullahought



Pollinator-friendly planting in Cobh



Mining bee nesting site in Cratloe

### 6. NEW BLOG – where do pollinators go in winter?

Read the latest blog from Ruth Wilson, the farmland pollinator officer, on what happens to our pollinating insects in winter. [READ MORE HERE](#)



### 7. UPDATES

#### ESG/CSRD - and biodiversity

#### **Bord Bia Origin Green** - 'Pathways to Enabling ESG Strategy Development and Reporting'

Check out the **Bord Bia Origin Green's** 'Pathways to Enabling ESG Strategy Development and Reporting' webinar recording [HERE](#).

This includes the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive** (CSRD) - EY Ireland's Lorraine McCann - Director of Climate Change and Sustainability Services gives an overview at timecode 21:10 - suitable for all sectors. Review the Origin Green members guidance on how to build an ESG strategy. [READ MORE HERE](#)

#### 2022 IVY BEE UPDATE

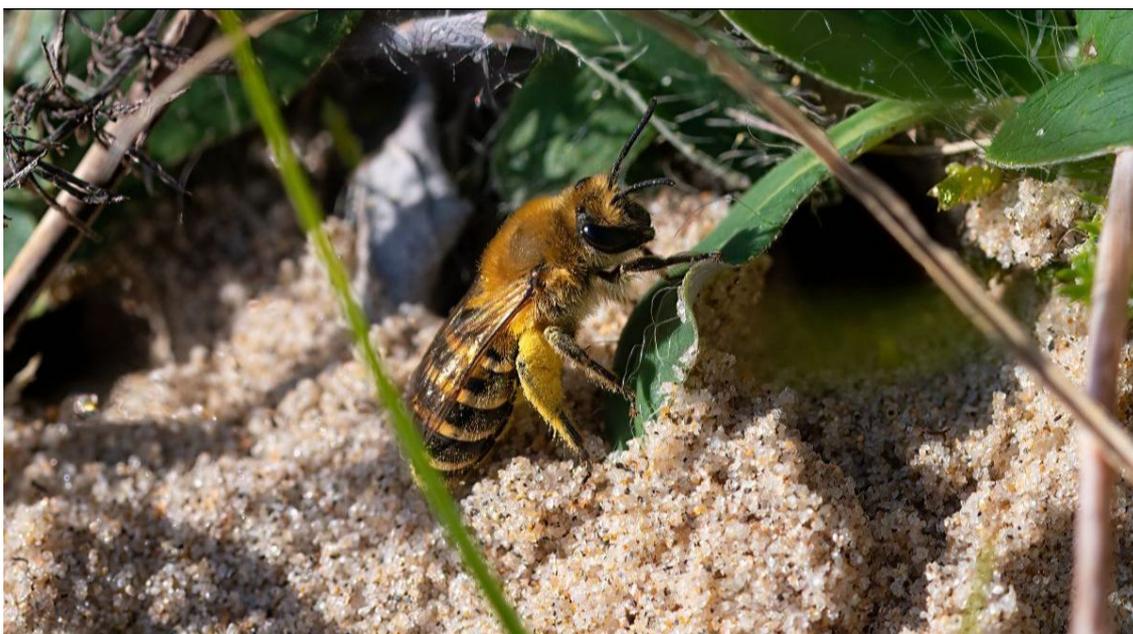
This year, the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* was delighted to collaborate with Prof. Francis Ratnieks (Sussex University and Ivy Bee expert) on a survey of the Ivy Bee in the southeast. The first Irish sighting was made by Jim Kenny at the *Raven Nature Reserve in Wexford* in October 2021. As the 2022 autumn survey ended, new populations were found northwards from the Raven as far as Brittas Bay in Wicklow – a distance of some 60km. The distribution was coastal and was quite disjunct, suggesting that multiple colonisations from Britain probably took place. What is clear is that the bee has established in Ireland. The Ivy Bee colonised Britain at a remarkable rate of 30 km per year. If it follows suit in Ireland, it won't be too long before many more of us get to see it on Ivy in autumn! Thanks to all those volunteers who helped with this survey in 2022. PIC: Jim Kenny

### **RESEARCH UPDATE - Conserving diversity in Irish plant-pollinator networks**

A scientific paper was recently published by Irish researchers on how best to conserve pollinator diversity. The AIPP aims to provide food, shelter and safety for bees and other pollinators. Primarily this means making sure there are plenty of floral resources and places to nest and removing threats to pollinator health. But because the insects that act as our pollinators are not all the same (bees, hoverflies, moths), this means that we need to cater for this diversity in our conservation actions. The plants that these insects pollinate also vary in what habitats they live in, when they flower, and the quantity and quality of nectar and pollen they produce.

This study aimed to answer the important question of how to determine what actions are best for our pollinator community as a whole. It reinforces many of the evidence-based actions that we continually promote within the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - particularly the importance of native plants and natural long-flowering meadows. Don't Sow, Let it Grow!

This blog from Prof Jane Stout in Trinity College Dublin is part of the 'Dispatches from Researchers' series and aims to pull out the key findings of the study. [READ MORE HERE](#)



Transparently tracking progress is a very important part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. While the Plan is voluntary, at this time of year we do carry out extensive annual reporting. This includes:

- A review of the 186 actions in the Plan itself, to include a 2022 progress report against each
- **Review on the actions each Business Supporter has taken in support of the AIPP in 2022.** See previous Annual Review reports [HERE](#). Also, now mandatory, check who's mapping evidence based actions on '[Actions for Pollinators](#)'.
- Review on key actions taken in 2022 by each of our Council partners

These three 2022 documents will be available on the website in December. The 2021 summary of the 186 actions in the Plan is below.



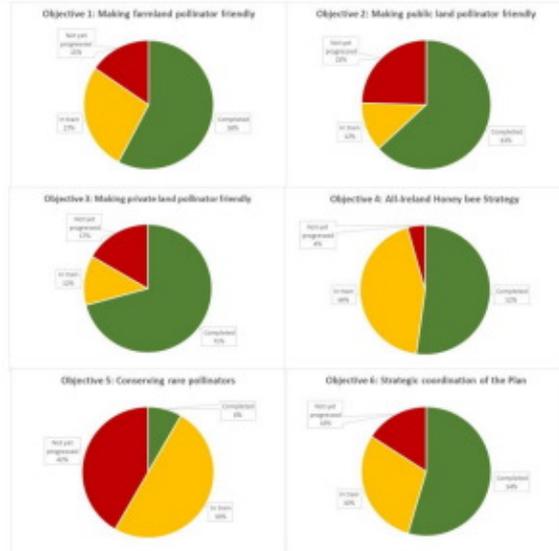
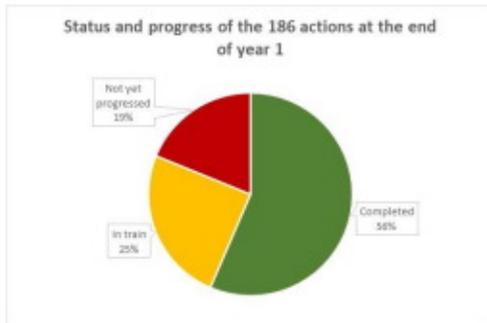
# All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

## 2021 Review: At a Glance

[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



### Status of actions: 2021



### Sectoral engagement

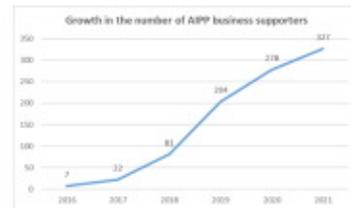


✓ **86%** of Councils are partners of the AIPP



✓ **200+** Tidy Towns groups have entered the special pollinator award since 2016

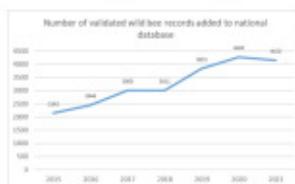
✓ **New entrants 2021:** 55



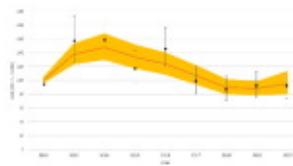
### Additional resources released in 2021



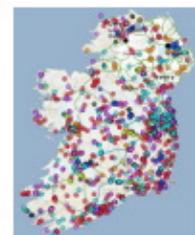
### Tracking Change



**247** Flower-Insect Timed Counts submitted in 2021



**Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme 2012-2020 trend published**



**2,400 sites logged on 'Actions for Pollinators'**

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