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Business Supporters Newsletter: April 2023

The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#) is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation of the AIPP is coordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#).

Dear All

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

New Business Supporters include: Brown Thomas Arnotts, Kildare Innovation Campus (managed by Cushman Wakefield), Mallow Mia, Energia Group, Wheels We Deliver, Liffey Meats, The Samuel Hotel, Sigma Aldrich Ireland Ltd. (Merck) and Dalata Hotel Group sites including: Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane, Maldron Hotel Derry, Maldron Hotel Limerick, Maldron Hotel Merrion Road, Maldron Hotel Tallaght. Plus, we are really pleased to confirm that the following have re-committed their support in 2023: Joseph Brennan Bakeries and Wild Acres - Nature Reserve.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Next month is a big AIPP month and will include: No Mow May - to support pollinators, [World Bee Day](#) (20 May), Biodiversity Day (21 May) and [Festival of Farmland Biodiversity](#). Also check out the weekly ['Biodiversity on the Farm'](#) initiative where farm-suppliers can start to record the types of pollinators-biodiversity on their farms (see below).

Want to align your Marketing Communications with AIPP?

[REVIEW HERE](#) the AIPP Abridged Comms Plan for 2023.

Impacts & Dependencies - AIPP an entry-level to biodiversity on any site

In the language of biodiversity we often talk of 'impacts' and 'dependencies'. Simply put - we are *'dependent'* on pollinators (wild bees) for pollination of crops, trees, flowers etc. and we know we can have an almost immediate *'impact'* on their environment by delivering AIPP evidence-based actions. We also know that as we start taking action for pollinators, we are impacting on wider biodiversity. So, don't 'overthink' what your company might do for biodiversity. Focus on pollinators first, an entry-level, which can be cost-neutral or low cost, and then add other biodiversity year on year.

KEEP ON MAPPING

A huge THANK YOU to all businesses who have mapped evidence-based actions on our GIS '[Actions for Pollinators](#)' - biodiversity-accountability mapping portal. Mapping actions is now MANDATORY and it is part of the requirement for participation in AIPP.

No physical site? No problem; there are lots of [communication actions](#) in which your business can participate across employees, community and suppliers.

Sarah Kelly

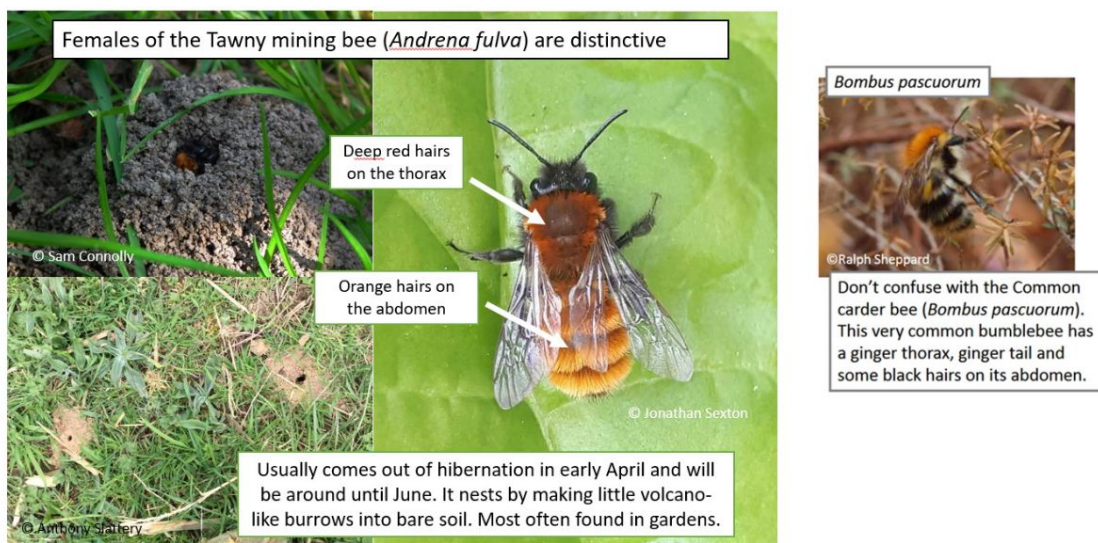
Agri-business Officer

*The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#), co-ordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#), 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 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.

Thanks to the funders of the Agri-business Officer position: [Bord Bia Origin Green's](#) food sustainability programme and [Business for Biodiversity Ireland](#), Ireland's new biodiversity hub.

WILD BEE WATCH: keep an eye out for the Tawny Mining Bee

This is one of our most distinctive solitary bees – look out for deep red hairs on the thorax and orange hairs on the abdomen. It usually comes out of hibernation in April and will be around until June. It nests by making little volcano-like burrows into bare soil and can be found in gardens. The Tawny Mining bee (*Andrena fulva*) was thought to be extinct for 87 years in Ireland, before being rediscovered in 2012. It is now known from counties Dublin, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Kildare & Carlow. *Can you help find more new populations? See how to submit sightings below.*



Submit your solitary bee sightings

TO DO THIS MONTH: #LetDandelionsBee

Dandelions are an important food source for pollinators at this time of year. According to Plantlife UK, eight dandelion flowers may produce enough nectar to meet an adult bumblebee's baseline energy needs.

Where you can, Let Dandelions Bee! The photo speaks a thousand words for how much you'll be helping our bees and other insects. The AIPP is not about planting wildflower seed, it's about allowing native wildflowers to emerge naturally with less mowing.

Allow Dandelions to flower in April and then cut in preparation for **#NoMowMay**. This popular campaign next month is a chance to further celebrate the benefits of [reduced mowing for pollinators](#).

REMEMBER to cut AND lift. Removing the cuttings reduces soil fertility and allows our natural wildflowers including dandelions to grow. Use [signage](#) and a mown perimeter strip on your business site to indicate a change in mowing management. Want to align your Comms to our AIPP campaigns? [REVIEW HERE](#)



WEBINAR: ORIGIN GREEN 'Pathways to Pollinators-Biodiversity',

26 April 2023, 1000-1100

Processor/agri-business actions to support Farm-Suppliers

Origin Green, in conjunction with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, will be hosting a three-part webinar series in 2023 focused on processor/agri-business actions to support farm suppliers in enhancing pollinator biodiversity.

The first webinar of 2023, on 26 April 1000-1100, will focus on how agri-business processors are supporting farm suppliers to engage with and manage pollinator-biodiversity and then measure what is on their site. The webinar will feature guidance from Sarah Kelly, AIPP Agri Business Officer, on the biodiversity pollinator supports available to companies through membership of AIPP, and Ruth Wilson, AIPP Farmland Pollinator Officer, will share farmland biodiversity actions for beef, dairy and horticulture. In addition, John Durkan, Environmental and Sustainability Manager at ABP Food Group, will discuss the biodiversity initiatives undertaken by ABP.

Agenda and Speaker Details:

- Introduction: Martin Hofler, Sustainability Partnership Manager at Bord Bia

- AIPP Business Supports: Sarah Kelly, Agri Business Officer at AIPP
- AIPP Farmland Actions: Ruth Wilson, Farmland Pollinator Officer at AIPP
- Origin Green Member Experience – ABP: John Durkan, Environmental and Sustainability Manager at ABP Food Group

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



An initiative by
BORD BIA
 IRISH FOOD BOARD

NEW RESOURCE: Car parks for Pollinators

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is delighted to release a new free resource: a flyer with guidance on how car parks can be managed to help pollinators. Car parks don't immediately spring to mind as places that can support these important insects. But easy changes in management, to connect habitat, can turn them into crucial 'pollinator pitstops', whether in a business park, industrial estate, or shopping centre.

Is your contractor/grounds maintenance company following the AIPP evidence-based actions around your car park(s)? Don't forget to read: [Why we don't recommend wildflower seed mixes » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#).

 A flyer titled 'Car Parks for Pollinators' with a central illustration of a car park with various pollinator-friendly features. The flyer includes several text boxes with advice:

- Eliminate pesticides**: Pesticides can harm pollinators and kill the 'weeds' that provide them with important food.
- Protect what you have**: Your car park may already provide food and shelter for pollinators, e.g. flowering hedgerows and trees.
- Pollinator-friendly planting**: Pollinators need nectar for energy and pollen for protein. Some flowers aren't rich in nectar and pollen, such as Daffodils and Tulips.
- Plant native pollinator-friendly trees**: Plant individual trees or add to an existing native hedgerow.
- Tell visitors about your work**: Using signage or carefully mown strips around wildflower areas.
- Bulk planting**: Swathes of the same pollinator-friendly flower means wild bees can access plenty of food without traveling far.
- Create nesting habitat**: Wild pollinators need safe nesting habitats to allow next year's brood to grow. Earth banks, hedgerows, and gaps in old stone walls are all potential homes for bees.
- Don't mow, let it grow**: Reducing mowing helps restore areas of native wildflowers, which our pollinators have evolved to feed on.

 Logos for the National Biodiversity Data Centre (A Heritage Council Programme) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (www.pollinators.ie) are in the top right.

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Read more

AIPP RESOURCES - to correctly align your evidence-based actions

The links below provide the information directly related to A-E within the [Business Guidelines](#).

1. **Pollinator-friendly mowing:** To generate natural occurring native wildflowers simply [change your mowing regime](#) (#NoMowMay). Include [signage](#) and delineate the change in management with a mown perimeter strip.
2. **Eliminate Pesticides:** Where possible [eliminate pesticides](#) but continue to spot-spray [invasive species](#) when necessary.
3. **Pollinator-friendly Planting:** (i) [Pollinator-friendly native trees](#) (ii) [Pollinator-friendly native hedgerow options](#) *REMEMBER: Native trees/ Native hedgerow should be of Irish provenance. A Blackthorn imported from Central/Eastern Europe will flower at the wrong time of year for our wild bees.* (iii) [Pollinator-friendly ornamental planting](#) is an important pollinator-friendly action. *REMEMBER: the following have virtually NO pollen value - Daffodils, Tulips, traditional bedding plants - Geraniums, Begonias, Busy Lizzy, Petunias, Polyanthus or Salvia splendens.*

Nature-positive Procurement

Also consider nature-positive procurement in relation to pollinators by choosing;

(i) **Peat-free compost** to protect an important habitat;

(ii) **Pesticide-free** (Neonicotinoid-insecticides/ herbicides) bulbs/ shrubs/ plants/ trees;

(iii) an [alternative action to wildflower seed mixes](#). Sowing/scattering/bulk planting/sponsoring wildflower seed is NOT a biodiversity action, it is a horticultural action. Make the distinction. Non-native mixes (bulk/ packets/ bee bombs) may contain invasive species such as *Black Grass* – potentially devastating for our agricultural land.

(iv) an [alternative action to honeybee hives](#). Introducing/managing an apiary is a wonderful hobby but NOT a biodiversity action. The honeybee is a managed pollinator and not under threat on this island.

Also (v) Avoid (considered) invasive species (i.e. don't plant/distribute) *Rhododendron, Fuchsia, Cherry Laurel, Sycamore, Snowberry*.



GET POLLINATOR-'FIT' ON YOUR BUSINESS SITE FOR 2023

Monitor via Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts)

FIT Counts are an important way that your business can help us monitor pollinators. Download the free FIT Count App, watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit.

FIT Counts can be carried out anywhere, and on any flower, but where you can, please use one of our *15 target flowers*. In April, it's especially useful to carry out FIT Counts on **Dandelion**. You do need to wait until it's sunny and at least 13 degrees centigrade though!

In 2022, 673 validated FIT Counts were submitted by 137 different volunteers. The average number of insects per FIT Count was 8. The most common insect group recorded were bumblebees, and the most common habitat FIT Counts were carried out in was gardens. Visit the website to download the 2022 newsletter and see the full results of the scheme last year.

Don't forget you can do FIT Counts on your business site(s) AND encourage employees to conduct FIT Counts in their garden.

Pollinator monitoring: Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts)

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/>

Watch a 50cm x 50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit. This scheme runs from April until September



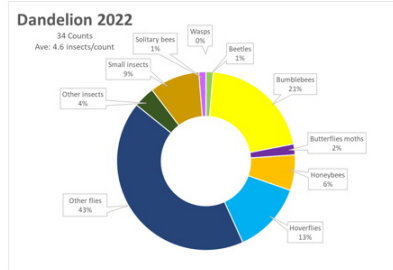
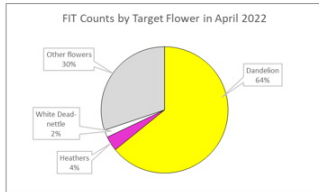
APRIL

Target Flowers:
This month please try to carry out FIT Counts on **Dandelion**

April 2022

Total number of FIT Counts 53

Average insects/FIT Count 5.2



Based on the 2022 data, other flies and bumblebees were the most common visitors to Dandelion last April.

Bumblebee on Dandelion (Owen Beckett)

[FIT Count website](#)

ATTENTION: Agri-business Farm-Suppliers

New scheme to encourage farmers to record pollinators

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is delighted to launch a new 'Biodiversity on your Farm' project, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Run by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan farmland officer, Ruth Wilson, this project will challenge farmers to find 40 species on their farm across the year. The weekly species have a pollinator focus and the project also includes a 'biodiversity management tip' for farmers each week.

BIODIVERSITY on your Farm

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Can you find this species on your farm?

Clarke's Mining Bee
(*Andrena clarkella*)

Ginger-brown hairs on thorax, black hairs on abdomen, dark face hairs, hind leg and pollen brush are orange

Widespread species – can be seen anytime from March to June

If you do, submit sighting to <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/biodiversity-on-your-farm>

SPECIES #4

BIODIVERSITY on your Farm

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Biodiversity Tip No. 4

Check if you have Willow trees?

Willow is a rich source of pollen and nectar in the spring for pollinators.

They can be grown in damp parts of the farm and can be easily grown from hard wood cuttings in the tree dormant season.

If you do, submit sighting to <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/biodiversity-on-your-farm>

Tip No. 4

[Read More](#)

UPDATE ON OUR NEWEST WILD BEE:

Hairy-footed Flower Bee

Last month we asked you to keep an eye out for the Hairy-footed Flower Bee. The first Irish record of this species was made last March (2022) in Dublin. In good news, it has successfully hibernated and residents in Harold's Cross have spotted it again this year!

It is a large solitary bee but can look like a bumblebee. The males and females are different to each other. Some females may resemble a small black bumblebee with distinctive orange hairs on the hind leg (photo below) and others can be more brownish like the males. Males have light brown/ginger hairs all over their body and cream markings on their face. They also have distinctive long hairs on their middle legs and feet, which is where the species gets its name. Their quick darting flight motion is a good way to tell them apart from bumblebees. In Britain, it shows a preference for Lungwort. Photos: Martin Fitzpatrick.

It's still only known from Harold's Cross in Dublin. Keep an eye out and send a photo if you think you find any new populations this spring!



Hairy-footed Flower Bee Male



Hairy-footed Flower Bee Female

Submit your solitary bee sightings

To be added to the AIPP Main mailing list [CLICK HERE](#)



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