

A circular wreath of various botanical illustrations surrounds the central text. The plants include green ferns, a red maple leaf, a green heart-shaped leaf, a branch with small pink flowers, a large green leaf, a red leaf, and purple flowers.

How Ireland's communities are looking after & out for our wild bees!



Dr Fiona Mac Gowan & Associates
Botanical & Ecological Services



My Experience

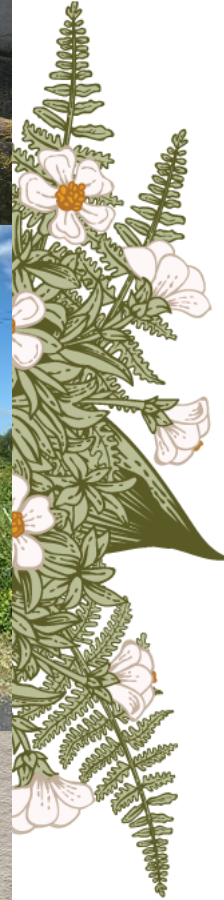
Plant ecologist who got fed up documenting biodiversity decline & destruction!

I turned to Ireland's wealth of community groups

Huge changes going on in the way that nature & biodiversity are viewed – it now informs every aspect of the national TidyTowns competition

Wild & wonderful is replacing 'tidy' in many places

Empowering local communities in the face of an often overwhelming International Biodiversity Crisis



The All Ireland Pollinator Plan



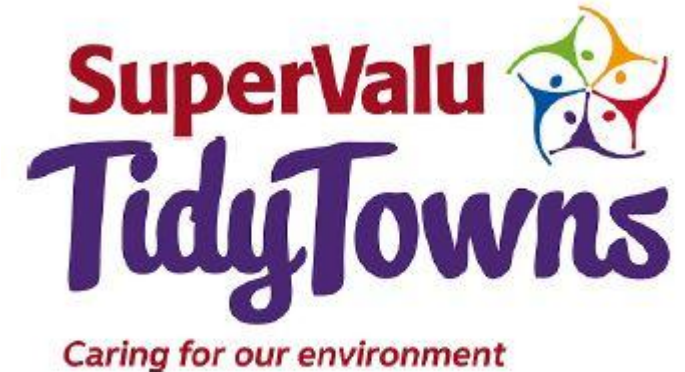
- First plan launched in 2015
- Revolutionised how people view nature across Ireland
- Empowered people to make positive changes locally for biodiversity
- Free access to correct & scientific guidance as opposed to 'fake noos'
- www.pollinators.ie/resources



Recent changes in the focus of the TidyTowns competition

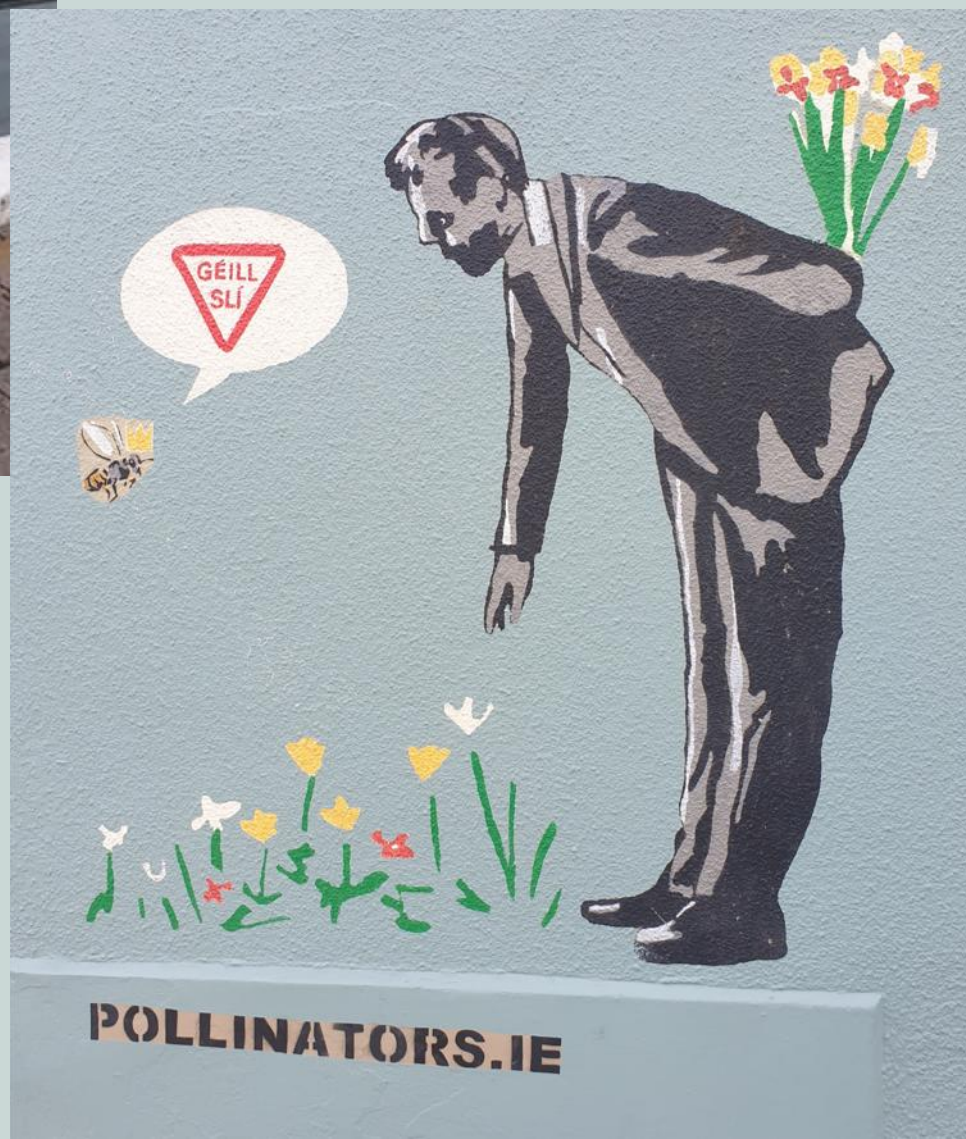


- Biodiversity & Sustainability form the core of the national TT competition now
- Professional ecologists were sought for inclusion on the national adjudicator panel
- This ecologist joined seeing it as a hugely positive opportunity to spread awareness – there are over 900 TT communities in Ireland
- This led to more communities seeking professional guidance in drawing up Community Biodiversity Action Plans (CBAPs)

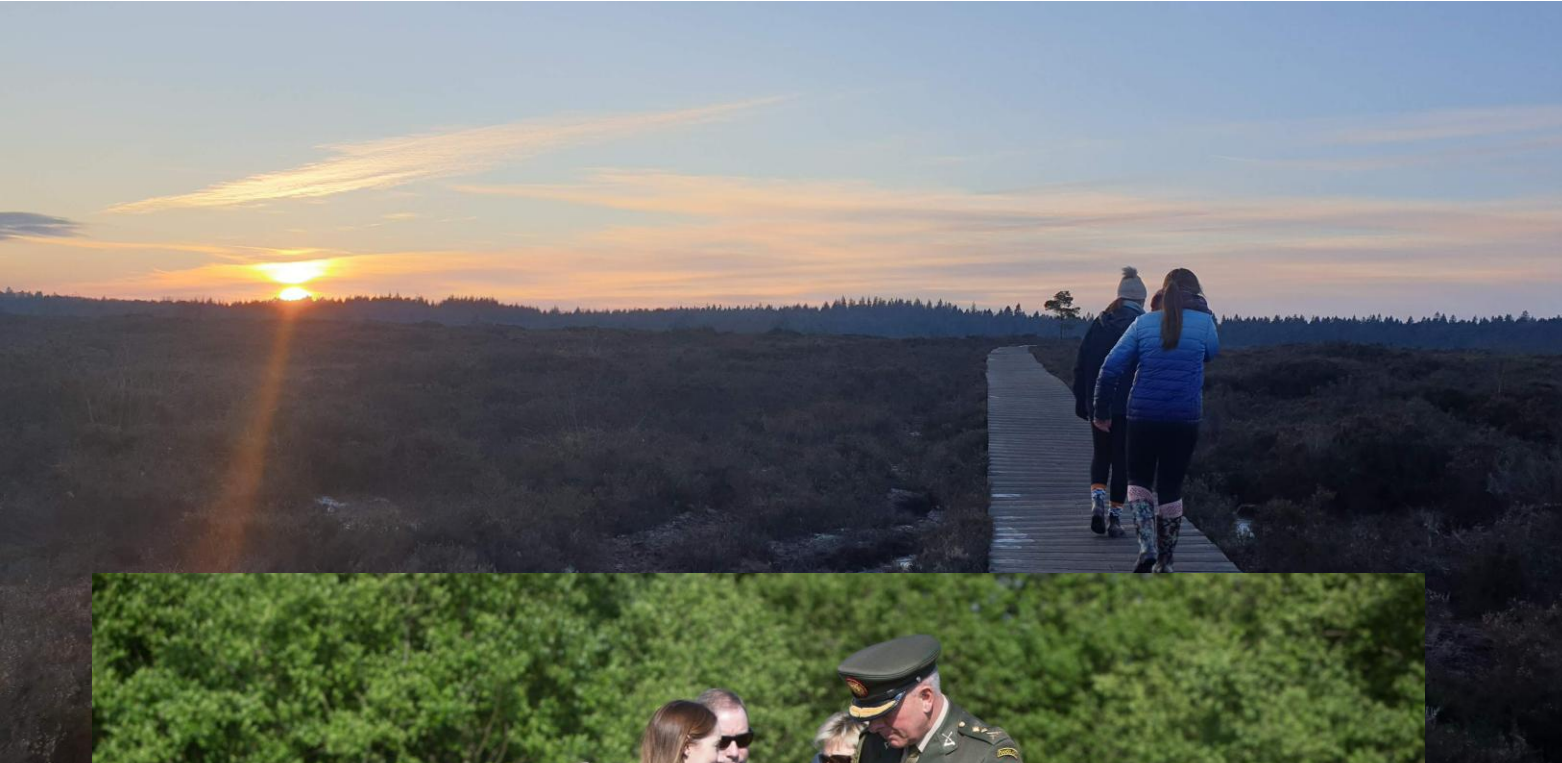


Lots of good news as volunteers across Ireland
work for biodiversity





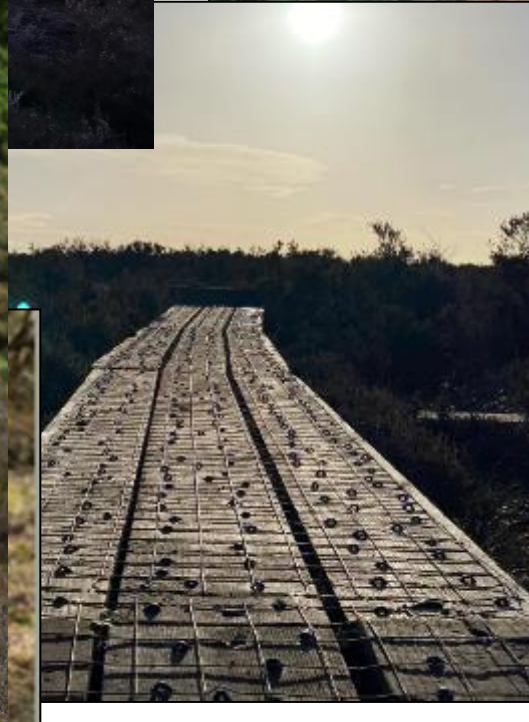




July 2000 (Credit: Kevin Hutchinson)



(c) Alf Harvey



Credit: Abbeyleix Bog Project ©2022



Biodiversity STREET ART

- Celebrate 20 years of Abbeyleix Bog
- Utility Boxes + Street Bins



Using Social Media for good



Abbeyleix Climate Action Walk ▶ Play all

The Abbeyleix Climate Action Walk is an end of residency project by science communicator in residence for the Abbeyleix Climate Action Project, Dr Niamh Shaw, working with members of...



Abbeyleix Climate Action
Walk Episode 1 What is ...
Laois Heritage
3 views • 5 years ago



Abbeyleix Climate Action
Walk Episode 2 Our ...
Laois Heritage
324 views • 5 years ago



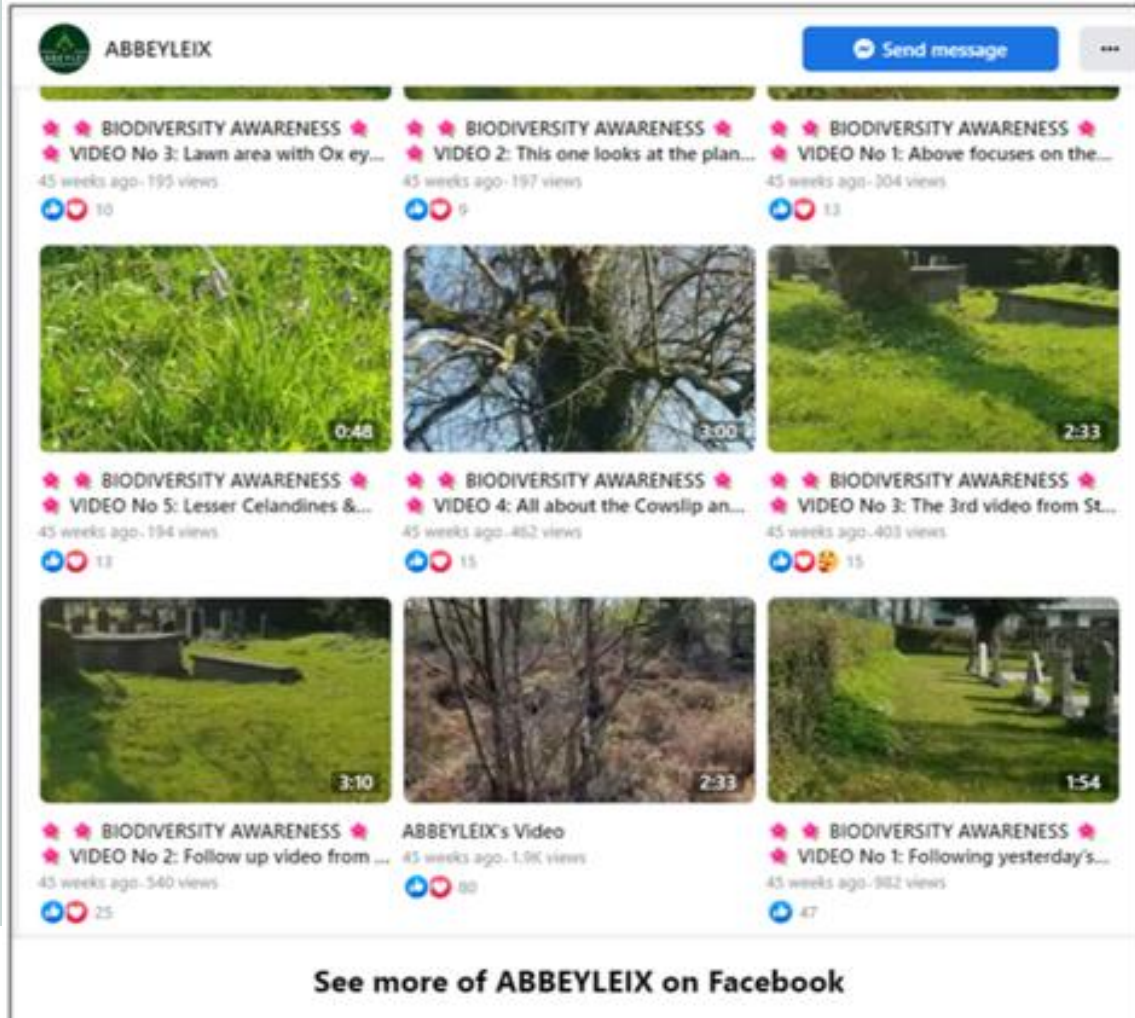
Abbeyleix Climate Action
Walk Episode 3 The Carbon ...
Laois Heritage
284 views • 5 years ago



Abbeyleix Climate Action
Walk Episode 4 The Water ...
Laois Heritage
188 views • 5 years ago



Abbeyleix Climate Action
Walk Episode 5 Climate ...
Laois Heritage
191 views • 5 years ago





Biodiversity

NEIGHBOURWOOD PROJECT:

- Native Woodland established in 2021
- 2.5 Acre site next to LA Housing Estate
- 3,000 trees planted
- Drainage works to allow Play area for residents
- Local walk and outdoor seating area



Interpretation: one large interpretation panel covering woodland heritage to be sited at the picnic area. Simple interpretation posts can be installed at selected locations on site. Timber material should be used as much as possible.



Community Space: a woodland opening (glade) is to be created just off the existing path. This is to be a hard standing area surrounded woodland edge wildflowers and trees. It is to have an area developed with the community that can act as an outdoor classroom. Entrances to be wide to maintain good views into this space.



Land: the woodland will be selected using species. It will be graded from low tree species edges to high tree species in the centre. An community managed hazel coppice woodland created under the power lines and must not 3m height (to be approved by the ESB). As the land matures, ground flora diversity can be increased using native woodland wildflowers.

Trails: Natural trails (mown grass paths) are to be created through the woodland and along the side (fringes of these can be managed for woodland edge wildflowers. These will link into the existing path network on site.



BALLADINE NEIGHBOURWOOD

Ár gCoill Áitiúil

This scheme highlights a number of key features. The new native woodland will be established in 2021 by Abbeylisk Tidy Towns and in partnership with the local residents of the Balladine Neighbourhood. The scheme is a joint project of the Balladine Neighbourhood and the Balladine Neighbourhood.

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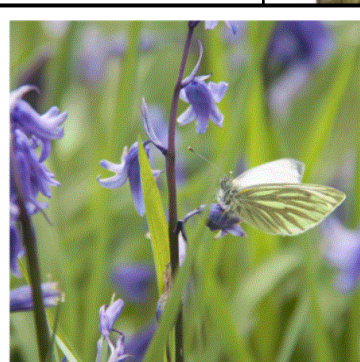


Streamside trail: mown grass path through woodland edge wildflower meadow (10m setback from the stream edge for new tree planting)

Woodland trail (~1.2m wide mown grass path)

Community space (woodland glade)

Convert a section of the mown grass verge to wildflower meadow



Balladine Estates Landscape Plan

Abbeylisk, Co. Louth (May 2019)



DATE	PROJECT	PROJECT NO.	ISSUE	ISSUED BY	REV.	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
08/03/19	Balladine Neighbourhood Scheme	008_19_BG	08/03/19	BS	A	Landscape Masterplan	Paddy O'Sullivan, Co. Louth 4253 1234 56789 0845 1234 56789 www.greenpineconsultants.com



Climate Action + Energy

COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Host to annual events
- Vegetables & Herbs grown
- Run by the community for the community
- 100% Volunteer led
- Outdoor meeting spot during Covid
- Pizza Oven

























Abbeyleix FEC

We worked with well known landscaper - Brian Burke (of RTE and Bloom fame) - and the LOETB horticulture class to establish native hedges and also an orchard of 15 mixed fruit trees in spring 2023 (Provided by DCs for Bees Project)



Communities liaising with Local Authorities & State bodies





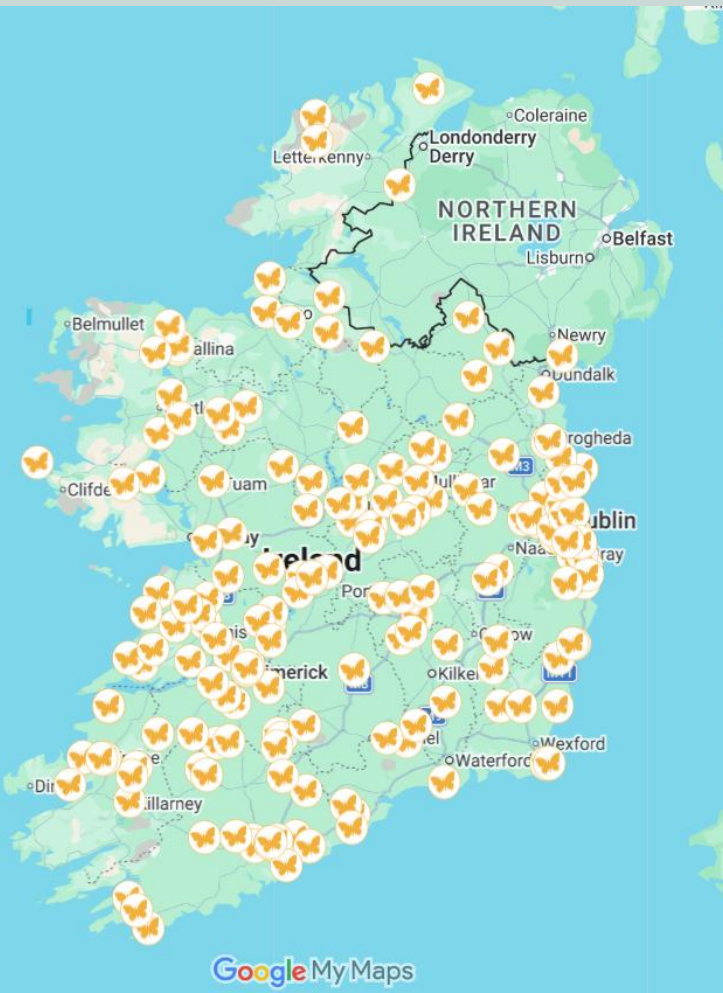




Community Biodiversity Action Plans



www.actionforbiodiversity.ie



WELCOME TO IRELAND'S PORTAL FOR Biodiversity Action Plans



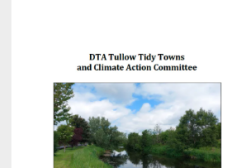
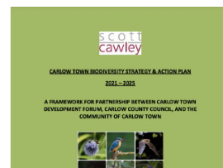
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Carlow

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The Future – funding & communications



Song of the Scythe
LAND MANAGEMENT
SKILLS FOR
BIODIVERSITY

A Series of Meitheal Workshops in
Scything and Farmland Pollinators.
Meitheal Days
Sat. July 8 Farmland Pollinators, Scything and Scythe
Maintenance @ Rathbeagh
Sat. Aug 12 Song of the Scythe Celebration Day @ Rathbeagh
Sun. Sept 17 Autumn Scything Workshop @ Grain

Funded by
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



The Future – funding & communications





Thank you



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insta: [macgowan_ecology](https://www.instagram.com/macgowan_ecology)