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## Business Supporters Newsletter: November 2025

Dear All

November 2025's newsletter includes:

- To spot this month - **Keep an eye out for queen bumblebees**
- To do this month - **Plant (or sponsor) bare root fruit trees**
- Tidy Towns Pollinator Award 2025: **Congratulations to the local Tidy Towns groups & THANK YOU to their local business sponsors**
- New blog: **Pesticide-free towns**
- Check out: **Free online courses on the Biodiversity Learning Platform**
- New 2026 intake: **BFBI's Nature Strategy Accelerator** (with Deloitte and KPMG)
- Pollinator Noticeboard November 2025 - **including blogs, tips, and 2026 ideas as you set your budget.**

### ESG | CSRD/VSME | BIODIVERSITY | NATURE-POSITIVE

- [Business for Biodiversity \(BFBI\)](#) - explore approaches to nature-positive through the FREE [#Discovery Track of the Nature Strategy Accelerator Programme](#). Avail of in-person workshops, peer learning and expert guidance in relation to CSRD (and VSME). Contact BFBI Executive Director Dr Maria Fitzpatrick [manager@businessforbiodiversity.ie](mailto:manager@businessforbiodiversity.ie)

- **Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)** - explore BITCI's [Accelerate - The Business Pact for Climate and Nature](#).  
and [BITCI's Business Working Responsibly Mark \("The Mark"\)](#) Ireland's *Environmental, Economic, Social and Governance* (EESG) standard.  
Third-party verified by the [National Standards Authority of Ireland](#).  
Contact Cillian McMahon [CMcMahon@bitc.ie](mailto:CMcMahon@bitc.ie)
- **Business in the Community NI (BITC)** - explore [BITC's Business and Biodiversity Charter](#) Contact [Traci.Adams@bitcni.org.uk](mailto:Traci.Adams@bitcni.org.uk)

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. Its implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

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## **To spot this month: 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 queens 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).

Please submit any bumblebee sightings to the National Biodiversity Data Centre.



**SUBMIT: Bumblebee sightings on your business site**

## REVIEW Action 3 'Identify which pollinators have already been spotted in your local area'

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### To do this month: plant (or sponsor) bare root fruit trees

Bare root fruit trees are generally cheaper to buy than potted trees, and the time to buy and plant them is from November to March. Consider adding a small orchard to your business site, garden, farm or maybe sponsor a small orchard within the local community as part of a Tidy Towns initiative.

As well as containing some of our rare heritage fruit tree varieties, a small orchard can be valuable for biodiversity. They're made up of several habitats, including elements of woodland, hedgerow and meadow. This mosaic of habitats is home to a range of biodiversity, including bees, butterflies, birds, bats, mosses, beetles, fungi and lichen. Windfallen fruit is also a vital source of food in autumn and winter for a whole range of wildlife. Species-rich grassland beneath the trees can be a haven for pollinators and biodiversity, especially if they contain the native, naturally occurring wildflowers.

Pollinators like wild bees, hoverflies and moths have a vital 'pollination service' role in orchards, with almost all fruit resulting from pollination by a bee or other insect. In turn, fruit trees provide nectar and pollen, essential for the survival of these important insects.



**DOWNLOAD AIPP's Traditional Orchards & Fruit Trees for Pollinators guide**

## REVIEW Action 9 'Plant an orchard of flowering fruit trees'

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**Tidy Towns Pollinator Award 2025: Congratulations to the local groups & THANK YOU to their local business sponsors**



The winners of the 2025 Tidy Towns Pollinator Award have been announced. The Pollinator Award has run since 2016 as a Special Award in the annual Supervalu Tidy Towns awards. It is administrated by the local authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The aim of the award is to encourage and reward pollinator-friendly actions by Tidy Towns groups in line with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Each winner is awarded a prize of €1,000.

Baile Slachtmhar Bhéal an Mhuirthead/ Belmullet Tidy Towns were the overall winners this year. Inagh Tidy Towns were awarded 'best newcomer', and regional awards were given to Balbriggan Tidy Towns, Crinkill Tidy Villages, Ardmore Tidy Towns, Castlegregory Tidy Towns and Cavan Tidy Towns.

The quality of applications this year was so high that ten further Tidy Towns were highly commended for their work for pollinators. Huge congratulations to all the winners and highly commended towns.

**THANK YOU to all businesses who provided community sponsorship for their local Tidy Towns in 2025. You may recognise some of the above successes.**



Orchids in the short-flowering meadow at Achadh Mara on World Bee Day, 20 May 2025 (Belmullet Tidy Towns)

[READ MORE HERE](#)

**REVIEW Action 24 'Sponsor pollinator activities in your local area'**

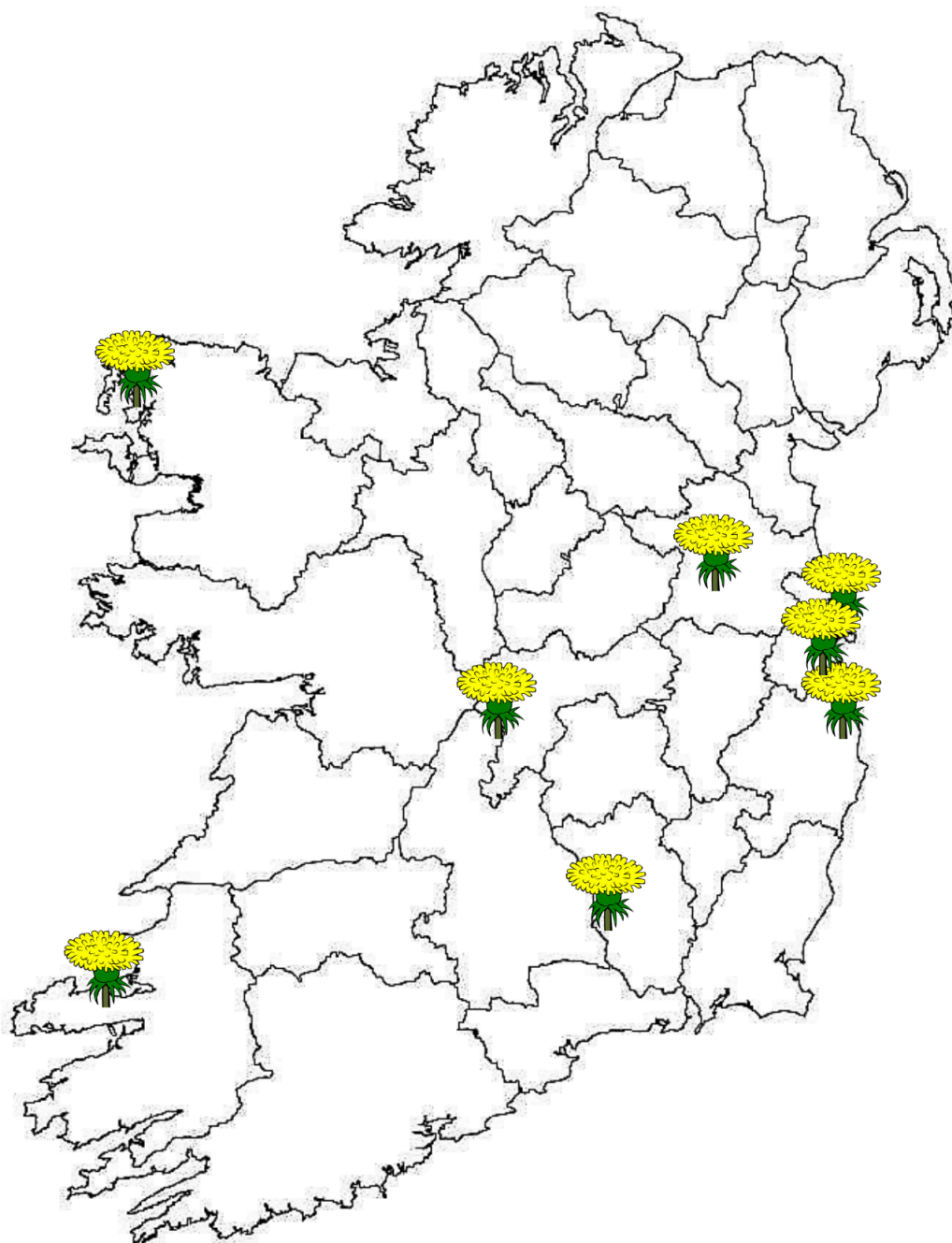
**Three things to 'bee' aware of when sponsoring**

## New blog: Pesticide-free Towns

Our latest blog celebrates communities that have decided to go pesticide-free to protect pollinators and human health.

All over the island of Ireland, communities are reducing their use of pesticides, and many have eliminated them altogether. Some community groups are recognised and rewarded for their work in annual pollinator awards, including the Tidy Towns Pollinator Award which is administered by the *Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network* and the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*. This award is given to groups who have taken action for pollinators in line with our recommendations, including reducing and eliminating pesticides (Actions 18 and 17 of Businesses: actions to help pollinators).

Find out about some of the Tidy Towns groups who have scored full marks for eliminating pesticides in recent years, and how they managed to achieve it.









[READ MORE HERE](#)

**REVIEW Action 17 'Eliminate the use of pesticides'**

## CHECK OUT: Free online courses on the *Biodiversity Learning Platform*

As things quieten down for winter, and you are missing seeing pollinators in real life, don't forget that we have lots of pollinator-biodiversity online courses on the National Biodiversity Data Centre Learning Platform. All courses are free and can be completed at your leisure. It's a good way to plan what actions you might take in 2026, or to begin learning about species identification.

Why not incorporate a biodiversity course a month within your ESG plan? It's a great way to build capacity within the Sustainability/Green Team and wider departments on site. Also suggest these courses to your value chain (suppliers and the local community).

 <p><b>How to identify and record Ireland's social wasps</b></p> <p>Learn how to identify Ireland's social wasps, as well where to find them and how to record them.</p> <p>Free</p>	 <p><b>Managing Communities for Pollinators</b></p> <p>This course is a training module on how to manage local communities for pollinators, with evidence-based guidelines from the All-Ireland...</p> <p>Free</p>	 <p><b>Farmland Pollinator Friendly Hedgerows</b></p> <p>This course is a training module for farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students about how to make hedgerows more pollinator and...</p> <p>Free</p>
 <p><b>How to identify and record Ireland's mining bees (Andrena)</b></p> <p>In this course you will learn how to identify and record Ireland's mining bees.</p> <p>Free</p>	 <p><b>Managing School Grounds for Biodiversity</b></p> <p>A training module on how to manage school grounds for biodiversity.</p> <p>Free</p>	 <p><b>Pollinator-friendly farming</b></p> <p>Welcome to this course for farmers, farm advisors and agricultural students, as part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, implemented by th...</p> <p>Free</p>

### NBDC Biodiversity Learning Platform

### REVIEW Action 26 'Promote the AIPP to employees on a monthly basis'

## NEW 2026 INTAKE: BFBI's *Nature Strategy Accelerator*

Business For Biodiversity Ireland (BFBI) has just opened its *Nature Strategy Accelerator Programme* intake for 2026, to support Irish businesses who want to incorporate nature into decision-making. The *Nature Strategy Accelerator Programme* provides:

- a step-by-step roadmap to a credible Nature Strategy
- peer-to-peer learning, in-person immersive workshops and networking opportunities



- curated resources and frameworks

BFBI, a not-for-profit supported by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), has partnered with leading expert teams at Deloitte's #WorldClimate, KPMG Ireland #SustainableFutures, the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Business for Nature to raise capacity in Irish businesses and ensure Ireland is leading the way to a nature-positive economy.

The *Nature Strategy Accelerator Programme* is tailored to the Irish market, with fees aligned with existing grants, which allows you to progress at your own pace to future-proof your organisation.

Read BFBI's new brochure on their site with testimonials from BFBI member businesses such as: ESB Networks, SAP Landscapes, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail and #ShannonAirport Group on the benefits of working with BFBI on a Nature Strategy.

Read more/sign up at the link below or contact Dr Maria Fitzpatrick BFBI Executive Director ([manager@businessforbiodiversity.ie](mailto:manager@businessforbiodiversity.ie)) to discuss next steps #ForNature along the individual and uniquely tailored Tracks - #Discovery, #Action, #Strategy and #Evolution.



**Nature Strategy Accelerator Programme**

The graphic illustrates a cyclical process with four stages: **DISCOVERY** (represented by a yellow bird), **STRATEGY** (represented by a blue fish), **ACTION** (represented by an orange hand), and **EVOLUTION** (represented by a green butterfly). These stages are connected by a winding path. To the right of the cycle is a QR code with the text "Register for free!" and an arrow pointing to it. Below the cycle, the text reads: "Join the Discovery Track for free and get started on your journey to nature positive." The Business for Biodiversity Ireland logo is in the bottom right corner.

**READ MORE HERE - BFBI's Nature Accelerator Programme - free #Discovery Track**

**REVIEW Action 31 'Engage at a corporate level with other key national biodiversity related initiatives'**

## POLLINATOR NOTICEBOARD: November 2025

### RESOURCES - BLOGS - WEBINARS - EVENTS etc.

- [How to Plan for Pollinators in Q4](#).
- Look ahead: [Q1 January - March 2026 Top 5 monthly actions for pollinators-biodiversity](#).
- [Setting a biodiversity budget for 2026 - Plan for Pollinators](#).

### WHERE TO START ON YOUR POLLINATOR-BIODIVERSITY JOURNEY & HOW TO COMMUNICATE



- START with the biodiversity action Checklist on [Page 34 Businesses: actions to help pollinators](#).
- Not sure what biodiversity is on your site? Run a [Biodiversity Maps](#) report (down to 1km2).
- Check out which of your business neighbours are delivering [Actions for Pollinators](#).
- Review your Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) - [Action for Biodiversity](#) and speak to your local [Biodiversity Officer](#) about increasing your engagement.
- Nominate a Biodiversity Champion and create a Green Team. Invite them to sign up to the [AIPP business supporters monthly newsletter](#) and connect through socials - Instagram [@allirelandpollinatorplan](#) and Twitter/X [@PollinatorPlan](#)
- **Communicate what you are doing for biodiversity** by aligning with the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Key Campaigns and Messages 2025](#).
- Learn about pollinators-biodiversity with [free online courses](#).

## POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

- **Planting & Maintenance:** [Top Ten Guide](#), [Pollinator-friendly planting code](#), [Planting/Management on New Construction Developments](#) (a Cluid guide) - biodiversity actions endorsed by the AIPP.
- [Native hedgerows](#), [Nesting habitat](#), [Orchards](#).
- [Reduced mowing/ meadows](#) and verges (and lift the cuttings!).
- [Solar Farms](#), [Wind Farms](#), [Healthcare sites](#).

## POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY CONSIDERATIONS

Why your business should consider an:

- [ALTERNATIVE action to sowing a wildflower seed mix after earthworks - Page 10](#) - choose a fine-leaved grass mix and then reduced-mowing and lift the cuttings.
- [ALTERNATIVE action to honeybee hives](#).
- [ALTERNATIVE action to sowing/gifting wildflower seed mixes](#). Think carefully by reading [Dr Noeleen Smyth's article on the issues with wildflower seed mixes](#).
- ALTERNATIVE employee/client gifts such as a [Bumblebee poster](#), [herb packets](#) (Page 12), [sunflower seeds](#) (Page 27), or [bulbs](#) (Page 11), or choose from the [TOP TEN guide of pollinator-friendly plants](#) for different situations.

## POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY IDEAS

- Create *\*thematic\** places for pollinators - sensory, herb, rain or moon garden/planter as part of a [biodiversity walking trail](#)?
- [Raise awareness in your value chain](#) including [Client engagement for pollinators](#).
- Identify AIPP pollinator-friendly [procurement \(tendering/specifying\) and sponsorship](#).
- Score how [pollinator-friendly your car park](#) is (Page 31).
- Develop an [ecological corridor](#) with business neighbours in your [business/technology park](#).
- **Geographic-based local actions:** [Large Carder Bee - coastal areas across the island](#), [Shrill Carder Bee - Roscommon, South Galway or The Burren](#)), [Great Yellow Bumblebee - Mullet Peninsula/ Belmullet, Co. Mayo](#).

## TRACK - MEASURE - MONITOR: MAP EARLY, MAP OFTEN

- Engage your [value chain with AIPP evidence-based actions](#) and set simple SMART targets.
- [Score your business site](#) (Checklist Page 34) on pollinator-biodiversity-friendly actions.
- Add pollinator-biodiversity actions to [Actions for Pollinators \(GIS\)](#) to layer data over time.

- Identify which biodiversity is on or 'adjacent' to your site via [Biodiversity Maps](#).
  - [Track and measure what's happening to pollinators on your site](#) in a scientifically robust manner e.g., Friday FIT Counts (easy level, via App) and Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (intermediate level).
  - Map, track and manage invasive species via [www.invasives.ie](http://www.invasives.ie)
  - Healthy meadow indicators: [Track/record rare bee orchids on your site](#).
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**Invite your Green Team, Biodiversity/Sustainability Champion & colleagues to sign up to the AIPP business supporters monthly newsletter**



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