

# All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

## Local Authority Pollinator Award

Newsletter 2019



**Clonmel Tidy Towns group accepting the Local Authority Pollinator Award 2018 from Heritage Officers and National Biodiversity Data Centre staff at the Tidy Towns awards ceremony at the Helix.**

In 2016, when the Local Authority Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer Network offered to establish and fund the special *Pollinator Award* in the national Tidy Towns competition, the team behind the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan were delighted to support this new way to create awareness of pollinators and increase pollinator-friendly habitats right across the country.

There has been an amazing reaction to this special award and reading about all the achievements and actions taken for pollinators in towns and villages across the country is truly inspirational. Indeed, 144 individual towns and villages have entered the Pollinator Award over the last three years, and not only that but according to Tidy Towns adjudicators upwards of 80% of all 800-plus Tidy Towns areas

are implementing actions for pollinators.

In 2018, there were 66 entries, filled with wonderful projects, each improving and creating much-needed habitats for biodiversity and pollinating insects. The judging process was very difficult as the standard is so high and it is only a pity that there could only be eight winners! Unfortunately capacity issues prevent us from sending feedback to each entrant, but we hope this newsletter may provide some assistance for future applications.

We would like to thank you sincerely for all you are doing locally to help create a more pollinator-friendly Ireland, and wish you every success in 2019!

*- the Pollinator Plan team*



# Supporting Pollinators and TidyTowns



*Dearbhala Ledwidge, Kilkeny County Council Heritage Officer and Chair of the Local Authority Pollinator Award Committee, explains the background to the special Pollinator Award*

A special pollinator award which encourages TidyTowns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their town or village is open to all groups who enter the National Tidy Towns competition. The award, now in its fourth year, has generous cash prizes – totalling €9,000, and many successful applicants have increased their points in the overall competition.

Local Authority Heritage Officers and Biodiversity Officers initiated and run the award, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

## Local Authority Support Networks

Most Local Authorities in Ireland employ a Heritage Officer, and some also employ a Biodiversity Officer. Heritage Officers and Biodiversity Officers provide strategic advice, support and information to Local Authorities and the public on protection and enhancement of built, natural and cultural heritage.

Many TidyTowns groups are at the forefront of managing and maintaining our heritage, including old historic graveyards, streetscapes or wildlife areas.

Heritage and Biodiversity Officers have a long history of working with and supporting the work of Tidy Towns groups, providing advice and information on conserving and enhancing local heritage. This special Pollinator award builds on this relationship.



**Joint Heritage Officer and Heritage Council guidance for community groups on conserving wildlife in towns and villages (2004).**

## Sowing the Seeds

In December 2015, Dr Una Fitzpatrick (National Biodiversity Data Centre and Project Coordinator of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan) gave an inspiring presentation to Heritage Officers about the *All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020*. Heritage Officers agreed that this was a very important initiative and that we should work with local communities to help pollinators. The idea of a special award in the national TidyTowns competition was born.

We set up a committee comprising Heritage Officers, Biodiversity Officers and the National Biodiversity Data Centre to develop a competition which would encourage and reward TidyTowns groups for protecting and supporting pollinators in their local areas.

## Growing Participation

Two of the 8 categories in the national TidyTowns competition are of particular relevance to actions for pollinators:

*Landscaping & Open Spaces*

*Wildlife, Habitats & Natural Amenities.*

We knew that many TidyTowns groups were already doing fantastic work in these areas, and that the award would be supporting groups to improve their points in these categories.

## Win-Win: Reasons to Enter the Pollinator Award

With two years of the award under our belts, our committee took a look at the national TidyTowns adjudicator reports for the towns and villages who had taken part in the Pollinator award, and an interesting picture was starting to emerge. Not only do TidyTowns groups who enter the special award have an opportunity to win a generous cash prize, many have also gained extra points from the TidyTowns judges – win-win!



There are 29 Heritage Officers and six Biodiversity Officers in Local Authorities in Ireland, working to protect and enhance Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage. The Heritage Officer Programme is a partnership between Local Authorities and the Heritage Council.

### TidyTowns adjudicators look favourably on actions to support the Pollinator Plan

A case in point is Geashill Tidy Towns, Co. Offaly, overall winner of our Local Authority Pollinator Award 2017. They received a cash prize of €2,000 and very positive feedback in their adjudicators' report.

*"The sensory and pollinator garden in the school looked stunning on adjudication day and the pencil gate adds a fun element. Some of the picnic area is left un-mown for pollinators. The Árd Riadha estate is well-landscaped including some pollinator planting. It's great you now have a local Bumblebee and Butterfly recorder."* Tidy Towns Adjudicators Report, Geashill Tidy Towns, 2017.

Many groups who do well in the Pollinator award also increase their points in the Landscaping and Wildlife categories of TidyTowns. In a competition where one point can

mean the difference between a gold or silver medal, this is very significant.

### The Bigger Picture

Local Authorities are key partners in supporting and implementing the *National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022* and other important policy areas such as Climate Change. Helping pollinators to survive and thrive can play a vital role in addressing these plans and policies. This special Pollinator award is one practical way we can help achieve these objectives. It's a positive example of how local authorities working together, with communities, can make a big impact.

*To find out more about the Pollinator award, contact your Local Authority Heritage Officer or Biodiversity Officer, or see [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)*





2018

The Local Authority Pollinator Award is a special TidyTowns award, sponsored by the Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland.



National Pollinator Award winners 2018: Clonmel, Co. Tipperary



Minister of State for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD, with Martin Behan and Martin Fahey, Clonmel Tidy Towns, accompanied by Roisin O'Grady, Heritage Officer Tipperary County Council.

In 2018, **Clonmel** won the top Pollinator Award at the TidyTowns awards ceremony on September 24th, at the Helix in Dublin, recognising all that has been done by the town to help pollinating insects.

The Local Authority Pollinator Award aims to encourage TidyTowns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the TidyTowns competition. It supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and is coordinated and sponsored by the Heritage Offices and Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. There were 66 entries, from 22 counties, for the Pollinator

Award this year and the standard of entries was extremely high.

Commenting on the special award, Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council said “Clonmel Tidy towns have been committed to pollinators and improving their biodiversity actions for a number of years and I am delighted to see their work acknowledged with this award. Tipperary County Council, through the Clonmel Borough District, is very happy to continue working with them and others in the town to build on their success in this area”.

Juanita Browne, Project Officer with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan said of the winners: “It’s amazing to see the whole

town of Clonmel get behind this project. We’re so grateful to all 66 towns and villages who have done so much to help their local pollinating insects. We hope this will continue into the future. With so much of our landscapes being intensively managed and one third of our bee species at risk of extinction, these 66 sites act as much-needed safe refuges for bees across the country.”

Seven other regional Pollinator Awards of €1,000 were also presented to **Ennis, Sneem, Tullahought, Bunrana, Killeshandra, Swords and Geashill.**

To find out how you can take actions to help pollinators or to enter the 2019 Pollinator Award, please see [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

# Congratulations to CLONMEL

Regional South East Large Town category

*Martin Behan, Clonmel Tidy Towns, the overall winner of the 2018 Pollinator Award, provides an insight into how a community can back pollinators.*

I've been involved in Clonmel Tidy Towns for the past decade. I've always had a passion for wildlife and gardening. And I'm very proud of my home town Clonmel, 'Cluain Meala', the Vale of Honey.

We in Clonmel Tidy Towns are very aware of the plight and decline of our pollinators and have embraced the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-20 with open arms and are enacting all of its simple actions to help our pollinator friends.

Clonmel itself is well served by open spaces. There are approximately 40 hectares of public parks of different sizes in the town. These range from roadside areas to extensive arboreta and include areas for both walking and playing. Clonmel Tidy Towns is committed to the future protection of these existing areas and in implementing the actions outlined in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to the best of our ability.

Clonmel Tidy Towns adopted a 'whole-town approach' to the plight of pollinators and implementing pollinator-friendly actions, such as mapping the town's existing good wildlife areas and pinpointing those and new areas that could act as refuges for pollinating insects by providing food, shelter and safety. This work

required the combined efforts of the Borough Council, Residents Associations, local businesses, industry, schools and home-owners.

Clonmel Tidy Towns worked especially closely with Clonmel Borough Council to identify and protect pollinator-friendly features, such as native flowering hedgerows, wild-flower habitats, and the planting of community apple, pear and plum orchards. These orchards not only help the pollinators but also have the added bonus of providing free fruit for the community.

We have also adopted a pesticide-free regime as much as possible, manually weeding where required. In conjunction with Clonmel Borough Council, we adopted a pollinator-friendly mowing regime. This involves a 'late-cut-grass' in April at a height of 3-4 inches, thereby ensuring a bumper crop of Dandelions, which are a vital source of food for pollinators in Spring.

Clonmel Tidy Towns also promoted the 'Junior Pollinator Plan' in schools and as this has proved so successful, we will continue to do this in future.







*Our Pollinator Stand at Clonmel Applefest Festival in September, where we promoted the Pollinator Plan and received a very positive response .*

Our commitment to all of these activities commenced in 2015 when we adopted the Pollinator Plan guidelines and the impetus has grown year on year as we witness the success of our efforts and the positive results. Awareness throughout the community has grown, too, and people are now more aware of how all of the actions outlined above are so important in relieving the plight of our friends, the pollinating insects. We hope that this attitude persists and that the strategy will continue to reap positive outcome over the coming years.

**Feedback from Judges:**

*Clonmel Tidy Towns were commended by judges for working with all sectors in the town to raise awareness of of pollinators and how the local council, businesses, home-owners and schools could get involved.*

*The TidyTowns Committee worked closely with Clonmel Borough District Council to identify and protect existing pollinator-friendly features such as native flowering hedgerows. They also preserved existing pollinator-friendly areas in parks and council lands and helped to keep these pesticide-free.*

*They distributed the Pollinator Plan's 'Business guidelines' to local businesses to encourage them to sign up as plan partners, and worked with Clonmel Men's Shed to produce signage to help identify pollinator-friendly sites. Working with the Men's Shed and other Community groups such as SuirCam and*



*Apple tree planting by Suir Greenway.*

# Adopt an orchard tree

Clonmel Tidy Towns committee were delighted to be part of a very special event run in conjunction with Clonmel Applefest. They are running an initiative where you can adopt a tree which is planted down along our beautiful Suir river walk (with plaque and certificate).

Tree planting became a beautiful occasion. The stories of the wonderful people the trees were dedicated to were so special. Seeing the local community come together at these sort of events is so heart warming but to know that we are contributing also to the local environment is just delightful.

*2CanDo, they planted a 'Community Orchard', an amazing way to both help pollinators and also provide free fruit for the community.*

*The TidyTowns group took on the admirable chore of manually weeding kerbs, roundabouts and flowerbeds in the town centre so as to avoid using pesticides, and stone walls and soil banks were protected as nesting sites for solitary bees. They also promoted the 'Garden guidelines' and circulated a 'Pollinator-friendly guide for estate management' to local Residents' Associations so that private gardens, roadside verges and green areas could all be managed with pollinators in mind.*

*They visited local schools to raise awareness of the importance of pollinating insects as well as planting pollinator-friendly flowers with the children in local parks.*





Martin Behan and wildflowers planted at Moangriff roundabout Clonmel in 2018.



# American visitors learn from Clonmel's success



**Two members of the Western Massachusetts Pollinator Network planted two trees in Mulcahy Park, Clonmel, during their visit to Ireland to find out about the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan from national pollinator award winners, Clonmel Tidy Towns. From left, Martin Behan, Clonmel Tidy Towns; Tom Sullivan, Western Massachusetts Pollinator Network; Roisin O'Grady, Heritage Officer, Tipperary County Council; Frank O'Donoghue, Clonmel Tidy Towns; Peggy MacLeod, Western Massachusetts Pollinator Network; and Martin Fahey, Clonmel Tidy Towns.**

In October 2018, Clonmel Tidy Towns group hosted a visit by Peggy MacLeod and Tom Sullivan, members of the Western Massachusetts Pollinator Network in the United States, during their trip to Ireland to learn about the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

And what better place than Clonmel, the Vale of Honey itself, for the Americans to visit, after the town won the overall Pollinator Award at this year's Tidy Towns awards.

Peggy MacLeod and Tom Sullivan were brought on a tour of Clonmel by Tidy Towns members. To mark the occasion two trees, both of which are native and pollinator-friendly, were planted in Mulcahy Park.

The US researchers also spent a day with Dr Una Fitzpatrick and the team at the National Biodiversity Data Centre, learning all about the Pollinator Plan and how to engage different sectors in conservation. They also made a trip to Kildare to visit visited Intel, a business supporter of the Polli-

nator Plan and Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer, Kildare County Council, brought them to Castletown House in Celbridge, another Pollinator Award Green Flag for Parks winner, where Head Gardener Rory Finnegan gave them a wonderful tour of his pollinator-friendly meadows.

As well as winning the national Pollinator Award, Clonmel won its 11th gold medal in-a-row in the 2018 Tidy Towns competition. They are very grateful to the Borough Council staff, the local business community and residents associations for all their help and cooperation, as they look forward to even more improvements next year.

Bee-friendly plants were provided at the Tobarraheena roundabout and it is hoped that the wildflower feature of the Moangarriff roundabout will be extended to the Cahir Road roundabout, while the Dungarvan Road roundabout will also be renovated. They are also looking forward to the new signs at the Blueway.



# Obituary: Frank O'Donoghue



There was widespread shock and sadness in *Clonmel* at the passing of tireless community worker and Tidy Towns secretary Frank O'Donoghue in late 2018.

A tireless worker in the community, he was a founder member of the Clonmel Tidy Towns group almost 40 years ago and had served as its secretary for many years. He was one of those people who spearheaded the significant improvements made in the appearance of the town in recent years.

Mr. O'Donoghue's dedication and commitment were recognised when he was honoured with the *Tidy Towns Community Hero award* in recent years. He was especially proud of the progress made by Clonmel in the Tidy Towns competition over the last number of years. In 2018, Clonmel won a gold medal in the national competition for the 11th year in a row, and also won the national Pollinator award. This award, which was presented after Clonmel beat off stiff competition from 65 other entries in 22 coun-

ties, recognised all the work completed by the town to help pollinating insects.

Leading the tributes to the late Mr. O'Donoghue, District Mayor Richie Molloy said that he was totally committed to Tidy Towns in Clonmel for over 30 years, and had helped the town win many awards.

'He won the *Tidy Towns Hero* award himself, which was a great tribute to the work he was doing. I couldn't say enough about his work in a voluntary capacity, especially during the summer when I would be returning from council meetings and would often see him on his own, tidying up the laneways of Clonmel, especially at the back of the Clonmel Arms Hotel. That was wonderful dedication, as he lived for the Tidy Towns.'

Cllr. Molloy said he had put huge effort into the submission made every year to the Tidy Towns judges, and was very involved in the various biodiversity projects in recent years. 'Ten years ago when I was mayor, Frank approached me and asked could the Tidy Towns and the council work more closely together', said Cllr. Molloy. 'Since then the outdoor staff and Frank's committee worked hand-in-hand and that has all added to keeping the town looking so well. The fact that the town looks so well is testament to his hard work and a wonderful legacy for his efforts over so many years.

'He was the founder of the Tidy Towns group, along with Vera Hewitt, over 30 years ago and his efforts never faltered in that time.'

Frank was always a great supporter of other voluntary and community initiatives in the town, including the annual Rotary Club Remembrance Christmas Tree in aid of Hospice. Rotary chairman Joe O'Sullivan paid tribute to his huge commitment to everything good in Clonmel and said it was typical that he had already signed up to help out at the 2018 Remembrance Tree prior to his passing.

Martin Behan, the chairperson of Clonmel Tidy Towns, said that Frank was passionate about Clonmel and everything to do with the environment.

'He had great pride in the town', he said. 'He worked tirelessly for the town and took great pride in Clonmel winning yet another gold medal this year, as well as the Pollinator award in the Tidy Towns competition.'

'Frank was very good to motivate people and he would always give you a lift if spirits were down', said Martin Behan. 'He was the guiding light who gelled the committee. It was a privilege to have worked with him for the past nine years. We started out as fellow volunteers and became great friends. Frank will be sorely missed and will be a hard act to follow. In his memory, we hope to go forward and drive on to better things', said Martin.

In his younger years Frank served with the Royal Air Force. In Clonmel he worked at Prendergast's garage and with the Rehab group.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

South Mid West  
Large Town Winner:

# ENNIS



*Cormac McCarthy,  
Chairman, Ennis  
TidyTowns,  
explains some*

*large-scale landscape  
changes achieved in Ennis  
for pollinating insects*



The really engaging aspect of the National TidyTowns Awards is how it animates local communities to implement small, incremental changes to their locality on a broad range of issues. This includes litter control, removal of graffiti to more targeted initiatives such as heritage, sustainability and of course, biodiversity.

Biodiversity and the abundance of wildlife and habitats around Ennis is a natural asset which Ennis TidyTowns have been advocating and promoting for years. Such is the level of interest from the committee and the wider community that we developed our first ever Biodiversity Plan ‘*Wild about Ennis*’ in 2017. It was at this same time that the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was making huge strides with local communities through the development of their educational guidelines and How-to Guides. These guides were a real turning point for us. It illustrated in clear, easy-to-manage steps how simple it was to enhance habitats for pollinators. In addition, by embracing these management regimes, not only were pollinators impacted in a positive way, but so were lots of other plants and species. It was a real win-win. We adopted a multi-pronged approach to the issue of pollinators, mindful of not only the limitations that we faced in terms of land ownership but also the strong positives we could bring to the table as a well-established, environmentally-focussed NGO. Our pollinator *plan of action* involved the following:

First we approached Clare County Council to see if public lands around the town, such as the public parks and road verges, could be tweaked in terms of their grass-cutting regime. We were very fortunate to be dealing with a very proactive and environmentally aware team in the Ennis Municipal District. We were invited to provide input to the grass-cutting contract and in doing so had a voice at the table. Like Ennis Tidy Towns, Clare County Council recognised that actions for pollinators and engagement with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was not just good for biodiversity, but also led to less man power and less costs such as diesel and green waste disposal. A number of pilot areas were identified to trial the regime in 2017. Follow-







ing on from its success and great public backing, this was expanded in 2018 to several roundabouts. We revisit the contract every year, with staff in the Ennis Municipal District and see where new areas can be targeted.

Whilst we had the ear of the Council, we also advocated for reduced pesticide use throughout the town. We were delighted to hear that pesticide use had decreased by up to 90% over the previous few years - great indication of the commitment by the Council to more sustainable methods of weed control.

We then looked at what goodwill we could leverage for pollinators as a Tidy Towns organisation. We decided to invite a specialist, Aoife Munn, to come and provide a free public lecture as part of our Spring Biodiversity Lecture Series. Aoife provided excellent tips on gardening for wildlife as well as natural alternatives to weed killer – a 15% vinegar/water solution – which many people around our town have adopted. We also gave a complete overhaul to our annual awards night, with a focus on environment-friendly gardening and a dedicated Best Biodiversity Garden category. The response was over-

whelmingly positive.

While these were all very good initiatives, we were also conscious that the issues facing pollinators needed to be kept to the forefront of people’s minds and therefore on social media, we posted regular real-world-Ennis examples of things that were being done to promote or protect bees. Examples included photos of dandelions on road verges as these are a major source of early food for pollina-

**pesticide use  
had decreased  
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over the  
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years.**







tors. The reaction to this particular post was one of surprise as well as a commitment by people to view what were traditionally thought of as 'weeds' as an important food source.

The promotion of community orchards by the Garden of Eden Project was also linked with pollinators, as was the planting of willow by a local estate in the town. We posted regular colour photos of our pollinator roundabouts, including the emergence of orchids in some areas, which have only become visible since the cutting regime has been changed. We feel that by providing these examples and connecting people with their sense of place that small achievable actions will be delivered throughout the community. This is a great starting point in the protection and improvement of biodiversity in general, as well as pollinators.



*A community event at a local estate showed off the wildflowers that have emerged as a result of reduced mowing.*



We also took some impromptu actions which have yielded very positive results. Two such actions included:

We observed the Council undertaking capital works along a main approach road to the town. This led to a large linear tract of land in need of seeding. We asked the Council: if we purchased approved wildflower seed mix, would they manage this new verge to promote pollinators. The response was again very positive and this road now provides a wonderful splash of colour for commuters and visitors to Ennis.

We also developed a specific project for local cafes and restaurants – Ennis-specific kids' activity sheets which children could







colour in and do word searches while waiting for their meal. We dedicated one of the sheets to pollinators with a join-the-dots, pollinator-specific word search and a biodiversity colouring sheet.

There is still much to be done. We wish to engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland who own large sections of motorway in the town. We also want to partner with Irish Rail on a biodiversity project at the train station. Most of all, we want to continue to work with the general public and local groups – such as Banner Beekeepers, who are very supportive of our work - to roll out pollinator-friendly projects throughout the town. In doing so, the cumulative benefit will be immense, providing safe refuges for pollinators and other forms of wildlife throughout the town. Our award this year has energised us to try harder in 2019 with the hope of scooping the overall Pollinator Award!

[www.ennistidytowns.com](http://www.ennistidytowns.com)  
[www.facebook.com/ennistidytowns](https://www.facebook.com/ennistidytowns)



*By talking to the local Council when they spotted new roadside clearance, Ennis Tidy Towns managed to have a large tract of verge planted with native wildflower seed.*

*Pollinator activity sheets created by Ennis Tidy Towns*





## South Mid West Small Town Winner: **SNEEM**



*Jane O'Sullivan describes  
the rewarding experience  
of supporting pollinators*

In late April/early May 2017, we were busy filling out our Tidy Towns application form and, ever gluttons for punishment, we decided to enter the Schools award and Local Authority Pollinator award for the first time. Our local national school had entered the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) One Good Idea Competition with an energy-saving initiative called 'Bee Bright, Save Light' and every house and business in our village had received a handmade 'Mr. Bee' to remind us to turn off our lights, so bees had already invaded our collective consciousness. (Our brilliant Legendary Lightsavers came runners-up in the competition by the way.)

So how did we go about implementing the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in our small village in the south-west of Ireland? Our first step was to take a walk around and look at what we already have. Sneem has been competing successfully in the Tidy Towns Competition for over 50 years, and won the overall competition in 1987. In 2014, we had commissioned a Sneem Biodiversity Action Plan (Crushell, P. & Foss, P.) and many of the actions implemented from this had already put us on the road to becoming a pollinator-friendly village.



*Amanda Pedlow, Heritage Officer, Offaly County Council, and Eileen Burns, Sneem Tidy Towns*

**Reduced mowing:** As a result of the Biodiversity Action Plan, we have been leaving grass along the river walks unmown, just mowing a path through for walking or at the verges, and letting the wildflowers bloom. What we did after consulting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was to print out 'Managed for Wildlife' signs and put these up to mark these areas to let people know why they were being managed in such a way.

**Reduce chemicals:** We have eliminated much of the invasive Japanese knotweed which was prevalent in waste areas throughout the village. In other areas, we have tried to completely eliminate spraying of chemicals. We have been promoting a vinegar-based weedkiller for areas which need to be kept weed-free.

**Cease cleaning stone walls:** There are many stone walls in Sneem and in the past these were kept scrupulously weed-free; now the growth of interesting flora is encouraged and admired on them.







**Provide wild bee nesting habitats:** Stone walls, native hedging and long grassy hummocks already provided

shelter for wild bees. An additional measure we took was to drill different sized holes in logs and put them up on the shed in the Garden of the Senses. We were surprised and delighted to find that most of the holes on one of the logs had been filled as solitary bees have moved in. Next year, we will drill more logs with this size hole. We have also cleared some earth banks for mining bees: we plan to increase these in the future as we have learnt that the majority (62 of 77 species) of solitary bees are mining bees.

**Pollinator-friendly planting:** Last spring we created a new flower bed in the North Square Fair Green and filled it with pollinator-friendly plants that provided a succession of flowers all through the summer and well into late autumn. We have now begun creating a similar bed in the South Square Fair Green. All our planting choices are now governed by considering 'Is it pollinator-friendly?' We have recently planted hellebores, native bluebells, crocuses and snowdrop bulbs to provide early food for emerging bees in the spring. Children from our local gardening club created signage and helped grow some of these plants from seed. Many of our local businesses have also embraced planting pollinator-friendly plants in their window boxes.

**Hedging:** We've increased our willow hedging for free by using cuttings from existing willow hedging in the Garden of the Senses. Willow provides an early food source for emerging bees.

**Recording:** We logged our pollinator-friendly measures on the mapping system 'Actions for Pollinators'. We are joining the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and are planning to undertake training in bumblebee identification with this scheme in spring 2019.

**Communication:** We have been promoting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan with a series of articles in our monthly newsletter, the *Sneem Community Notice Board* and on our facebook page. We ran a Crafty Bee workshop for kids during the Sneem Summer Festival. We are delighted that our local national school is adopting the Junior Pollinator Plan. A local artist has painted a bee mural in one of the housing estates. We took a stand at the Sneem Christmas Craft Fair and sold bumblebee and butterfly identification swatches as well as giving away How-to guides.

We were amazed and delighted to receive a call from Juanita Browne on the day of the Tidy Towns awards at the Helix, last September, to say that we were one of the eight regional winners. We have found that embracing the All-Ireland Pollinator plan has changed the way we look at our village and implementing the actions has been incredibly satisfying. It has been a real learning experience and we feel like we've only just got started.

## Northwest West Small Town Winner: **KILLESHANDRA**



*Heather Bothwell,  
Tidy Towns volunteer  
explains how they  
appealed to young and  
old to help pollinators*

Killeshandra is a small town with all the familiar problems that rural towns have up and down the country. Many diverse groups in the town played their part to learn about pollinators and do their bit to help. It was great that their work was recognised with the 2018 regional pollinator award.

The ladies of the ICA decided they wanted to find out what these pollinators were and what they need. The ICA hosted an information talk in May. The Day Care group, including senior citizens, applied for Agenda 21 grant money to make the recreation gardens in the town more pollinator friendly. The playgroup came out and helped the day care group plant pollinator-friendly raised beds. The community gardeners picked a warm sheltered bank in the community garden near a willow tree to have bare soil



*Original art work, by Aisling Blackburn, commissioned for information sign at historic Rath church, Killeshandra.*

for mining bees and considered pollinators in their management of the community garden.

Scoil Bhríde NS managed a section of grassland in the school grounds as a nature garden and allowed the grassland flowers to bloom. They have had several visits from Heritage in Schools experts and frequent bug hunts.

Killeshandra Community Hall, with funding from Tidy Towns, has a new flowering hedge of native whitethorn, guelder rose, hazel, holly and rowan. The SES scheme workers planted the bulk of the hedge, but the scouts had started the work.

The Rural Social Scheme workers have been keen to support pollinators. Several areas of grass at the town lake were mowed less frequently to allow dandelions, red clover, bird's-foot-trefoil to flower.

Some areas were fenced off and only mown late, this allowed a



*Above: A group of workers from Killeshandra Tidy Towns.*

*Left: The number of bumblebees among the dandelions in the shelter of the walls of the Rath church this spring was a joy to behold.*





Amanda Pedlow, Offaly Heritage Officer; Dearbhala Ledwidge, Kilkenny Heritage Officer; and Anne Shanley, Killeshandra Tidy Towns

range of later flowers such as red bartsia .

The heritage group has been aware of colonies of several species of solitary bees in the short grass of the Rath Church historic graveyard for a few years. In 2018 we got new permanent interpretive signage for the site, which included a painting of a solitary bees and some text on pollinators. The number of bumblebees among the dandelions in the shelter of the walls of the Rath church this spring was a joy to behold.

Members of the Tidy Towns group planted a new bed with herbaceous perennials and used pollinator-friendly plants, spoke on community radio, organised pollinator information for heritage day, and ran bug hunts for the Killeshandra kids summer camp.

We are very grateful for the support of the Local Authority Pollinator award and the resources of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We hope to build on the work we have started and continue to engage the whole community. As a Tidy Towns group, we plan to purchase some nets and bumblebee identification guides so Killeshandra can see what a great variety of pollinators we have. Looking forward to this season, you never know what we will find!



Enjoying a bug hunt at the summer camp at Killeshandra town lake





Midlands East

Large Town Winner: **Swords**

### *George Mongey, Swords Tidy Towns describes their actions for pollinators*

a) Swords Tidy Towns (STT) held an LA21-funded Pollinator Workshop over two Saturdays in February and March 2018. Workshop 1 included some theory on the what/why and who of Pollinators and the factors affecting Pollination. Workshop 2 was more practical in nature, where we identified and planted a site that was good for pollinators at the end of North St, Swords.

These workshops were given by Onja Van Doorslaer who has worked with the National Ecology Centre in Co Meath and has over 10 years' teaching experience in this area. We used her knowledge and experience to help us identify and protect existing areas in in our community that are already good for Pollinators.

b) STT worked in conjunction with the Operations and Parks

Department of Fingal County Council to identify and protect existing areas in Swords that are already good for Pollinators, e.g. Maintenance of the Hedgerows on the R132 (Swords Bypass) and local parks, leave some grass areas to grow wild to create habitats for Bumblebee Nests, e.g. the Roundabouts on R132 (Swords Bypass) .

c) STT consulted <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie> and the *Local Communities: Actions to help pollinators* guidelines of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for information to help us identify and protect existing areas in Swords that are already good for Pollinators.

d) STT encouraged a whole-town approach for pollinators rather than isolated projects. STT maintained a close relationship with Fingal County Council's Operations and Parks Departments and the Biodiversity Officer, Local Primary and Secondary Schools, Businesses, and other Community and Resident Association Groups in Swords, e.g. The collaborative Biodiversity Project which STT undertook with Loreto College in River-valley, Swords, for their school's entry into the 2018 Eco-Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards, which they subse-





**Fig. 8 Plug Plants at our Polytunnel**



**Fig. 2 Pollinator Beds inside Swords Town Park**



**Fig. 1 Grass cutting at Colaiste Choilm**



**Fig.7 Bee Hotels at Polytunnel**



**Fig. 9 Pollinator Workshop 1 & 2**



quently won and the new Green Park on the Rathbeale Road. The Management of the Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords placed Bee Hives, Bat Boxes and Bird Boxes on the roof of the Shopping Centre as part of a larger Biodiversity Project. The boxes were built by the Swords Men's Shed. The Management spoke with Bat and Bee experts before

they went ahead with this initiative. This project also included a Contemplation Garden close to the main entrance, which has a budget of €20,000.

e) STT repaired Stone Walls around Swords to encourage solitary cavity-nesting bees.

j) STT raised public awareness of Pollinators in Swords through the use of their Social Media Channels and in particular our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/swordstidytown>. On the 27th April, STT highlighted the near total neonicotinoid ban agreed by the EU on chemicals linked to harming Bees.



Midlands East  
Small Town Winner:

# Geashill



*Caren Carruthers and Pat Foley explain how*

*Geashill Tidy Towns made Geashill an award-winning village for bees as well as a nicer place to live*

Winning the National Local Authority Pollinator Award in 2017 was for us as gratifying as it was unexpected. Our community had put in a huge effort, but on a human level this was rewarded a thousand-fold every time one of us saw a bumblebee happily feasting on one of our flowering plants.

After sustained celebrations, we met to discuss how we could build on this success in 2018. When you



feel you have done everything you possibly could have to provide habitat and food for pollinators, what do you do next?

We decided that an audit of sorts was required before we could move on. We looked at all the individual actions we had taken and reviewed how successful (or not) they have been. Our Bee and Butterfly Monitoring Scheme Records provided us with very clear evidence of our best performing perennial plants.

When every time you visit a small area of Geranium Rozanne, you find it is covered with Carder Bees – you know what you need to plant more of next time. The same held true for our Bistort and Stachys beds. Even better, these can be subdivided, overwintered and replanted in spring to create new pollinator-friendly planted areas at no additional cost.

Much of our work over the past year was therefore based on







Above: Amanda Pedlow (far right), Heritage Officer with Offaly County Council, pictured with Pat Foley (far Left) and other members of Geashill TidyTowns at the awards ceremony at the Helix.



extending those actions we knew had been successful: our ‘No Mow’ initiative on our entrance roads; the planting of over 50 native trees; adding to our stock of solitary bumble-bee nest boxes and creating two new wildflower areas.

Some of our new initiatives included the first phase of a new Children’s Orchard of native Apple Trees at Geashill National School, Úllord Na n’Óg. We created a planter garden at our Bring Centre, filled with a wide range of pollinator plants, including Nasturtium, Sweet Pea and Honeysuckle.

Our most ambitious project was the planting of a Pollinator and Sensory Garden in cooperation with the staff and pupils of Geashill NS.

The success of our planting was best exemplified by a profusion of flowering Nasturtiums, which to the horror of one of our local gardeners disappeared in the space of a week. On closer examination we discovered that we had in fact facilitated a breeding colony of thousands of caterpillars on their way to becoming Small White and other butterflies. This reinforced what has become our mantra – If you plant it: they will come!





Raising awareness, both locally and now at national level, has become just as important to us as the provision of habitat and food. We have conducted 'Pollinator Walk and Talks' around the village for other Tidy Towns groups and the general public; facilitated workshops for the pupils of Geashill NS and participated in filming for both RTE's Eco Eye and for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan team at the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

We have found social media to be an invaluable tool to allow us to connect with our local community and beyond. It has allowed us make our Geashill Village Pollinator Actions available to everyone, offering suggestions on how these can be replicated at home on a smaller scale and at minimal cost.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, but actions speak louder than words. An overheard conversation between two neighbours discussing their front lawns last spring

went something like this "Make sure you don't mow those dandelions for another couple of weeks or there will be nothing for the bees"

All of this community effort in 2018 has been most rewarding for our bees and other pollinators but also for us, particularly when we were announced winners of the Midlands and East Regional Award at the Helix in September.

Our heartiest congratulations go to the other regional winners and of course to Clonmel as worthy overall National Winners.

We are really enjoying our pollinator journey so far and the support of the National Biodiversity Data Centre's Pollinator Plan team has been invaluable. We have learned so much from being part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, but most of all how much more there is for us to learn. This is just the beginning.





*Best Garden for pollinators competition in Geashill*



*Below: Making herb boxes*



## South East Small Town Winner:

# Tullahought



*Richard Walsh, Tullahought Tidy Towns, describes their journey to win the 2018 South East Small Towns Pollinator Award*



The Tullahought, Co. Kilkenny, Tidy Towns committee were thrilled to win the South East Region Pollinator Award for small towns in 2018, an achievement which we had been working towards for many years. Granted the Special Pollinator award has only existed since 2016, but our rural village has been following many of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommendations for much longer.

Tullahought has been competing in the Tidy Towns competition since 1992 and while we have been making steady progress over the years in the main competition, to a point where we are now at Silver Medal status, we had not achieved any success in the Special Awards until 2017, when we won a Value Water Award. Indeed many of the special awards would not be relevant to the village.

Our work towards winning the 2018 Pollinator Award and indeed the 2017 Value Water Award could be traced back to the year 2000 when we developed a wildlife area on the outskirts of the village. The wildlife area contains two ponds which are fed from a spring which supplied water to village residents of past

generations. In developing this feature we were expertly guided by naturalist Liam Bourke who surveyed the plants native to the area and devised a planting scheme beneficial to biodiversity. Bird and bat boxes were erected; a log and stone pile for insects, a hedgehog box, butterfly and insect boxes and a solitary bee hotel were all put in place. Such was the success of the wildlife area known as the 'Watering Place' that the project was a Natural Environment Category Winner in the ESB/CVI Community Environmental Awards 2003 and the group was also recognised for our efforts to improve the natural environment by the Vodafone and Conservation Volunteers Nature Fund.

In the intervening years, Liam has led Biodiversity walks around the village on a number of occasions during our annual National Heritage weekend. Biologist Eanna Ní Lamhna, of RTE fame, has also been our guest for the National Heritage weekend on two occasions to conduct nature walks of the area.

### **Wildflower planting at our wildlife area**

In 2014, when an ancient dry stone wall in the village partially collapsed and needed rebuilding, we called on the expertise of Dearbhala Ledwidge, Kilkenny County Council Heritage officer to advise on how best to carry out the work for the benefit of pollinators. This resulted in the saving of as much of the old wall as possible, using the old methods to rebuild the new portions.

There are two striking features of Tullahought Village, including the many stone walls both old and new which incorporate pollinator-friendly planting. Most notable amongst these are the Viewing Tower, the stone wall with herb garden and the curved planting beds at the village car







*The team from Tullahought celebrating their win!*

park, seen here abundant with wild strawberries

The second striking feature is the wide grass verges on the approach road from Carrick-on-Suir. Over the years we have tried to manage these for the benefit of pollinators by cutting a narrow strip on the roadside and leaving the rest to grow naturally. The arrival of the Pollinator Plan's 'Managed for Wildlife' signs in recent years shows that we are not just cutting corners by not cutting the grass.

In 2014, we set aside an area behind the Community Centre where wildflowers and grasses can flourish. In 2017, this was supplemented with raspberry, blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes, with the fruit left for the wildlife.

When the Pollinator Award was launched in 2016 we felt we now had a Special Award suited to our rural village where we felt we could benefit from our past efforts. Of course we also realised that we had to continue to improve.

We contacted the Green Bee Education Programme, who provided a pollinator expert to conduct a Bee Bootcamp for

the local primary school pupils. This one-day event began with a classroom lesson about pollinators, followed by a bee search around our wildlife ponds and ended with a lesson on growing pollinator-friendly plants. Our expert Mark then met with our committee to study the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and helped develop a new pollinator plan for the village.







Projects for 2016 saw additional native trees planted throughout the village, the addition of the fruit bushes at the Community Centre, an additional solitary bee hotel erected in our wildlife area and a new 1916 Commemorative Garden planted with native trees and pollinator friendly plants.

In 2017, additional pollinator-friendly plants were planted throughout the village. However, our primary focus was on water, with a large programme on de-silting our wildlife ponds carried out over two winters. During this period the private land with the well supplying water to our ponds was reclaimed and we consulted and liaised with the landowners and contractors to protect the water supply and quality. These projects contributed to our success in winning the 2017 Value Water Award.

2018 saw our focus shift back to the Pollinator Award, when we engaged Ecologist Deborah D'Arcy to produce a comprehensive Biodiversity Plan for Tullahought and its environs, with a special emphasis on pollinators. This project was procured through Kilkenny County Council and Agenda 21 funding. Following Deborah's advice, additional flower boxes planted with pollinator-friendly seasonal plants: Campanula, Agastache



Blue Boa, *Verbena bonariensis*, Sedum, Dianthus Barbarini, Redbeckia Sullivantii Goldsturm, Chysanthemum were added in the village, with pollinator friendly plants Allium Sphaerocephalon, Salvia Caradonna Campanula, Dianthus Barbarini planted at the entrance to our sports field.

Supplementary planting of our herb garden provides Chives, Sage, Tricolor, Oregano, Curled Parsley, Garden Mint, Common Thyme, Rosemary, Fennel and shrubs Lupinus Gallery Red, Cytisus 'Lena' and English Lavender.

#### **Village Herb Garden**

A wildflower patch has been added at our Wildlife Area and a new orchard containing eight species of old Irish apple trees and two crab apple trees for pollination has been planted, which will provide a valuable source of food for pollinators and wildlife into the future.

In 2018, we also joined the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme



run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and entered the area on their habitats map. We are particularly hoping to re-discover a cuckoo bumblebee which was last recorded in the area in 1973—the search will continue in 2019.

A key success in our efforts over the years has been the contribution of land-owners who have planted areas to help biodiversity as part of the Department of Agriculture GLAS programme. Private residents, too, have played a large role, with one garden redeveloped in 2018 to provide a wildflower area and a clover patch for pollinators.

Our Tidy Towns committee look forward to 2019 and beyond, with plans to continue to improve our pollinator-friendly village.





Northwest West Large Town Winner:

# BUNCRANA

*Sinéad Ní Broin explains how  
Buncrana went bonkers for bees*

It's true. We really are bonkers about bees! Over the last few years our pollinator work has grown, and it is with great pride that we can now call ourselves two-time winners of the Tidy Towns Local Authority Pollinator Award for the North West and West Region.

We work with Donegal County Council and our wonderful local Gardner George McDermott to maintain a number of Biodiversity areas throughout Buncrana. These vibrant areas are integrated within much loved local amenities, such as our children's playpark, and tennis courts at Shore Front, Swan Park, and along hedgerows, and roads such as from North West Golf Club to Ludden beach.

Colourful meadows, populated with plants to encourage various species of butterflies, moths, bees and other pollinators are our ambition. Our work in Amazing Grace Park under the guidance of George is a sight to behold in the summer

months. A couple of years ago we undertook a joint Solitary Bee Box installation project and planting project with Amazing Grace Park Group, Wild Inishowen and Donegal County Council. We now plant numerous pollinator-friendly plants, including, Borage, Cosmos, Sedum and Verbena. Our 12 baby blue solitary bee boxes posted along the park are a great point of conversation.

Our volunteers have also exposed earth banks at Buncrana's Shore Front for solitary mining bees and a Bee Hotel was installed by our local Beaver Scout troop. We regularly monitor all these happy homes to ensure they are being used and are protected from interference.

Another great collaborative project we work on each year in the all-island 'One Million Trees in One Day' initiative. We work with a great wildlife group, Wild Inishowen and Inishowen Rivers Trust. During the devastating local floods of August 2017 we lost a significant number of trees along the Crana River. Last year we managed to plant over 1,000 trees at Dunree Fort, Cockhill Cemetery, Gubbins Farm along the Crana River to add protection to the riverbank and nearby Elm Park, again to help protect the riverbank. We planted Holly, which is hugely pollinator friendly. We also planted Hazel, Ash, Birch



*Buncrana's much loved pollinator-friendly Amazing Grace Park in all its summer glory*





*Buncrana Tidy Towns Spokesperson Sinéad Ní Bhroin with Gardner George McDermott and representatives of Wild Inishowen and the Amazing Grace Initiative installing their Solitary Bee Box project in the wonderful Amazing Grace park.*

and Hawthorn, all of which are great food plants for caterpillars, moths, etc. and Oak, which supports the most diverse range of insect species. Our trees are now well settled in and are thriving. Happy days!

It's also important to note that Buncrana Tidy Towns have always had a 'no pesticide' policy. In the areas we maintain, we operate a Spade Patrol where any weeds that are there are removed with spades, hoes and hand pulling.

Donegal County Council, under the watchful eye of George, has also created buffer zones around pollinator friendly areas where no pesticides are used.

In recent months our volunteers have lifted seed from successful pollinator areas to use in new locations identified for future work. We encourage local businesses to use

pollinator-friendly plants for their hanging baskets and we are delighted to say they have all done fantastic work.

We also like to get other people on board so we partnered up with Wild Inishowen to hold a pollinator workshop in Amazing Grace Park, host a public talk on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, work with schools and local groups to protect and encourage polli-

nator species and work with our Tidy Town neighbours in Carndonagh to assist them in their work.

I hope this article gives you a flavour of our Pollinator work and of the partnership approach we have fostered over the years. We are deeply committed to our local environment and wider community. If our bees are plentiful and happy then all is right in our world.



*Buncrana Tidy Towns maximise every nook and cranny to provide pollinator-friendly areas across the town*



# Tips to improve your chances in 2019

## 1. Please fill in the proper application form completely

Some entrants do not fill in the application form but provide their own project descriptions. Unfortunately no matter how impressive these entries are, this makes it very difficult to judge one application against the next. Points are awarded for each question so if any are left out, you will lose marks.

## 2. Make sure your planting follows our

### Pollinator-friendly Planting Code

There are useful plant lists at the back of our 'Local Communities' guidelines, and the more detailed Planting Code is available at [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie) Daffodils and tulips produce negligible pollen and nectar so they are not beneficial in pollinator-friendly planting schemes.

Care should also be taken to select local provenance when sourcing native wildflower seed, trees and shrubs.



### How do you know if a plant is pollinator friendly?

- Single instead of double flowered varieties: double flowered varieties provide almost no nectar and pollen for pollinators
- Perennials over annuals: perennial plants are generally better sources of pollen and nectar
- Do you see pollinators visiting it? When choosing plants to buy at a garden centre, you will quickly realise what flowers pollinators visit most. Also keep an eye out for the Royal Horticultural Society's "Perfect for Pollinators" logo, which is now used by many suppliers of garden plants



#### Info Box:

Daffodils or Tulips are not a good source of food for pollinators. Bees will only use Daffodils if there are no other food sources available.

#### Info Box:

Traditional bedding plants like Geraniums, Begonias, Busy Lizzy, Petunias, Polyanthuses or Salvia splendens have virtually no pollen and nectar and are of little value to pollinators.





### 3. Try to adopt a whole-town approach to your Pollinator Award entry

Where a project is limited to a small area, for example one town park, this can only compare poorly with entrants who have taken a whole-town approach, with pollinator-friendly sites at various spots around the area.

### 4. Remember to protect what you have

This is a very important aspect of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan—to protect what you already have (Action 1). Care should be taken not to remove good habitat in favour of new planting. This cropped up in a number of entries in 2017. Some groups removed areas of bramble and ivy—which are already really important food sources for bees and replaced them by planting wildflower seed. In such cases, we would encourage you to try to keep the bramble and ivy where possible, and choose different areas for new planting schemes. This will increase your bee area two-fold!



### 5. Nesting habitats

Creating nesting sites doesn't just mean bug hotels. Bare earth banks will attract our 62 species of mining solitary bees – many more species than catered for by bee hotels.



#### Bigger isn't always better!

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommends smaller bee hotels. The very large hotels can be more susceptible to pests and disease.

See our How-to-guide 'Creating wild pollinator nesting habitat' for more details.

### 6. Don't forget to protect your hedgerows

We can't overestimate the importance of flowering hedgerows (Action 12). Flowering hedgerows that contain Hazel, Willow, Blackthorn and Hawthorn provide food in spring when wild bees come out of hibernation. Bramble is a good source of food in summer, and Ivy in the autumn. Bumblebees often nest in long grass at the base of hedgerows.





Oisin Duffy

**PLEASE NOTE:** The more information you can give us in your application form to explain what actions you're taking the better. Remember we won't know anything about your pollinator project unless you include it in your application.

## 7.

Don't forget that hanging baskets or planters can also be planted with pollinator-friendly plants such as Verbena and Bacopa.

Even small planters and window boxes can be planted with pollinator-friendly species.



### A NOTE ON PESTICIDES:

While the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan recommends the reduction or elimination of pesticides where possible, it must also be noted that **it is necessary** to use pesticides to treat certain invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed.

Please engage with your local authority in relation to mapping and treatment of Invasive species.



Anneke Vrieling





## 8. Please include a map and captioned photographs with your application.

By including a marked map of your town or village, and well captioned photographs you will help us to fully understand your pollinator actions.



Use clear captions: e.g. Sign at entrance to Geashill village, Plants: Lavender... etc.

## 9. We have some new tools to help create awareness of pollinators

*For the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 to be successful we need to raise public awareness so that people know the importance of pollinators and understand why we all need to take action. Local communities can play a vital role in this regard.*

**Our newest How-to-guide explains how to make a Pollinator Plan for a school.**

Both this new How-to-guide and the Junior version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (an Irish language version is also available) can be downloaded from our website, [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



### NEW VIDEOS AND ANIMATIONS

With the support of the Heritage Officers of Kildare, Wicklow and Waterford County Councils, and with co-funding via Creative Ireland, we have produced some videos and an animation to help explain the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Please help to show/share these in your community and through social media. See [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie) or <https://www.youtube.com/user/biodatacentre>

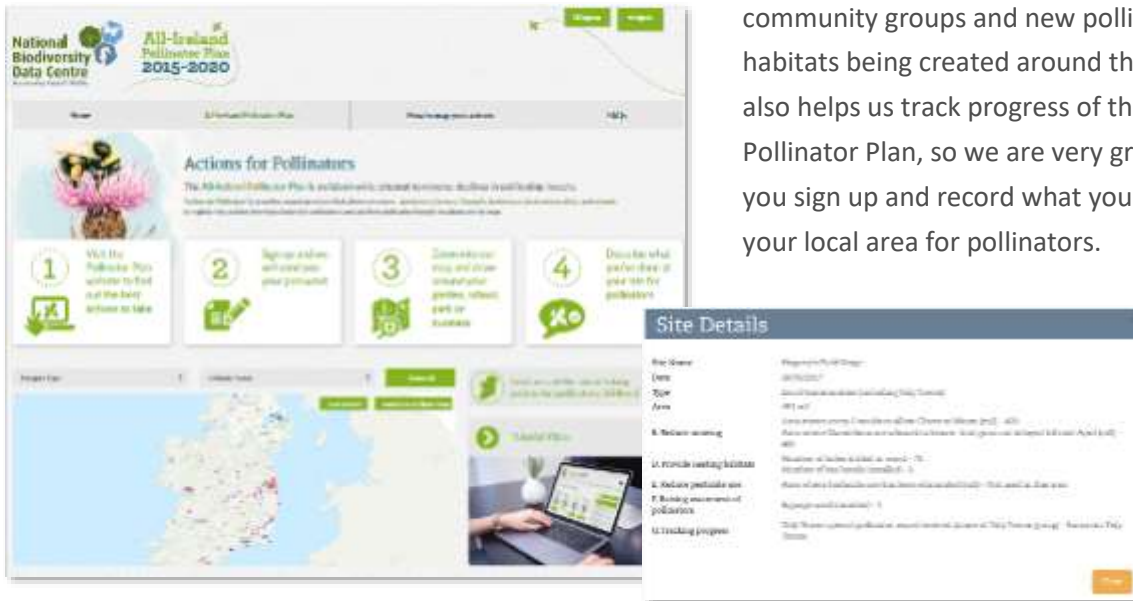


# 10. Make sure you tell us about your good work— log your actions for Pollinators on our online mapping system

We would like to encourage you to log your actions for pollinators on our online mapping system:

<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>

This helps us to track the amazing work of community groups and new pollinator-friendly habitats being created around the country. It also helps us track progress of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, so we are very grateful when you sign up and record what you are doing in your local area for pollinators.



Our guidelines for Local Communities explain in detail 24 evidence-based actions that will help pollinators in your area.

By studying these in detail before carrying out works you will take the correct actions!



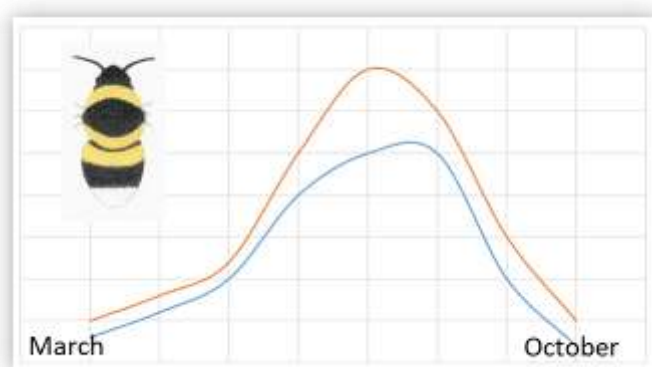
[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



# Bumblebee monitoring scheme

**Action 23:** Take part in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme. Identify interested people and set up at least one bumblebee monitoring scheme walk within your local community. In this scheme volunteers walk a fixed 1-2km route once a month between March and October and record the diversity and abundance of bumblebees that they see. The scheme is run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre who provide full support and training.

The scheme is vital in tracking what is happening with wild pollinators in the landscape, and can be used to assess the effectiveness of any pollinator-friendly actions that are being taken locally. If interested in taking part please contact: [info@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:info@biodiversityireland.ie)



The Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme supports and co-ordinates a network of volunteers across the island of Ireland. In collaboration with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in Northern Ireland, the scheme now records >13,000 bumblebees from >100 sites each year.



Don't be afraid! Everyone can take part in monitoring bumblebees, from bumble beginners to experienced recorders. See how to get involved at: <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/>

## Becoming a business supporter

As part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, there is a framework within which businesses can sign up a business supporter of the Pollinator Plan. Under this framework a business agrees to take one action within their first year and another two by 2020.



### Action 19:

Promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to local businesses and encourage them to make their outdoor spaces pollinator friendly or to sponsor local pollinator-friendly actions, such as a roundabout, or a print run of guidelines to clients, gardeners or local schools.

## Why not share our guidelines with other sectors in your area?

Download all our materials at [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



## Contact Us

See our new website [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie) for more information

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The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.