

Pollinator Friendly Kildare

Kildare Pollinator Action Plan 2019-2022



December 2020

Ver 3.0

This is an action in the County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025





Figure 1 Holly Blue Butterfly (*Celastrina argiolus*)



Figure 2 Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

A Note from the Mayor, CEO and Heritage Officer

1.0 Introduction

The All Ireland Pollinator Plan provides evidence-based guidelines, which give clear advice on how each sector can improve the environment for pollinators – for example, by reducing grass mowing; by allowing hedgerows to bloom; by planting pollinator-friendly plants; or by reducing the use of pesticides.

The All Ireland Pollinator Plan has developed specific guidelines for County Councils and has encouraged participation as a Partner Council of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Fundamental to becoming a Partner Council of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is a commitment to a framework of actions, which are outlined in this report and to sign up to an All Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner Framework which commits to the following:

- to support the philosophy of the plan;
- to reflect the plan in its policies, plans and management decisions where possible, and
- to carry out pollinator-friendly actions and initiatives in line with the recommendations of the plan.

One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction in Ireland because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. In an effort to halt the decline of our vitally important native pollinators, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan was initiated in 2015 by Úna FitzPatrick (National Biodiversity Data Centre) and Jane Stout (Trinity College Dublin) and a fifteen member All-Ireland steering group. The All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-

2020 is a shared plan of action, containing 81 scientifically proven actions and is supported by more than 90 organisations across the island of Ireland. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a cross-sector initiative, led by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, with local authorities, farmers, businesses, schools and local communities, to support actions for conservation of our native pollinators. The first Plan covers the period 2015-2020 and a new version will be developed to cover 2021-2025.



Figure 3 Uncut wildflower verge in Kilcullen

1.1 The Importance of Pollinators

Pollinators are animals that mediate the exchange of pollen between flowers, facilitating fruit and seed production in roughly 88% of flowering plants (Ollerton et al., 2011). Our native pollinators include butterflies and moths, flies, hoverflies, beetles, wasps, bumblebees and other species of bee. In all, there are over 3,000 species of insect in Ireland that carry out pollination of our native wild plants and our food crops. Insect pollination is extremely important to the Irish economy. Without pollinators Ireland could not grow as many vegetables and fruits as we do, including apples, strawberries, peas, etc. In Ireland, the EPA-supported Pollival Study led by Trinity College Dublin has shown that even if we just consider Irish locally produced food crops, loss of pollinators in Ireland could risk a *circa* €60 million cost per year in crop production.

Bees are the most important pollinating insect because they visit flowers to collect food for their larvae, as well as feeding on floral resources as adults. Hence, their entire life-cycle is dependent on interactions with flowering plants. Of the 100 crops that provide 90% of the world's food supply, 71 are pollinated by bees.

In Ireland, there are 101 species of bee, including the familiar honeybee (1 species) and bumblebees (20 species). The remaining species are solitary, meaning they do not form colonies.

Some of our pollinators are also very rare including a species for which Kildare is rightly famous, Ireland's only legally protected butterfly - the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*). This species is dependent on the plant Devil's Bit Scabious which grows in wet grasslands, bog edges and fens in County Kildare.



Figure 4 Marsh Fritillary Butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*)



Figure 5 Devils bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)

1.2 Pollinators under threat

Sadly, our pollinators are in decline. One third of bee species in Ireland are at risk of extinction and half of all Irish bee species are in decline. The most significant factors contributing to the decline in pollinator numbers include:

- **Habitat loss** – The most significant cause of decline is the loss and degradation of habitats which provide food, shelter and nesting sites for pollinators. The loss of wildflower-rich grasslands and wetlands is one of the most important issues.
- **Pesticides** – There is growing evidence that the use of a small number of pesticide active ingredients are having harmful effects on pollinators including honeybees, wild bees and butterflies. Wider effects throughout ecosystems are also of concern and pesticides have been implicated in other declines such as farmland birds and soil organisms. The use of neonicotinoids is of particular concern. These are systemic pesticides which can be applied as a seed dressing or spray and have a high toxicity to insects and can also persist for a long time in local soils and environment. A study published by the European Food Safety Authority¹ has led the European Commission to consider the potential risk to wild pollinators and honey bees to be unacceptable and neonicotinoids have now been banned in Ireland. Neonicotinoids are not the



Figure 6 Species diverse meadow

¹Evaluation of the FERA study on bumble bees and consideration of its potential impact on the EFSA conclusions on neonicotinoids European Food Safety Authority, 2013, European Food Safety Authority.

only group of pesticides that are adversely affecting bee populations. Herbicide usage and the growth of monoculture agriculture and forestry and amenity lands/open space, are reducing the amount and variety of foraging material for hungry bees.

- **Climate Change** – long term changes can deprive pollinators of food supplies at times when they need them, increase their exposure to parasites and diseases, or change habitats so that they are no longer suitable. There may be gains as well as losses but a resilient network of good pollinator habitat across the area is needed for them to be able to adapt and take advantage of changes.

3.0 All Ireland Pollinator Plan and Local Authorities

Local Authorities are identified as key partners in the implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and a number of these actions relate to the work of Kildare County Council such as the following:

- A13. Encourage pollinator friendly management of State and public owned Nature Reserves and National Parks and, where this is appropriate, Natura 2000 and nationally designated sites (NHAs, ASSIs)
- A14. Encourage pollinator friendly management of public parks and green space.
- A20. Encourage pollinator friendly management of national monuments and historic properties.
- A23. Make information on pollinator friendly management available through the Tidy Towns Initiative.
- A25. Promote the development of reference sites and case studies across public land to act as education and training tools.
- A27. Promote the Pollinator Plan to other organisations involved in managing public or semi-state land.
- A28. Adoption of an All-Ireland scheme to create pollinator highways along road networks.
- A32. Promote pollinator friendly management of future transport routes e.g., future greenway cycle routes.
- A33. Reduce pesticide application on roadsides and in public parks and green spaces.
- A37. Encourage the public to take voluntary actions to make their gardens and rural lanes pollinator friendly.
- A43. Raise awareness of pollinators and their importance to the wider community.

3.1 All Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner Framework

The All Ireland Pollinator Plan has developed specific guidelines for Local Authorities and has encouraged participation of individual Local Authorities as Partner Council of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Fundamental to becoming a Partner Council of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is a commitment to a framework of actions, which are outlined in this report and to sign up to an All Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner Framework, which commits to the following:

1. Kildare County Council supports the ethos of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and will consider the Plan in its policies, plans and management decisions, where possible.
2. Kildare County Council will consider the evidence-based actions in the guideline document *Councils: Actions to help Pollinators*, and to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least three more within the following five years.
3. Kildare County Council updates the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team (within the National Biodiversity Data Centre) on the positive pollinator actions planned, implemented or maintained at the end of each year.

The signed *All Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner Framework* is included in Appendix I.

3.2 Funding

In order to realise the initiatives set out in this Plan, the primary source of funding is Kildare County Council with other sources of funding including the following:

- Community Environment Action Fund - Local Agenda 21 Department of Communications and Climate Action
- The National Biodiversity Action Plan Local Authorities Fund, (the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
- The County Heritage Plan Fund (The Heritage Council), and
- The Creative Ireland Fund.

3.3 Working with partners and partners initiatives

Kildare County Council's commitment to pollinators also contributes positively to the environment and unique landscapes and biodiversity of Co. Kildare. These actions ensure our communities can support a green infrastructure that is strong, sustainable, resilient and which contributes to our local green economy, tourism and agricultural sectors. Joined up and collaborative actions for pollinators with community groups such as Tidy Towns Groups, local environmental NGOs, farming organisations and the business community ensures a bright future and a *Pollinator Friendly Kildare*.



Figure 7 Pollinator Friendly Kildare: Working with communities

4.0 Kildare Pollinator Action Plan

In 2020 a series of workshops were facilitated by Dr Mary O'Connor, ecologist with the various service departments to ascertain actions that are been taken and could be taken for the benefit of pollinators in Kildare during the course of normal work practice of the Council. Through these workshops the vision for the KPAP along with 8 goals, objectives and actions were developed. The vision for the Kildare County Council Pollinator Plan is:

Vision: A Pollinator Friendly Kildare

A flower rich and biodiverse Kildare supporting healthy and sustainable pollinator populations and benefitting our local communities and economy.



As a partner Council of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 (and any future plans) Kildare County Council agrees to support the philosophy of the AIPP, which is about all of us working together to take action to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels; to reflect the AIPP in all policies, plans and management decisions of the council where possible; and to carry out pollinator-friendly actions and initiatives in line with the recommendations of the AIPP. KCC will endeavour to protect and enhance the amount and quality of pollinator habitats and manage its greenspaces across County Kildare to provide greater benefits for pollinators. The Council will also ensure local communities and businesses are provided with expertise and opportunities to make Kildare a pollinator friendly county.

4.1 Goals, Objectives and Actions of the Kildare Pollinator Action Plan

The KPAP contains eight main goals and under each goal is a series of objective and actions proposed to address these objectives. The *All Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner Framework* promotes an initial three-year action plan which once complete will be reviewed at the end of 2022 to set goals, objectives and actions for the following period. At the end of each year a report will be prepared on the actions completed.

- Goal 1:** Include the protection of pollinators and their habitats in strategies and plans
- Goal 2:** Protect pollinators and their habitats
- Goal 3:** Alter the frequency of mowing
- Goal 4:** Encourage pollinator friendly planting
- Goal 5:** Provide nesting habitats for pollinators
- Goal 6:** Reduce use of pesticides and herbicides
- Goal 7:** Increase awareness of pollinators
- Goal 8:** Record and map actions for pollinators



Goal 1: Include the Protection of Pollinators and their Habitats in Strategies and Plans for County Kildare
Encourage local policy makers and planners to represent the needs of pollinators in local plans, policies and guidance where relevant

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
1.1	<p>Increase the protection afforded to pollinator habitats and the species they support by ensuring appropriate reference in local area plans and policies, where most relevant.</p> <p>Link with actions under the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021</p> <p>Link with actions of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023- Chapter 13</p> <p>Link with actions for pollinators included in the Climate Action Plan for Kildare i.e. Climate Resilient Kildare</p>	<p>Draft Athy Local Area Plan & Draft Naas Local Area Plan have pollinator policies.</p>	<p>All new Local Area Plans will consider the inclusion of objectives and policies that protect pollinator habitats within the plan area where appropriate to do so.</p>	<p>Planning, Corporate Management Team, Heritage, Climate Team, Management Team Elected members of KCC</p>

1.2	<p>Increase the profile of habitats of value to pollinators in plans and projects</p>	<p>Habitat Mapping Complete for 18 Towns and Villages by 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilcullen • Kildare • Newbridge • Maynooth • Celbridge • Clane • Leixlip • Sallins • Monasterevin • Kilcock • Athy • Naas • Killeen • Milltown • Ballitore • Crookestown • Moone • Timolin <p>Site specific biodiversity objectives have been developed for 12 towns and villages including actions for pollinators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilcullen • Kildare • Newbridge • Maynooth • Celbridge • Clane 	<p>Any new Green Infrastructure Mapping Projects will highlight areas of key importance/value for pollinators.</p> <p>Additional Habitat Mapping will be carried out in villages in Co. Kildare with particular emphasis on identifying areas of habitat for native pollinators.</p>	<p>Planning Heritage</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leixlip • Sallins • Monasterevin • Kilcock • Athy • Naas 		
1.3	Recognise and capitalise on opportunities to create pollinator friendly habitats as part of new Developments		<p>New Estates and Buildings will include an element for the support of pollinators including planting schemes and boundary planting including native species and species recommended by the Pollinator Friendly Planting Code.</p> <p>Retention and enhancement of Boundary Hedgerows and Treelines will be prioritised for all developments, while having regard to a satisfactory urban design solution and/or off-set with pollinator friendly habitats elsewhere - either on-site (ideally) or off-site (in exceptional circumstances or where such provision would contribute to a more meaningful habitat creation elsewhere).</p> <p>Review of County Kildare Development Plan will include policies regarding the promotion and protection of habitats and species suitable for pollinators.</p>	Planning Architects Heritage

	Using Aerial Photography, map and survey key habitats likely to be suitable to support pollinators and explore designations best suited to afford protection to such habitats.		Tree Canopy Mapping of County Tree Canopy/Tree Inventory Management system to manage existing resources and identify 'gaps' to be planted and/or linkage of wildlife corridors.	Parks Planning
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Goal 2: Protect Pollinators and their Habitats

To protect, increase and enhance the amount of pollinator habitat in Kildare and prevent any extinction of pollinator species, to improve the status of any locally threatened species, to increase the contribution to pollinator conservation of land under the ownership of, or managed by, the County Council and to improve the knowledge and understanding of pollinators in County Kildare

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021-2022	Responsible Department
2.1	Ensure that including measures for pollinators is a key component of grounds management for any County Council owned site.		Include provision for training of Grounds Staff on Pollinator Friendly Grounds Management	Facilities Parks
2.2	Increase the value of Local Wildlife Sites for pollinators	Sponsorship of Tidy Towns Pollinator Award 2019	Ensure copies of the guidance document <i>Local Communities Actions to help Pollinators</i> is made available to community groups and Tidy Towns groups	Community Heritage Parks Facilities

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021-2022	Responsible Department
		<p>Awarding of local Heritage Grants to support habitat enhancement for pollinators</p> <p>County Kildare Leader Partnership awarding of financial support to projects supporting pollinators in Co. Kildare</p> <p>10 Towns selected for Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newbridge • Carbury • Celbridge • Clane • Allenwood • Monasterevin • Kill • Ballitore • Ballymore Eustace • Kilcullen <p>LBAP funding was secured from each of the 5 Municipal Districts for project implementation in 2020.</p>	<p>Engage with local Tidy Towns and local Wildlife Groups to carry out small scale improvements, through an extended small grants programme specifically directed to actions for pollinators.</p> <p>Support further research by National Biodiversity Data centre on the needs of our pollinators</p> <p>Trial flower-rich (e.g. clover rich) amenity grass seed mix to replace grass mix in Council owned sites and Parks and develop bespoke seed mix for use and distribution</p> <p>Habitat Mapping and Biodiversity Assessment for all Parks in control of KCC with site specific actions for pollinators</p>	<p>County Kildare Leader Partnership</p> <p>Community Heritage Parks Facilities Co. Kildare Leader Partnership</p>

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021-2022	Responsible Department
		<p>Funded studies on the distribution, ecology, management and threats to Pollinators in Kildare e.g. grant support to Wild Kildare, Butterfly Conservation Ireland and The North and South Kildare Bee Keepers Association.</p> <p>Kilcullen Pollinator Group established.</p> <p>6 Parks Selected for Development of Biodiversity Plans inclusive of recommendations for management for pollinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderful Barn, Leixlip, • Monread Park Naas • Woodstock Athy • Sallins Park, Sallins • Cherry Avenue, Kildare • Carton Avenue, Maynooth 		
2.3	Increase the areas of roadside verges, roundabouts, water distribution/treatment plants, cemeteries so that they are	Herbicides and pesticide use not permitted at all Water Treatment Plants	<p>Conduct Survey of All Waste Water Treatment Plants and Pumping Station Sites to identify sites with important habitats for pollinators</p> <p>Ensure copies of the guidance document <i>Pollinator Friendly Management of Group</i></p>	Transport Environment Irish Water Area Engineers?

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021-2022	Responsible Department
	specifically managed to favour pollinators		<p><i>Water Schemes</i> are made available to the Environment Department</p> <p>Select additional areas of roadside verges and roundabouts to encourage pollinators</p> <p>Provide guidance for graveyard maintenance and conservation groups on the management of such sites for biodiversity</p> <p>Ensure copies of <i>Faith Communities: actions to help pollinators</i> in made available to all graveyard maintenance groups through the Environment Section</p> <p>Ensure copies of the guidance document <i>Pollinator Friendly Management of Transport Corridors</i> are made available to the Transport Department</p> <p>Ensure Pollinator friendly planting is considered on all new road projects</p>	
2.4	Manage landfill site restoration to support biodiverse habitats suitable for Pollinators	Ecological Survey of Kerdiffstown Landfill Rehabilitation and Proposed Ecological Management Plan Completed 2019	Habitat Mapping and Hedgerow Conservation and Management at Silliot Hill Landfill Site	Environment

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021-2022	Responsible Department
			Progress Ecological Rehabilitation of Kerdiffstown Landfill including actions for pollinators	
2.5	Support the best management of the best quality pollinator sites in Co. Kildare Including supports for rare pollinators in protected/designated sites i.e. SACs, NHAs, Nature Reserves	Ballynafagh Lake and Lullybeg (Marsh Fritillary) are managed by Butterfly Conservation Ireland	Develop and support the development of conservation plans for the rare pollinators of Kildare in particular the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly	Heritage
2.6	Support and promote, where practical, the conservation of roadside verges and high quality hedgerows as key habitats for pollinator conservation.	Kildare Hedgerow Survey completed	Conduct a sample survey of Co. Kildare hedgerows to assess and quantify their value for pollinators	Heritage

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021-2022	Responsible Department
2.7	Green Kilometre Scheme ² (Remove litter and conserve and enhance roadside habitat for biodiversity and wildlife in Kildare)	This project targets areas of roadside verge and hedgerow in rural areas for conservation and habitat enhancement, including actions favourable for pollinators. 16 km of hedgerow was adopted by 16 communities as part of the KCC Green Kilometre Scheme in 2019-2020	Expand the Green Kilometre Scheme.	Environment

² Green Kilometre Scheme is a county wide initiative of the Environment Section of KCC to support and encourage community groups to undertake the maintenance of a chosen kilometre through the year. The work they could undertake would include removing litter, restoring heritage features such as old farm gates or walls, reporting illegal dumping, and planting appropriate trees and shrubs

Goal 3: Alter the frequency of mowing

Change the frequency of mowing of amenity grassland, parks, meadows and road verges to support flower rich swards for foraging pollinators

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
3.1	Promote alternative meadow management by using pilot sites	<p><i>Meadow Management at the following Pilot Sites, 1 late cut 2019/2020</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry Avenue Park Kildare Town, • Sallins Amenity Lands, • Carton Avenue • St. Catherine’s Park Meadow • Athgarvan Heights • Nurney Meadow • Willowbrook Celbridge • Wonderful Barn Leixlip • Kildare Town Roundabouts • Monread Park • Kill Tidy Towns Meadow 	Identify and select other Parks sites and community sites suitable to support areas of meadow management.	Parks Tidy Towns
3.2	Implement layered mowing in public spaces and parks across the county	<p>Pilot Sites for layered and less frequent mowing were selected in summer 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodstock • People’s Park Athy • N78 Roundabout Verge • Moorefield Park Newbridge 	<p>Implement layered mowing at grounds of Aras Cill Dara, KCC headquarters</p> <p>Identify and select other parks and community sites suitable to support areas of meadow management.</p>	Facilities Parks Tidy Towns groups

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020		Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Road Newbridge • Rathbride Road Kildare • Hopkin’s Haven Monastervein- Layered mowing • Maynooth Pound Park • Clane Ring Road • Meadowbrook link Road Maynooth • Willowbrook Celbridge • Crodaun Park Celbridge • Leixlip Library under trees • Maynooth Road Leixlip • Wonderful Barn, Leixlip • Bawnogues Kilcock • Barnhall Roundabout • Monread Park • Famine Cemetery Naas behind Lakeland • Ball Sculpture • Millennium Link Road • Kildare Tidy Towns Ecopark- Layered Mowing 							
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="501 1163 801 1262">Site Ref</td> <td data-bbox="801 1163 1180 1262">Approx. % Area under Proposed Maintenance</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="501 1262 801 1347">Crodaun Forest Park Entrance, Celbridge</td> <td data-bbox="801 1262 1180 1347">50%</td> </tr> </table>	Site Ref	Approx. % Area under Proposed Maintenance	Crodaun Forest Park Entrance, Celbridge	50%			
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Crodaun Forest Park Entrance, Celbridge	50%								

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020		Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
		Maynooth Road, Leixlip	50% (top & back of banks)		
		Grass at Library, Captains Hill, Leixlip	50%		
		Celbridge Road (at Barnhall) , Leixlip	15% (verges adjacent roundabout)		
		Wonderful Barn, Leixlip	100%		
		Willowbrook, Celbridge	90%		
		Pound Park , Maynooth	50%		
		Meadowbrook link road (Grass Area), Maynooth	50% (site lines to be mown and narrow verges)		
		Clane Ring Road, Clane	40-50% Cut sight lines and ever second verge (16 cuts)		
		Bawnogues, Kilcock	80-90% excluding playing pitches		
		Monread Park, Naas	40-50% excluding playing pitches		
		Famine Cemetery on Craddockstown Road, Naas	50%		
		Grass at M7 interchange at The Ball, Naas	50% exclude flail area		
		Millennium Link Road (Newbridge Roundabout at LIDL to Irish Commercials) Naas	100%		

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020		Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
		New Road from Graveyard to Station Road, through Dunmurray Rise, Kildare	40-50% Cut sight lines and ever second verge x 16		
		Hopkin's Haven Green Area, Monasterevin	50%		
		Moorefield Park, Newbridge	50%		
		Green Road, Newbridge	50%		
		People's Park, Athy	50%		
		Woodstock Industrial Estate, Athy	50%		
	3.3 Introducing pollinator friendly mowing in residential estates			Provide Training to Community development officers to support engagement with Resident's Associations to promote changing mowing regimes for pollinators in housing estates throughout the County	Community, Parks & Heritage
	3.4 Enhance Roadside Verges for pollinators through adopting pollinator friendly mowing			Identify areas of roadside verge under the management of the Transport Department especially in urban areas that may benefit from a less frequent mowing regime	Transport MD offices

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
3.5	Develop amenity grass seed mixtures that contain more pollinator friendly seeds		Area Engineers to use pollinator friendly amenity grassland mixes for all reseeding	Heritage Parks MD offices



Figure 8 Pollinator friendly roundabout at Kildare Village

Goal 4: Pollinator friendly planting*Planting additional pollinator-friendly herbaceous plants, perennial shrubs and trees provides vital sources of food for pollinators, particularly in spring and autumn*

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/22	Responsible Department
4.1	Pollinator friendly planting (ornamental)	<p>Pollinator friendly summer bedding introduced into Leixlip Town</p> <p>Sallins Roundabout – intersection of Sallins/Monread Road Pollinator Bulb Planting Mix used</p> <p>Caragh Roundabout Pollinator Friendly Bulb Planting</p> <p>Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge Pollinator Friendly Planting in conjunction with Newbridge Tidy Towns</p> <p>Leixlip Town Pollinator Friendly Summer Bedding</p> <p>Kilcullen Roundabout</p>	Increase ornamental pollinator planting in towns across the county	Parks
4.2	Pollinator Friendly Tree Planting	Programme of tree planting carried out including pollinator friendly species throughout County Kildare	Increase pollinator friendly tree planting in towns across the county	Parks

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/22	Responsible Department
			Provide a list of native pollinator friendly tree species for inclusion in Draft County Development Plan and so as to provide guidance to developers and local community groups.	
4.3	Green Kilometre Kildare Initiative	16 communities were provided with pollinator friendly herbaceous and woody plants to plant along their selected green kilometre. The species included Spindle, Alder Buckthorn, Holly and Foxgloves of native provenance	Expand the Green Kilometre Scheme across Kildare.	Environment



Figure 9 pollinator friendly planting scheme

Goal 5: Provide nesting habitats for Pollinator Species

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/22	Responsible Department
5.1	Plant species favourable to pollinator nesting habitats		Include plants with Hollow Pithy Stems such as Hydrangea and Elder, Raspberries and Blackberries suitable for cavity nesting bees	Parks
5.2	Increase and enhance available bare ground and dry bank habitat for ground nesting pollinators		Reduce use of mulch and retain areas of bare ground and dry banks suitable for ground burrowing bees	Parks and Facilities
5.3	Create Woodpiles and Bug Hotels	Construction of Bug Hotels and creation and retention of wood waste piles in conjunction with schools, community groups, and tidy towns throughout the County, examples include projects funded under the Community Environment Action Fund (CEAF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rathcoffey Zero Waste Garden • Ballyshannon National School Environmental Garden • St. Conleth’s Community College 	Continue to offer support and funding to community groups to retain, create and maintain woodpiles and bug hotels, through CEAF and Heritage Grants	Environment Parks Heritage

5.5	Retention of Old Walls and Brickwork		Develop a policy/protocol/guidelines with Kildare County Council Conservation architects to retain old walls and brickwork wherever possible during restoration of historic buildings. Cavities in these walls support pollinators such as masonry bees.	Planning Heritage
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Figure 10 An example of a community bee/bug hotel

Goal 6: Reduce Use of Pesticides/Herbicides

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/20	Actions Proposed 2021/22	Responsible Department
6.1	Reduce use of pesticides/herbicides at sites countywide	<p>Pilot Sites for reduced use of pesticides/herbicides were selected in the summer of 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodstock • People’s Park Athy • N78 Roundabout Verge • Moorefield Park Newbridge • Green Road Newbridge • Rathbride Road Kildare • Hopkin’s Haven Monasterevin • Maynooth Pound Park • Clane Ring Road • Meadowbrook Link Road Maynooth • Willowbrook Celbridge • Crodaun Park Celbridge • Leixlip Library under trees • Maynooth Road Leixlip • Wonderful Barn, Leixlip • Bawnogues Kilcock • Barnhall Roundabout 	<p>Increase the number of sites throughout the county for pesticide/herbicide reduction.</p> <p>Ensure that no pesticides/herbicides are used along any riparian corridors managed by KCC.</p>	Parks

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/20	Actions Proposed 2021/22	Responsible Department
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monread Park • Famine Cemetery Naas behind Lakeland • Ball Sculpture • Millennium Link Road 		
6.2	Reduce use of pesticides/herbicides on roadside verges countywide		Select Pilot Sites for reduced use of pesticides/herbicides	Transport
6.3	Reduce use of pesticides/herbicides at Aras Chill Dara, KCC Offices, Naas		Develop protocol for reduced herbicide/pesticide use at Aras Chill Dara, KCC Offices, Naas	Facilities
6.4	Work in tandem with local Tidy Towns groups to reduce use of pesticides/herbicides in towns/villages countywide		Develop protocols for reduced herbicide/pesticide use by local Tidy Towns Groups throughout the County	Heritage/ Environment/ Parks

Goal 7: Increase Awareness of Pollinators

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
7.1	Targeted support for awareness of biodiversity and pollinators among Tidy Towns Groups Countywide	Tidy Towns Workshop with Ecologist on Biodiversity element of Tidy Towns including promoting Pollinator friendly planting	Continue series of public workshops on Biodiversity and Pollinators for Tidy Towns Countywide	Environment Heritage Parks
7.2	Support for awareness of biodiversity and pollinators among general public	6 Greensod Ireland Bee Aware Workshops organised	Continue Bee Aware Workshops Countywide.	Environment Heritage Parks
7.3	Develop outreach videos on the National Pollinator Plan for use Nationwide as key pillar of Kildare County Council's Contribution to the National Awareness of the importance of pollinators	<p>Funded by Kildare County Council in conjunction with Wicklow County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Blooming Bees</i> Animated Video on the All Ireland National Pollinator Plan • <i>What's the Buzz about Bees?</i> Animated Video on the importance of our pollinator bees. <p>Funded a series of videos promoting reduced cutting regimes with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the national Biodiversity Action Plan fund.</p>	Develop further outreach material.	Heritage Parks

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
7.4	Awareness of Kildare County Council Staff of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan	Training programme delivered to all departments of Kildare County Council on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan	Continue Pollinator training programmes with staff and elected representatives	Heritage
7.5	Awareness of actions for pollinators among the farming community	South Kildare Beekeepers received funding for 10 workshops for farmers	Organise an event in partnership with Teagasc to promote actions for pollinators among the farming community	Environment Heritage/ Heritage Forum
7.6	Kildare County library supporting awareness of pollinators	Workshops and activities during Heritage and Biodiversity Week in conjunction with local biodiversity groups and Kildare Library Service	Workshops and activities for old and young carried out during Heritage and Biodiversity Weeks Library Service to have an All Ireland Pollinator Resource for the public Library Service to carry biodiversity and wildlife books and other materials	Kildare Library Service
7.7	Increase awareness of the importance of actions for pollinators among the local business community		Local Enterprise Office will circulate copies of the guidance documents " <i>Businesses: actions to help pollinators</i> " among its clients	Local Enterprise Office

Goal 8: Record and Map Progress on actions for pollinators

	Objective	Actions Completed/Ongoing 2019/2020	Actions Proposed 2021/2022	Responsible Department
8.1	Recording Council Actions for Pollinators	Training in mapping and logging actions for Pollinators on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan mapping portal carried out for all Council Departments	Continue training and support for all Council Departments.	Heritage Environment Parks
8.2	Develop community capacity to log, map and record biodiversity and actions for pollinators as a Citizen Science Project.		On a yearly basis ensure all actions for pollinators undertaken by KCC are mapped and logged on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan mapping portal. https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/ Set up a training programme for Tidy Towns Groups on using the Pollinator.ie Portal for logging and mapping actions for pollinators	Heritage Environment Parks

A Closer Look at Some of Our Actions-Pollinator Friendly Kildare

Blooming Bees and What's the Buzz about Bees? Pollinator Videos for use throughout Ireland

Kildare County Council in collaboration with Wicklow County Council have developed two animated videos **Blooming Bees** and **What's the Buzz about Bees** which help explain what the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is all about and the importance of our pollinator bees. These new awareness tools were developed with additional support from the Creative Ireland programme and are shared on the pollinator.ie website of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (<https://pollinators.ie/>). It is hoped that these informative videos would be shared far and wide, shown at public talks, conferences, and in schools.

Blooming bees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBIKqFywxTY>

Whats the Buzz about Bees: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXHAAHHki_E



Figure 11 Blooming Bees: Why bees are important



Figure 12 What the Buzz about Bees: Different bee species

Liffey Linear Park a Pollinator Friendly Green Flag Park

The Liffey Linear park is a 9.5 acre area of open space along the Liffey in Newbridge Town. The area would have originally been part of a flood plain for the river Liffey and has been developed as a public park since the early 1970s. The park connects St Conleth's Bridge to the Athgarvan Road. It is only a 5 minute walk from the centre of Newbridge and parking is available along the main street.

The park is well maintained by Kildare County Council in conjunction with Newbridge Tidy Towns. The natural setting of the park in a river valley has been retained and added to with tree planting and a wildflower area. The Liffey Linear Park comprises of just under 7 acres of grassland, the main bulk of which is mowed on a weekly basis during the growing season. However, in 2019 a change to the amenity management of the park was brought about to include a significant area of Wildflower Meadow, with an annual mowing regime. The Wildflower Meadow has been established between the "Strand" and the river. The meadow which contains an abundance of wild grasses has been scarified and seeded with a selection of wildflowers which are expected to provide both a colourful display for Park visitors and a valuable habitat for a high diversity of pollinating insects, bees, butterflies and hoverflies. The park was awarded a national Green Flag in 2019 in recognition of its environmental quality.



Figure 13 Wildflower Meadow Kilcullen

Rathcoffey Zero Waste Garden a Pollinator Friendly Green Flag Community Garden

A section of idle land in a local authority housing estate in Rathcoffey has been transformed into one of Ireland's best community gardens. The garden, located in Mooretown Drive, is a collaboration between the local residents and Kildare County Council and was awarded a Green Flag for environmental excellence in 2019.

As well as being a produce focussed garden the project also supports actions for pollinators and increasing awareness of biodiversity in the local community.

The Zero Waste Garden is a very biologically diverse area in terms of species and habitats. The native hedgerow and trees which bound two sides of the garden is a very important habitat for insects, birds and mammals.



Figure 14 Zero Waste Community Garden Rathcoffey

The very purpose of the garden relies heavily on the work of pollinators and pollinators are supported through the planting of pollinator friendly plants. The project is also planning to introduce beehives. This addition is not only beneficial to the crops on site but also to the native hedgerows and gardens in the locality that rely on pollinators.

The committee has also installed bat and bird boxes and a wildlife camera for education purposes and is currently planning the installation of a pond. In a commitment to conservation all the gardeners involved in the project are asked to use open pollinated seeds and collect seed for use the following season.

The orchard at Rathcoffey comprises of a variety of heritage Irish trees, this contributes to sustaining Irelands genetic heritage which is something the community garden group prides themselves on.

In terms of education and awareness, the community garden has had a major influence in County Kildare in raising awareness of biodiversity and conservation. The Media coverage received from the Pride of Place and Green Flag awards has brought people from all over Kildare to visit and use the garden.



Figure 15 Zero Waste Community Garden Rathcoffey

Kilcullen Pollinator Project

The Kilcullen Pollinator project is a community initiative to take a village approach to action for pollinators. Awareness of the Pollinator Project began when the community undertook a series of meetings to plan how the project would progress. Representatives from local housing estates, interested groups and individuals attended.

The initial aim of the project was to add pollinator friendly planting to grass verges on lead roads into the town (while keeping the dandelions), thereby designating them as managed wild areas and to introduce wild seeded areas in all the estates.

To support the project, enabled by funding from KCC and Kilcullen Tidy Towns, wildflower seeds were distributed to newly created and existing wild areas. Pollinator friendly plants and over 300 trees were provided throughout the village. This action brought many of the estates in the town on board with the project and helped to kick start their activities. A number of public talks about pollinators and biodiversity were organised with support from Wild Kildare.

BIODIVERSITY EVENTS IN KILCULLEN

Saturday 22nd February
3pm to 5pm
Bird Boxes, Pollinators and more...
An interactive bird box workshop and talk with Paddy Sheridan of Wild Kildare
Talk on Pollinators by Philip Strickland.
Bird boxes from Naas Meno Shed will be give to local estates that are signed up with Kilcullen Pollinator Plan

Wednesday 26th February
7pm
What Can We Do In Our Gardens?
Organic, non pesticide, gardening
Composting
Peatland Conservation
in association with Moyleabbey Organic Farm and the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.

Tuesday 10th March
6.30 to 9 pm
Workshop No 1
for Kilcullen People to help develop a community wide Biodiversity Plan, working with professional Ecologists.
This is funded by Kildare Leader Partnership and County Kildare Heritage Office KCC.

Saturday 21st March
9am to 12.30 pm
Workshop No 2
for Kilcullen People to help develop a community wide Biodiversity Plan, working with professional Ecologists.
This is funded by Kildare Leader Partnership and County

Figure 16 Biodiversity events in Kilcullen

The Kilcullen Pollinator Project has established 13 estate wild areas and designated wild areas on lead roads into Kilcullen all planted with wild seeds, pollinator planting and trees. With many estates going further on their own initiative with bug hotels and bird boxes.

The Kilcullen Pollinator Project has plans to further expand their programme in the coming years.



Figure 18 Pollinator planting in Kilcullen



Figure 17 Retention of uncut verges in Kilcullen

Photographic Acknowledgements

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Paul Leighton Kilcullen Pollinator Project

Appendix I

All Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner Framework



All Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner Framework

Kildare County Council as an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner, agrees:

That Kildare County Council will support the ethos of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and will consider the Plan in their policies, plans, and management decisions where possible and appropriate.

To consider the evidence-based actions in the guideline document Councils: Actions to help Pollinators, and to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least three more within the following five years. The guideline document lists 30 possible actions, many of which are low cost or cost-neutral.

To update the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team (within the National Biodiversity Data Centre) on the positive pollinator actions you have planned, implemented or maintained at the end of each year, when contacted, to help us promote your work.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that our pollinators and the critical service of pollination are available for generations to come.

Council/Local Authority: Kildare County Council

Chief Executive of KCC:

Cathaoirleach of KCC:

Print Name: Mr Peter Carey

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