



Midleton Pollinator Plan



East Cork Municipal District
Cork County Council

FOREWORD

One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan managed by the **National Biodiversity Data Centre** is about everyone, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. Councils can therefore play a leading role in making the island of Ireland a place where pollinators can continue to flourish. Public Parks, open spaces, road verges and ornamental planting can play the important role of increasing connectivity between pollinator friendly sites in the wider countryside.

There is increasing awareness of climate change and attention is now being focused on the effects of climate change on the whole planet. High level strategies are being developed for mitigation and adaptation in relation to climate change and green house gases emissions. These concepts can seem to be at a distance from us and as being outside our control. Eco-anxiety is now recognised and is increasing. Eco-anxiety is anxiety about ecological disasters and threats to the natural environment such as pollution and climate change. Variations to the definition exist such as the broader description explaining it as the worry or agitation caused by concerns about the present and future state of the environment. There is no doubt that we should all be concerned about these issues and we would like to respond by taking appropriate actions.



The All Ireland Pollinator Plan is an excellent response to these issues. It is intended that the approach and actions taken in 2019 as our response based on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to supporting pollinators and biodiversity as described in this plan will be replicated and expanded, not only in Midleton but throughout the East Cork Municipal District, into the future. Engagement and actions throughout the East Cork Municipal District will be encouraged and supported through community groups, existing environmental groups (e.g. East Cork Biodiversity Networking Programme) and schools (e.g. St. Colmans Community

College and Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann). Community groups already doing great work in creating and maintaining attractive amenity areas throughout the East Cork Municipal District will continue to be supported through the Council's community fund grants schemes and will be encouraged to implement the actions recommended in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The Wildflower meadow developed in the grounds of Midleton Lodge in 2019 surpassed our expectations in how quickly and strongly the area recovered and growth from the existing seed bank flourished, including the rare Bee Orchid. There was a significant increase in pollinators and bird life and visitors to the park. The pollinator and biodiversity supporting flower beds created at the The Rock and in the Coolbawn with their variety of perennial plants of different type, colour and form received many favourable and appreciative comments from natives and visitors alike. We look forward to developing similar pollinator and biodiversity supporting projects throughout the East Cork Municipal District into the future, including adapting our management of parks and open spaces and our tree planting programme and maintenance programmes, with expert advice, to reflect and incorporate the strategies and recommendations in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

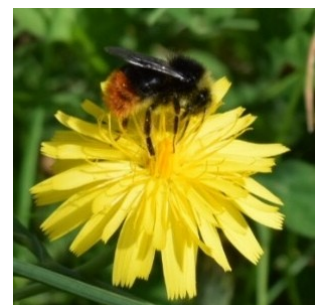
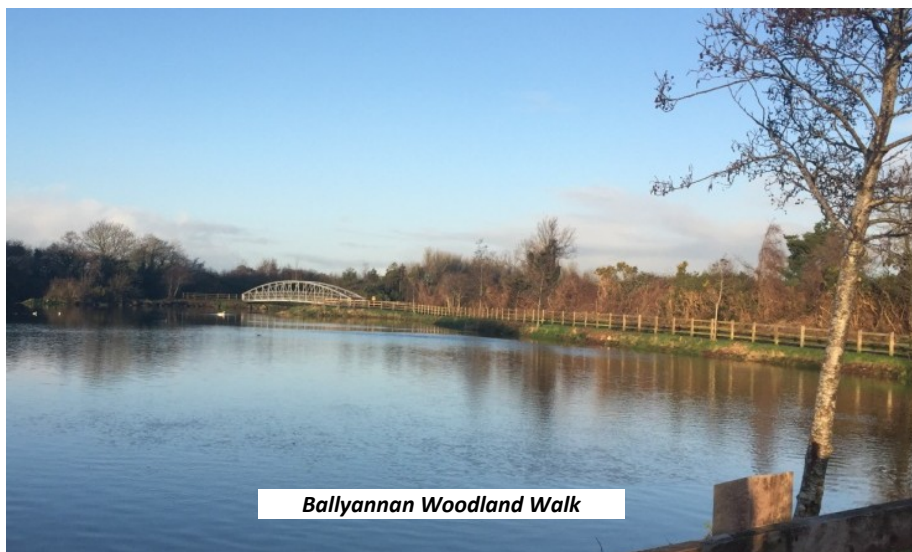


This plan presents actions as outlined in the **National Biodiversity Data Centre** guidance document "Councils: actions to help pollinators" and where the actions will be implemented in Midleton. Progress on the implementation of the Midleton Pollinator Plan will be carefully tracked. Success is not measured in having the Plan, but by knowing that it is working. This plan sets out clear and effective actions firmly based on the advice promoted in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan of the National Biodiversity Data Centre which we can take and the plan is recommended to the elected members for approval and adoption.

Approved & Adopted by Elected Members of the East Cork Municipal District on the 3rd February 2020

A. Identify and protect existing areas that are good for pollinators

Action	Location
Manage and restore semi natural habitats and their native plants	Midleton Lodge Park Ballyannan Woodland Walk (Bailick to Dwyer's Rd.)
Identify and protect existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators on general council land	Midleton Lodge Park Ballyannan Woodland Walk (Bailick to Dwyer's Rd.) R630 Ballinacurra Roadside Verges
Limit habitat loss during maintenance works	Midleton Town & Environs



B. Alter the frequency of mowing of grassy areas to allow more native plants to flower

Action	Location
Create meadows (one cut & lift per year)	Midleton Lodge Park
	Bailick Park (part of)
	Youghal Road/ N25 Triangle (part of)
Roadside verges managed as Meadows (one cut & lift per year) *Introduce a layered mowing approach to other verges	R630 Ballinacurra Road Verges
	Midleton Northern Relief Road Embankments
Short flowering '6-week meadows'	Northern relief Road Verges
	Ballyannan Woodland Walk path edges
	R907 Youghal Road Verges
	Rocky Road Small Area (South of N25)
	Kennedy Park near River & Riparian Area
	Youghal Road to N25 Triangle (Part of)

*Similar actions will be undertaken at other locations as the plan develops





Midleton Northern Relief Road Managed Embankment & Road Verge



TIPS TO CREATE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY 6-WEEK MEADOWS

- **First cut after 15th April.** (this will allow Dandelions to flower. Dandelions are a vital food source for pollinators in spring)
- **Second cut at end of May.** (Cutting at the end of May and not again until mid-late July will increase the growth of important plants like Clover, Selfheal, Cuckooflower and Bird's-foot-trefoil).
- **Third cut in mid-late July.** (maximises growth of Clovers and other wildflowers)
- **Fourth cut end August.**
- **Fifth cut after mid-October.**



Natural regeneration from the native seed bank is often pollen-rich and offers food to which our native bees have adapted.



R630 Ballinacurra Roadside Meadow Verge



Knapweed Ballinacurra 2019

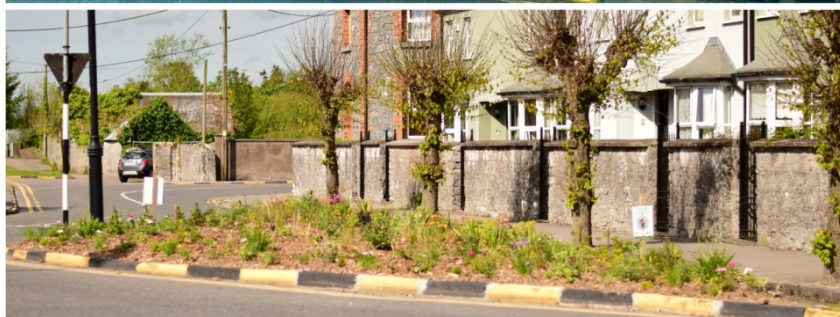


**BirdsFoot Trefoil
Ballinacurra 2019**

C. Plant Pollinator Friendly Beds, Trees & Bulbs

Action	Location
Plant pollinator-friendly flower beds from the pollinator friendly planting code	The Rock
	Coolbawn Corner
	Midleton Lodge Park (Raised Bed)
	Distillery Car Park (Large Bed to rear of Car Park)
	Baby's walk (Inside Ornate Railing)
	Bailick Car Park (Raised Bed)
Plant Pollinator Friendly Bulbs	Midleton Lodge Park
	Ballyannan Woodland Walk
	Kennedy Park (Western Area towards River)
	Coolbawn Corner (In Flower Bed)
Plant Pollinator Friendly Trees	Midleton Lodge Park
	Kennedy Park (Near Riparian Area)
	Bailick Car Park/ Ballyannan Woodland Walk
	Distillery Car Park (In Large Flower Bed to rear of Car Park)
Plant pollinator-friendly trees along streets in town	Broderick St/ Coolbawn
	Main St. Midleton

*Similar actions will be undertaken at other locations as the plan develops



Coolbawn Corner Flower Bed Before & After May 2019.
Before: - Over mature Shrubbery with no Pollinator benefit
After: - Immediately after Planting to Pollinator Code



**Midleton Lodge Park
 Tree Planting 2019**



The Rock Flower Bed, Midleton Immediately After planting April 2019



Pollinator-friendly roundabout in Fingal, Co. Dublin



Midleton Pollinator Friendly Planting



D: Provide wild pollinator nesting habitat: hedgerows, earth banks and hotels

Action	Location
Manage hedgerows for pollinators	Midleton Lodge Park
	Ballyannan Woodland Walk (Bailick to Dwyer's Rd.)
Bare earth/sand banks for wild pollinator nesting	Midleton Lodge Park Embankment
	Midleton Northern Relief Road
Holes in wood or concrete for wild pollinator nesting	Midleton Lodge Park (Naturally in Old Buildings and Boundary Walls)

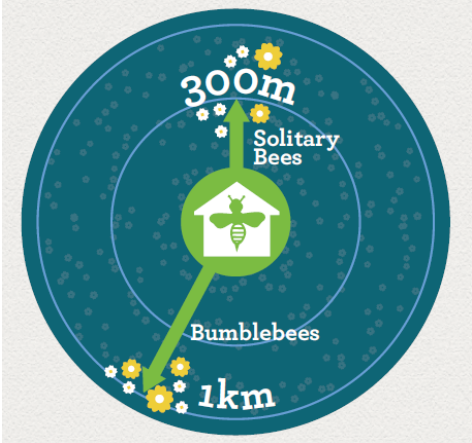
*Similar actions will be undertaken at other locations as the plan develops



Opportunities for hedgerow Planting at Bailick Car Park and Ballyannann Woodland Walk



Embankments for wild pollinator nesting at Midleton Lodge Park & Midleton Northern Relief Road



How far will bees fly from their nests to find food?

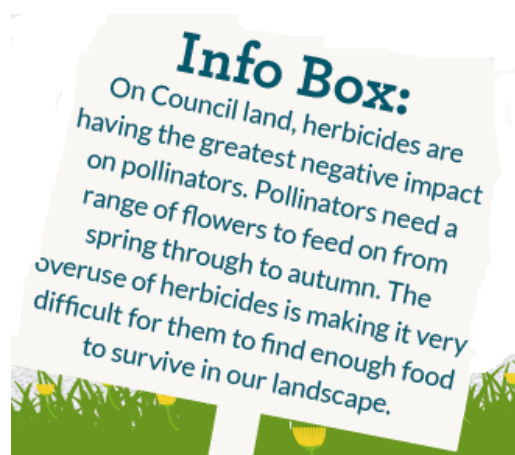
E. Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides & fungicides)

Action	Location
Aim to eliminate the use of herbicide, fungicide and insecticide in some locations	Midleton Lodge Park Ballyannan Woodland Walk (Bailick to Dwyer's Rd.)
Identify sites where pesticide use could be reduced to 10% of previous planned maintenance spraying regimes	Midleton Town
For spot treating on hard surfaces, and spraying edges of paths adopt a policy of not spraying until the 15th April. This allows Dandelions and other wild plants to flower and provide a vital source of food in spring.	Midleton town and all approaches
Hand weeding and selective spot treatment	Various Town Footpaths & streets
Identify if there are streets/areas where community groups are willing to take responsibility for manual weed control	Dependent upon volunteers willing to put such action into effect
Control Invasive Species & Noxious Weeds	Midleton Lodge Park - Winter Heliotrope, 3 Cornered Leek. Owenacurra River Bank - Japanese Knotweed

*Previous Spraying of grass to kerb edges to be eliminated



Riverside Way, Midleton



Reduce the use of Herbicides and Insecticides

Insecticides harm pollinators directly, but equally importantly, the use of herbicides can greatly reduce the wildflowers that pollinators depend on for food, making it hard for them to survive.

All pesticides should be avoided, unless in very specific circumstances, for instance, on hard surfaces for Health and Safety reasons or when dealing with invasive species.



Some pesticide use, as in these two examples above, can be excessive and unsustainable.



Stoneybatter Resident's Campaign for a Chemical free Dublin. Other residents groups are establishing similar zones in their area.

Reduce pesticide use



CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES:

For some invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed, pesticide use is recommended. Please note: the control of invasive species takes precedence over reducing pesticide use.

For more details on managing invasive plant species on road networks refer to TII documents:



F. Promote the aims of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan & Raise awareness of pollinators within the local area.

Action	Location
Build actions on pollinators into existing frameworks and initiatives	Midleton Town Public Realm Enhancement Scheme, Lodge Park Enhancement scheme
Fund pollinator projects on council land to demonstrate best practice to other sectors	Parks, Flower Beds, Amenity Walks
Promote & distribute the Junior Pollinator Plan to local schools	Interaction with Midleton Schools
Facilitate or deliver training on pollinators and how to take action to protect them	Staff Briefing on All Ireland Pollinator Plan June 2019
Fund pollinator initiatives under the community grants scheme	Review Grant applications and allocations to encourage community groups to develop pollinator initiatives throughout East Cork



Midleton Staff Briefing June 2019 by Dr. Úna Fitzpatrick Project co-ordinator: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan of the National Biodata Centre





Midleton Lodge Park Meadow Cut 2019
Community and Industry Engagement - East Cork Biodiversity Network Programme, Kennedy Agri Ltd & AbbVie Cork Pharmaceutical Carrigtohill Join Cork County Council Staff



Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann All Ireland Pollinator Plan Engagement



St. Colmans Community College Midleton All Ireland Pollinator Plan Engagement

G. Track progress & Erect Signage

Action	Location
Log existing and new 'Actions for Pollinators' on the mapping system to ensure your efforts are recognised	All Midleton sites Logged on pollinators.ie
Take part in the Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme	Midleton Lodge Park in conjunction with local schools or citizen science



Midleton Pollinator Sites - Councils Actions			
Date Logged	Site Location / Name	Area m2	Actions
27/01/2020	R630 Ballinacurra road Verge (East)	2,316	A. Protect existing pollinator habitats, B. Reduce mowing, E. Reduce pesticide use
27/01/2020	R630 Ballinacurra Road Verge (West)	3,818	A. Protect existing pollinator habitats, B. Reduce mowing, E. Reduce pesticide use
13/01/2020	Ballyannon Woodland Walk, Bailick road Midleton to Dwyer Road Midleton	11,370	A. Protect existing pollinator habitats, B. Reduce mowing, C. Pollinator friendly planting, D. Provide nesting habitats, E. Reduce pesticide use
10/05/2019	Coolbawn Midleton	114	C. Pollinator friendly planting,
17/04/2019	The Rock Midleton	55	C. Pollinator friendly planting,
17/04/2019	Midleton Northern Relief Road	36,195	A. Protect existing pollinator habitats, B. Reduce mowing, D. Provide nesting habitats, E. Reduce pesticide use
02/04/2019	Midleton Lodge Park	50,774	A. Protect existing pollinator habitats, B. Reduce mowing, C. Pollinator friendly planting, D. Provide nesting habitats, E. Reduce pesticide use G. Take part in the bumblebee monitoring scheme
		104,642	m²
		26	Acres

***Further Locations will be logged on pollinators.ie as the plan develops**



Midleton Lodge Park Signage



In Partnership with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan – Network

Midleton Pollinator Plan is based on;

- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. National Biodiversity Data Centre Series No. 3, Waterford.
- Councils: actions to help pollinators. All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Guidelines 4. National Biodiversity Data Centre Series No.12, Waterford. November, 2016.
- Pollinator-friendly management of: Transport Corridors. All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Guidelines 9. National Biodiversity Data Centre Series No. 20, Waterford. Sept, 2019.



Arna Bhainistiú don bhFiadhúlra Managed for Wildlife

Plean um Pailneoirí Uile-Eireann

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

www.pollinators.ie

10 ways to help pollinators



1 Let Dandelions bloom
Dandelions provide vital food for hungry bees in spring.



2 Reduce mowing
Mow every 6 weeks from mid-April to allow flowers like clover to grow and provide food.

6 weeks



3 Pollinator friendly bulbs
Plant Crocus, Allium or Snow-drop bulbs. They provide better food than Daffodils and Tulips.

4 Pollinator friendly bedding
Begonias, Petunias and Busy Lizzies don't provide food for pollinators. See our website for alternatives e.g. *Calamintha nepeta*.



5 Plant native flowering trees
Willow, Hawthorn and Blackthorn flowers provide important food for pollinators.



6 Don't spray
The overuse of herbicides is making it difficult for pollinators to find enough flowers to feed from.

7 Bare soil for nesting
Most of our bees need bare soil to nest. Create a small south-facing earth bank to provide shelter.

8 Put up signage
Inform the public where land is being managed for pollinators. See our website for templates.



9 Junior Pollinator Plan
Download the Junior Plan from our website and help educate the next generation.

10 Record your actions
Log your actions on our website to help us track the increase in pollinator resources in the landscape!



The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 is a strategy addressing pollinator declines and protecting pollination services on the island of Ireland. See the website to find out what other actions you can take to help.

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife

pollinators.ie