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# Wild About Ennis:

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## Ennis Biodiversity Plan

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2017-2019

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



## Contents

Introduction.....	4
Ennis .....	4
Biodiversity .....	5
Planning for biodiversity .....	5
Process to produce the plan .....	5
Community action for nature in Ennis .....	6
Nature and Wildlife in Ennis .....	8
Ennis Biodiversity Plan 2017- 2019 .....	18
Ensuring success .....	21
Resources .....	22
Useful contacts and information sources .....	24
Potential funding sources .....	25
Appendix 1.Workshop participants .....	26
Appendix 2. Results of online survey. ....	27
Appendix 3. Biodiversity-related resources .....	33
Appendix 4. Habitat management guidelines.....	35

## Acknowledgements

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Nurture Crèche

# Introduction

## Ennis

Ennis is a vibrant county and market town with a rich heritage and musical tradition. Narrow streets and laneways characterise the town centre and reflect its medieval origins. Situated on the banks of the River Fergus, Ennis has many historic and heritage buildings include the Cathedral, Mill, Courthouse, old Barracks, Clare Abbey and Ennis Friary. Music is a feature of the town and there are many local traditional musical events and festivals that run every year. In 2016 *Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann* was held in Ennis.



Ennis Town takes its name from "Inis", meaning an island which was formed between two streams of the River Fergus and on which the foundations of the Franciscan Abbey were laid. The River is an important focal point in the town and a hugely important habitat for wildlife. It links the town with the wider countryside and forms an important wildlife corridor.



Ennis has participated in the Tidy Towns competition for many years and has had much success to the great credit of the people of the town and a reflection of the town's community spirit. In 2016, Ennis was awarded 'Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre'.

### **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity refers to all living things (including plants, animals, microbes, fungi and people), the places where plants and animals live (habitats), the interactions among living things (the web of life) and their environment (ecology). Biodiversity is the nature all around us, everywhere and in our everyday life. Biodiversity is life and sustains life on Earth. Biodiversity provides us with clean air and water, food, fuel, building products and medicines. It also provides us with many free 'services' such as nutrient recycling, pollination and water filtration etc. Making space for nature in our towns and villages enhances and protects the local environment, and improves our quality of life by providing natural amenities for recreation (e.g. swimming, fishing, walking and relaxing).



*Fairy Door in Garden of Eden Projects Ireland community orchard in An Sean Dún estate*

### **Planning for biodiversity**

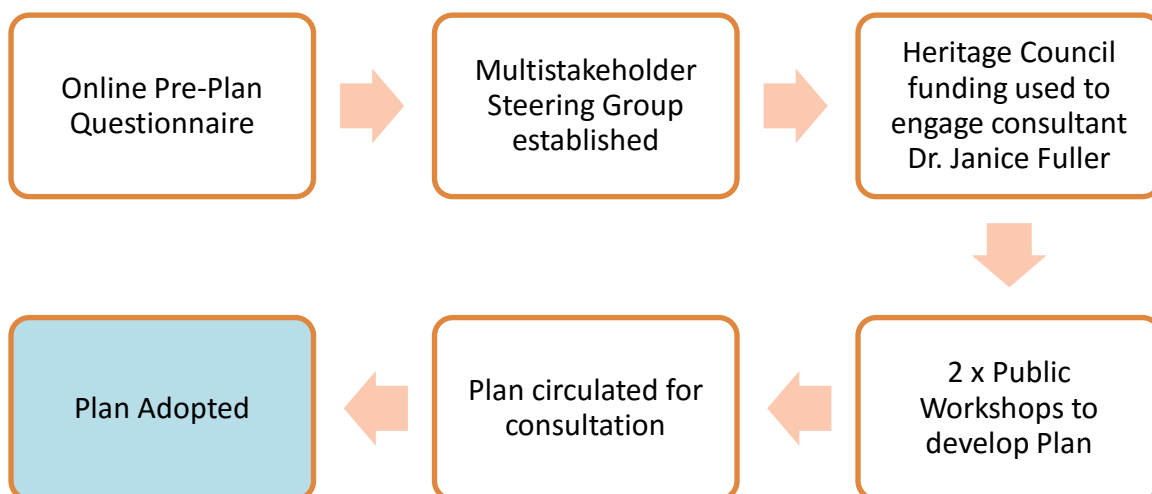
The *Wild About Ennis: Ennis Biodiversity Plan 2017-2019* is a community-led biodiversity plan that outlines projects, activities and events that will run in the Ennis area over a three year period for the benefit of nature and wildlife, the environment, and the local community. This plan aims to raise awareness of, protect and enhance the rich natural heritage in Ennis.

### **Process to produce the plan**

Ennis Tidy Towns received a grant from the Heritage Council for the development of a biodiversity plan for the town. A Project Steering Group was established with members from Ennis Tidy Towns, Clare County Council, Transition



Town Ennis, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Garden of Eden Projects Ireland (listed in Acknowledgements). Consultant Ecologist, Dr Janice Fuller, was commissioned to facilitate the development of the plan. Two biodiversity workshops were organised for the public in Ennis to seek input and ideas. These workshops were open to people from anywhere in the county as it was decided it was an opportunity to raise awareness about biodiversity and the value of developing a local biodiversity plan. The workshops were very well attended (Appendix 1). The following diagram illustrates the steps in the Plan process. Details of the pre-plan online consultation can be found in Appendix 2. Resources provided to participants in the workshops are provided in Appendix 3.



### Community action for nature in Ennis

Ennis Tidy Towns have been working on projects for the benefit of nature, the environment and the local community for some time. They recently launched a 'Wild About Ennis' campaign to promote biodiversity and to highlight the development of a biodiversity plan for the town. Other biodiversity related projects run by the group include tree planting, river clean-ups and interpretive signage.

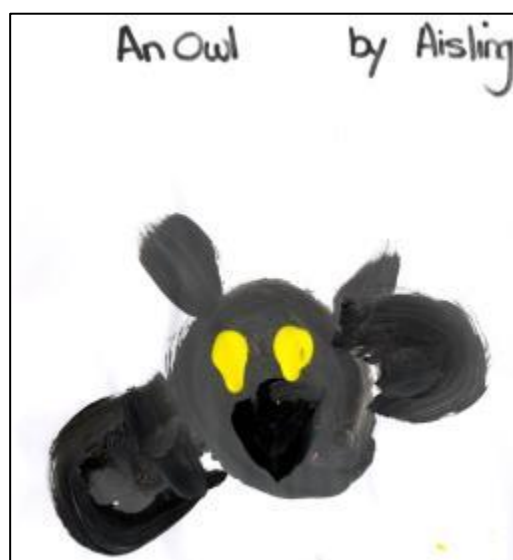
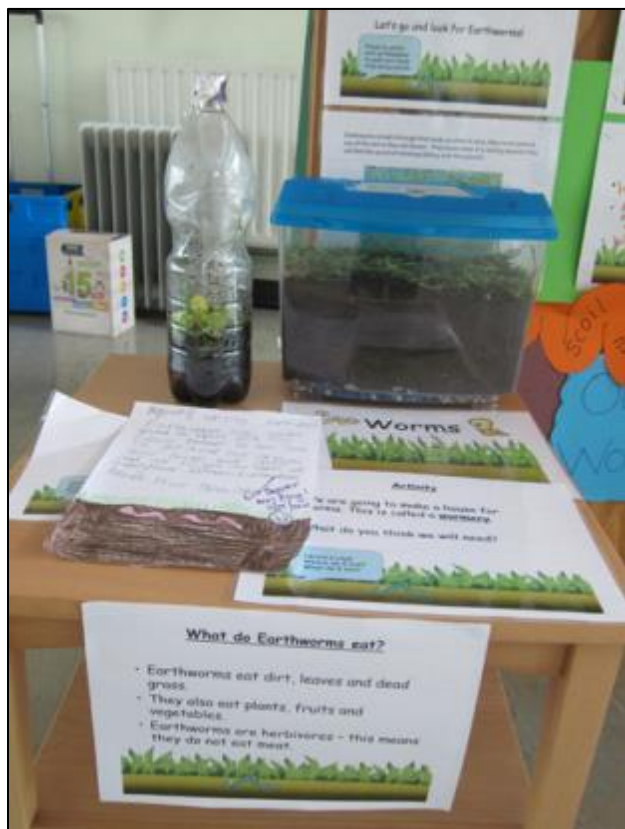


*Interpretive signage in Abbey car park*



*Members of Ennis Tidy Towns picking litter*

Ennis Tidy Towns work in partnership with many other community and residents groups in the town, many of which do great work for the benefit of the natural environment, as well as, the local community. Most schools have Green Flags and are busy working on biodiversity and environmental projects. Many residents groups also work hard to enhance the green areas and environment in their areas.



Artwork from Nurture Crèche

*Holy Family Junior National School project on earthworms*



*The Garden of Eden Projects Ireland community orchard in An Sean Dún estate*

# Nature and Wildlife in Ennis

## General

Ennis is a large town in central Clare with a wealth of wildlife habitats in and around the town centre. The town is situated within a low-lying landscape characterised by farmland with abundant drumlins and several small lakes, turloughs and wetlands (mainly fen peatlands). This landscape is underlain by limestone bedrock with a central strip of Namurian shales. It is almost entirely overlain with limestone-derived till deposits, with some estuarine silts and clays adjoining the River Fergus as it travels south to meet the Shannon and widens. There are also some pockets of exposed limestone bedrock or where the bedrock is close to the surface.



*Hazel scrub on limestone pavement on outskirts of Ennis*

There are numerous wildlife habitats located in and around the town including wetlands, woodland, scrub, semi-natural grassland, the River Fergus and its tributaries, and small lakes and turloughs. Private gardens, public parks, school grounds, graveyards and sports grounds can also provide habitats for wildlife and space for nature, however small.

All these green spaces and wildlife habitats in Ennis and environs form part of the 'Green and Blue Infrastructure' of the town. Green Infrastructure refers to a strategically planned and managed network of green spaces and other environmental features vital to the sustainability of any urban area. Green Infrastructure also encompasses river systems or 'Blue Infrastructure'. The provision of green infrastructure in and around urban areas is now widely recognised as contributing towards creating places where people want to live and work. A Green Infrastructure plan is currently being developed for Ennis.





*Aerial photograph showing the landscape around Ennis Town dissected by the River Fergus*

Ennis Tidy Towns surveyed opinion on where are the best places for wildlife or wildlife habitats in the town. Some of these places are described briefly below (all listed in Appendix 2):

### **Tim Smyth Park/ The Fairgreen**

Tim Smyth Park in the Fairgreen is a popular amenity with playing pitches, running track and a playground. Surrounded by mature trees and shrubs, this is a great and attractive green space in the town to escape for a while and relax.

### **Rocky Road**

The Rocky Road is an ancient pilgrim path that runs from Ennis through Cahircalla Beg to a holy well at Killone Abbey on the shore of Killone Lake (St. John's Well). The path travels through a limestone landscape with Hazel scrub, native woodland, limestone pavement, calcareous grassland and lake shore. The flora and fauna of much of this area is reminiscent of the Burren. The Rocky Road is a popular walking and running route. The final section of the route to Killone is overgrown but the road can be enjoyed along with the paths in Ballybeg Wood.



*Rocky Road*

### **Ballyalla Lake**

Ballyalla Lake is a popular recreation amenity with picnic tables and a swimming area. A 6km Slí na Sláinte route starts in the car park.

Ballyalla Lake is a relatively small, shallow lake situated on the River Fergus approximately 4 km north of Ennis. This attractive lake is fringed by Common Club Rush and Common Reed. The site contains a mosaic of woodlands, wetlands and limestone pavement, as well as the lake, which adds to the diversity of the area. Wetlands are key to maintaining water quality as well as supporting wildlife.

Ballyalla Lake is a naturally eutrophic lake, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EC Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> reflecting its importance in a European context. Ballyalla Lake, and the nearby Lough Girroga, are designated as a Special Area of Conservation. Lough Girroga is fringed by fen peatland with Hazel woodland on drier ground.



*Ballyalla Lake*

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<sup>1</sup> The EC Habitats Directive underpins Special Areas of Conservation, sites which are designated based on the habitats (Annex I) and species (Annex II) of high nature conservation concern that they contain; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac>

Ballyalla Lake is also a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Birds Directive<sup>2</sup>. The lake and the floodplain to the west hold nationally important numbers of Shoveler, Wigeon, Coot, Mallard and Gadwall. Significant numbers of Whooper Swan also uses the site. Other regular wintering species include Teal, Lapwing, Tufted Duck, Pintail and Little Grebe. Ballyalla Lough is also a Ramsar Convention<sup>3</sup> site and a Wildfowl Sanctuary<sup>4</sup>. An attractive interpretive panel highlights many of the birds that can be seen at the lake. For a relatively small lake, Ballyalla supports huge numbers of water birds and is therefore extremely valuable for wildlife. It is a great spot for birdwatching. The Clare branch of BirdWatch Ireland run birdwatching outings at the lake most years.

### **River Fergus**

The River Shannon and Fergus estuaries form the largest estuarine complex in Ireland and support more wintering wildfowl and waders than any other site in the country. Most of the estuarine part of these rivers has been designated a Special Protection Area (Shannon and Fergus Estuaries SPA) based on the important populations of overwintering birds that utilise these areas. The River Fergus is also part of the Lower Shannon SAC, which contains many important wetland and aquatic habitats and species. The Fergus brings nature and wildlife into the town centre. Much of the river edge is fringed with wetlands, which provide food and cover for numerous birds, Otters and fish. There are two significant tributaries of the Fergus in the town, which also have a value for wildlife, the Claureen and the Gauras.



*The River Fergus as it flows through Ennis town centre*



*Otter*

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<sup>2</sup> The EC Birds Directive underpins Special Protection Areas, sites which are designated based on the bird populations and habitats they contain; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ramsar.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/wildfowl-sanctuaries>



### **Post Office Field**

The Post Office Field is a wonderful natural asset located adjacent to the historic town of Ennis in a broad meander of the River Fergus. The low-lying ground, extending to around 1.6ha, is a natural floodplain for the River, providing natural flood control capacity for the town. The field contains a mosaic of wetland habitats including wet grassland, willow scrub and tall herb swamp. Many wildflowers can be seen in the field during the summer months including Meadowsweet, Purple Loosestrife and Yellow Flag along with rushes and meadows grasses.



*View of the Post Office Field*

### **Lees Road Sports and Amenity Park**

The Lees Road Sports and Amenity Park is a large sports and recreation amenity with playing pitches, a skateboard park and running tracks. The facility is surrounded by a large area of woodland, much of which is broadleaved with some native stands of Ash, Hazel and Oak. Moss covered limestone boulders are strewn across the woodland floor. Trails weave through the woodland and providing a great resource for walkers and an opportunity to enjoy nature.



*Heritage Week nature walk in Lee's Road Park woodland*

## **Drumcliff Old Graveyard**

As a place of burial, Drumcliff has a long history, dating back to the early monastic settlement established there some time before the tenth century, and whose remains still dominate the elevated part of the graveyard site. Old graveyards such as Drumcliff can be havens for wildlife as well as places of remembrance and quiet reflection for the local community.

## **Ballybeg Woods**

There is a large area of woodland just south of Ennis, some of which is known locally as Ballybeg Wood. Ballybeg has been developed as a natural amenity under the Neighbourwood Scheme and there is a network of walking trails to enjoy. The majority of the site is mixed broadleaved woodland with Ash and Beech in the canopy, and Hazel in the understorey. A lucky walker might hear a Long-eared Owl while strolling through the wood or spot a Red Squirrel.

Ballybeg Wood and the nearby woodland and caves at Newhall and Edenvale are considered to be one of the best sites for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat in Europe. These bats are very rare in a European context and are protected under Irish and EC law.

## **Other places for nature in Ennis**

Parks, green spaces and private gardens can also provide havens for nature and wildlife. Ennis is notable for the amount of trees in the town including many significant and heritage trees. Trees greatly enhance urban spaces. They provide food and cover for wildlife, and bring colour and life into built up environments. Flowering hedgerows and vegetable plots provide food and shelter for pollinators, as well as a splash of colour in the summer months.



*Copper Beech in the grounds of Ennis Friary*



*Ash tree in the grounds of the Courthouse*



## Wildlife habitats in Ennis

There is a huge diversity of habitats in and around Ennis town. Some of the main habitats are described below:

Habitat (Code*)	Description
River (FW2)	The River Fergus flows through Ennis Town forming a focal point and providing an important habitat for wildlife such as Otters, Salmon and Heron. There are two tributaries of the Fergus in the town, the Claureen and the Gauras.
Wet grassland (GS4)	Rushes often dominate wet grassland, which generally occurs where there is poor drainage or close to waterbodies. These rushy fields often have an abundance of wildflowers such as Meadowsweet, Purple Loosestrife, Cuckoo Flower and Common Spotted Orchid.
Calcareous grassland (GS1)	This type of grassland occurs on limey soils, often in association with limestone pavement or where soils are thin over limestone. Calcareous grassland often has a rich diversity of wildflowers including Lady's Bedstraw, Oxeye Daisy and Field Scabious. Orchids may also be abundant.
Meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	True meadows that are rarely grazed or fertilised and mown just once or twice a year are now rare in Ireland. This habitat mainly occurs now along road verges, old graveyards or neglected fields. Meadow grassland can have an abundance of wildflowers including Knapweed, Cow Parsley and Meadow Vetching.
Limestone pavement (ER2)	There are pockets of exposed limestone rock and limestone pavement around Ennis including along the Rocky Road. This habitat often occurs in association with other habitats of high nature conservation value including calcareous grassland, Hazel scrub and fens. Limestone pavement usually has a sparse flora but typical plants include small ferns (Brittle Bladder Fern, Rusty-back Fern and Wall Rue Fern), Ivy and Wood Sage.
Oak-ash-hazel woodland (WN2)	There are a few small areas of native woodland around Ennis, in Ballybeg and the woodland in Lee Road Amenity Park. It usually occurs in association with mixed broadleaved and conifer woodland. There is a large area of native oak-ash-hazel woodland in Dromore Nature Reserve, north of the town.
Scrub (WS1)	Scrub is a common habitat in quiet corners on farmland, along the River Fergus and its tributaries and on limestone pavement. Scrub is an important habitat for many birds as it provides excellent cover.
Mixed woodland (WD1)	Beech and Ash woodland occurs in Ballybeg Woods.
Stone walls (BL1)	Dry stones walls can provide important habitat for insects and lizards. Limestone stone walls are a feature of much of the countryside in Clare.

Turloughs (FL6)	Turloughs are present in the wider landscape around Ennis. They are ephemeral lakes that occur in depressions or basins in areas with karst limestone. They tend to be water-filled in winter and dry in summer. Turloughs are more or less unique to Ireland.
Lake (FL5)	There are a few lakes in the wider landscape around Ennis including Ballyalla and Lough Girroga. Ballyalla Lake is an excellent spot for birdwatching due to the high numbers of waterbirds that utilise the lake.
Reed swamp (FS1)	Stands of Common Reed, Sweet Reed Grass and/or Common Club-Rush occur along river and lake edges. These areas provide cover for waterbirds.
Fen (PF1)	Fens are a type of peatland that are fed by lime-rich groundwater or surface waters. They tend to be dominated by a variety of rushes and sedges including Black Bog Rush, the grass, Purple Moor Grass, and variety of wildflowers including Water Mint, Water Pennywort and Devil's Bit Scabious.
Wet woodland (WN6)	Wet woodland, generally dominated by Willow species, occurs in pockets along the River Fergus and its tributaries, and in other areas with damp ground.
Hedgerows (WL1)	Hedgerows are a common feature along field boundaries throughout County Clare.
Treelines (WL2)	Lines of trees often occur along field boundaries, property boundaries and roads.

\* *Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt 2000)*

## **Beware of Invasive Species!**

Invasive species are plants or animals that have been introduced to Ireland and are spreading in a way that threatens native flora and/or fauna, and native ecosystems. Examples include Japanese Knotweed, Rhododendron and Zebra Mussel. Japanese Knotweed can be seen in roadside hedgerows in parts of County Clare, Rhododendron is a problem in places on Slieve Callan, and Zebra Mussel is abundant in Lough Derg.

Japanese Knotweed is present in Ennis Town and environs. It is a pernicious weed and extremely difficult to eradicate. Knotweed can grow through tarmac and concrete and therefore is a serious threat in urban areas. Cutting or digging up the plant will only help to spread it further as it can regrow from fragments of root or cut stems. Seek advice before tackling this plant or other invasive species, and report to Clare County Council. The Council are already tackling Knotweed infestations around the town.

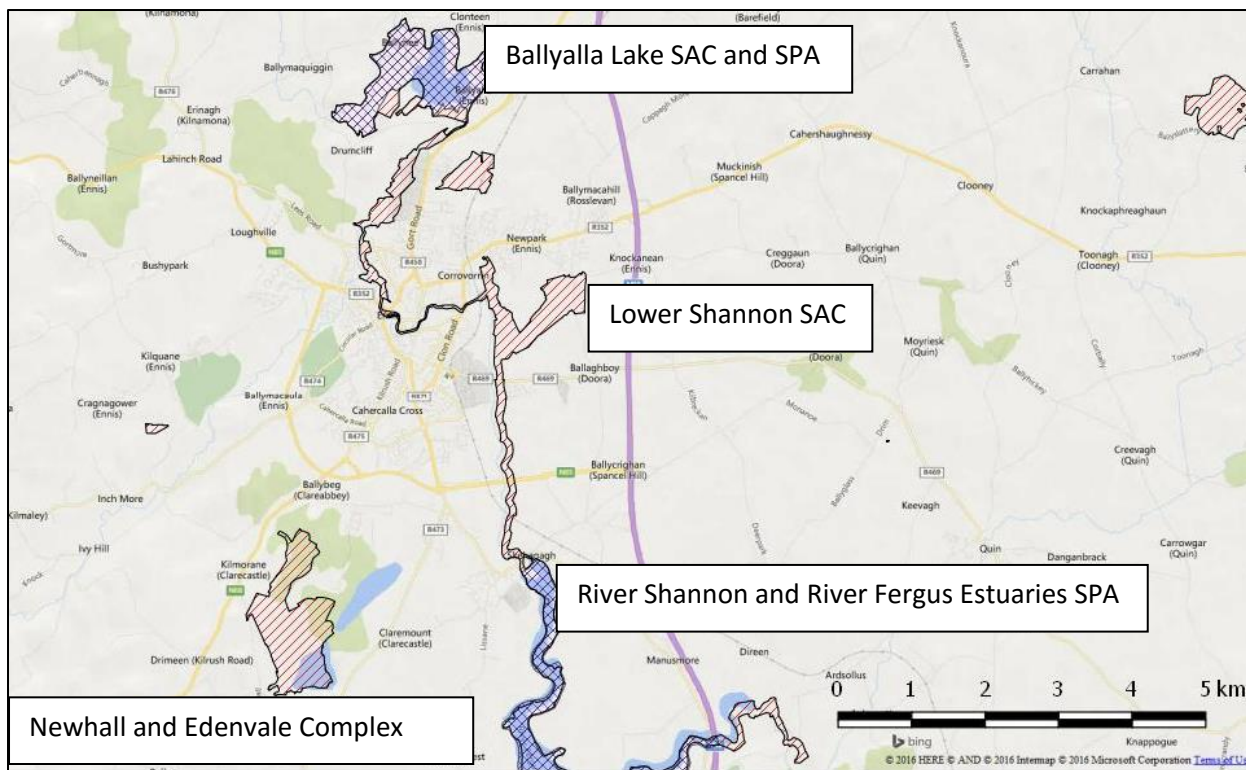


*Japanese Knotweed*

<http://invasivespeciesireland.com/toolkit/invasive-plant-management/terrestrial-plants/japanese-knotweed/>

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Invasive-Species/invasive-species.html>

<http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/invasive-species/>



Map showing the location of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas around Ennis; SACs and SPAs are part of the Natura 2000 network of sites across Europe, for more information see [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) ([www.bingmaps.com](http://www.bingmaps.com))

# Ennis Biodiversity Plan 2017- 2019

Ennis Tidy Towns recognise that the actions outlined below can only be implemented with the ongoing support of our local community volunteers, environmental organisations, Clare County Council and other stakeholders. Several groups and individuals have already pledged their support. It is our hope that these actions, developed through an open and transparent engagement process, will provide benefits for nature, wildlife and the local community.

**To get involved and for updates see <http://ennistidytowns.com>**

	Project/ activity/ event	Project leader	Time frame
1	Facilitate biodiversity workshops for communities e.g. wildlife gardening, tree and orchard planting, controlling invasive species, beekeeping etc.  <i>The aim of this project is to enhance local biodiversity knowledge, information and skills. Ennis Tidy Towns and other Tidy Towns Groups could apply for funding to run biodiversity workshops on topics of interest.</i>	Ennis Tidy Towns and other Tidy Towns groups in Clare	Year 1
2	Continue to develop interpretive signage for key sites of biodiversity value. Liaise with Clare County Council in relation to heritage interpretive strategy.  <i>The aim of this project is to ensure that any future interpretive signage will enhance the visitor experience and raise awareness locally of the value of nature and wildlife by adopting a best practice approach.</i>	Ennis Tidy Towns	Years 1-3
3	Continue to compile biodiversity resources on Tidy Towns website with information on local wildlife, how to protect and enhance local biodiversity, global biodiversity issues and what you can do (e.g. climate change) etc. Also include list of places to enjoy nature in Ennis and events.  Develop an open online social media resource to encourage discussion and debate about issues affecting biodiversity in Ennis and the County. This can also be used as a forum to showcase local projects and to promote shared learning.	Ennis Tidy Towns	Years 1-3
4	Promote a reduction in the use of herbicide and pesticides- run awareness raising initiative with information on alternatives.  <i>The aim of this project is to reduce the use of chemicals, which can have a negative impact on the environment and human health. Clare County Council have an integrated pest management plan that outlines the safe use of herbicides and aims towards an overall reduction in herbicide usage.</i>	Transition Town Ennis	Years 1-3
5	Promote the development of Community Orchards in housing estates in Ennis. Run an information day in an existing community orchard and aim to have at least two new orchards by 2019.  <i>The long-term aim of this project is to create a 'town orchard' with fruit trees in private gardens, parks, school grounds and public spaces.</i>	Garden of Eden Projects Ireland	Years 1-3



6	<p>Run nature walk/talk during Heritage Week; Run winter lecture series with heritage theme</p> <p><i>The aim of this project is to raise awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and other aspects of heritage. Heritage week is a national event that celebrates all aspects of heritage; a winter lecture series will provide inspiration for activities and projects during the summer months.</i></p>	Ennis Tidy Towns/ Transition Town Ennis	Years 1-3
7	<p>Encourage and support biodiversity projects and events for children e.g. Greenschools in primary and secondary schools, preschools, scouting and Foróige groups etc.; Run 'Ennis Tidy Tots' initiative with pre-schools.</p> <p><i>The aim of this project is to support the work already being done by many children and to encourage others to get involved. Potential projects include planting for pollinators, wildlife-friendly sensory gardens, litter clean-ups, planting native trees and hedges etc.</i></p>	Schools, Nurture Crèche	Years 1-3
8	<p>Develop a tree identification trail with markers identifying significant trees in Ennis.</p> <p><i>Ennis Town is notable for the abundance of significant trees in the townscape. This project aims to highlight some of these trees.</i></p>	Ennis Tidy Towns	Year 2
9	<p>Develop nature trails for Ennis (e.g. Lees Road Woodland, Rocky Road, Ballyalla, Ballybeg):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• map potential trails( Year 1),</li> <li>• develop interpretive materials (e.g. nature spotting sheets- Year 2),</li> <li>• erect signage where appropriate (Year 3).</li> </ul> <p><i>This project aims to highlight the nature and wildlife in these popular natural amenities.</i></p>	Ennis Tidy Towns	2017-2019
10	<p>Include pollinator-friendly planting in town landscaping schemes e.g. containers and flower beds in public green spaces and areas managed by Clare County Council; Promote pollinator-friendly planting in residential gardens by providing information leaflet for residents associations. Promote community beekeeping projects.</p> <p><i>The aim of this project is to increase the supply of food and habitat for pollinators in Ennis (e.g. bees, butterflies and moths). Pollinator-friendly planting also tends to be more economical in the long-term and environmentally sustainable, as well as highly attractive. Community beekeeping projects are proving highly popular in many part of the country as interest grows in beekeeping and pollination.</i></p>	Clare CoCo Ennis Tidy Towns	Years 1-3
11	<p>Explore potential for creating meadows along approach roads and in other green areas including roundabouts by modifying the mowing regime for the benefit of pollinators.</p> <p><i>The aim of this project is also to increase the supply of food and habitat for pollinators for pollinators in Ennis. Meadows with native wildflowers along with native hedgerows are hugely important for insects and birds. Reducing mowing regimes to provide meadow habitat is also environmentally friendly.</i></p>	Clare CoCo	Year 1- Pilot areas Year 2 & 3

12	<p>Build, erect and maintain bat boxes, bird boxes and insect hotels.</p> <p><i>The aim of this project is to provide nesting and roosting habitat for wildlife in Ennis town, and to raise awareness of urban wildlife.</i></p>	Ennis Men's Shed	<p>Year 1-2</p> <p>Year 3-Monitor</p>
13	<p>Run Annual Spring Clean</p> <p><i>Litter is unsightly, bad for the environment and dangerous for wildlife.</i></p>	Ennis Tidy Towns	Years 1-3
14	<p>Continue to control invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed in Ennis Town and raise awareness of the problem.</p> <p><i>Clare County Council is already treating stands of Japanese Knotweed in the town. This is a long-term project as Japanese Knotweed is a pernicious weed that is very difficult to eradicate.</i></p>	Clare CoCo	Years 1-3
15	<p>Promote and support birdwatching in Ennis.</p> <p><i>There are a few excellent locations for birdwatching in Ennis, including along the River Fergus and at Ballyalla Lake. The aim of this action is to highlight these areas and provide information on birds to look out for.</i></p>	Clare BirdWatch/ Ennis Tidy Towns	Years 2-3
16	<p>Run Common Swift nest project.</p> <p><i>The breeding population of Common Swift has declined in Ireland. The aim of this project is to provide specially-designed nest boxes in suitable locations and to monitor their usage.</i></p>	BirdWatch Ireland/ Clare CoCo	Year 2
17	<p>Support Clare County Council in achieving An Taisce Green Flag status for the Tim Smyth Park/ Fairgreen.</p> <p><i>In a new initiative by An Taisce, Green Flags can now be awarded to public parks.</i></p>	Ennis Tidy Towns	Year 2
18	<p>Promote stronger focus on wildlife and biodiversity in annual Ennis Tidy Towns Green Areas award.</p> <p>Provide a mentoring programme for estates (two per year) with advice on approach and potential funding (e.g. Local Agenda 21).</p> <p><i>The aim of this project is to raise awareness of the value of wildlife and environmentally-friendly gardening and management of green areas.</i></p>	Ennis Tidy Towns	Year 1-3

\* Clare CoCo = Clare County Council

## Ensuring success

The successful implementation of a local biodiversity plan requires commitment from the community to support the projects, activities and/or events outlined in the plan. Ideally a steering group, including Ennis Tidy Towns and other interested parties, should be established to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the '*Wild About Ennis: Ennis Biodiversity Plan 2017-2019*'. They should meet at least twice a year in order to set annual goals and to review progress to date. Clare County County Council will be available to support the local community implement their plan.



*Public meeting to develop Ennis Biodiversity Plan*



*Ballyalla Lake*

## Resources

	Project/ activity/ event	Website/ Key Person
1	Biodiversity training for communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Clare County Council Heritage Officer, Environmental Awareness Officer or Tidy Towns Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Other Tidy Towns Groups</li> <li>• County Clare Tidy Towns Co-ordinator</li> </ul>
2	Interpretive signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Irish_Walled_Towns/Bored_of_Boards__lowres_.pdf">http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Irish_Walled_Towns/Bored_of_Boards__lowres_.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.heritageweek.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Heritage-Interpretation-Manual.pdf">http://www.heritageweek.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Heritage-Interpretation-Manual.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.snh.gov.uk/policy-and-guidance/heritage-interpretation/producing-interpretive-panels/">http://www.snh.gov.uk/policy-and-guidance/heritage-interpretation/producing-interpretive-panels/</a></li> </ul>
3	Online biodiversity resources and social medial resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://ennistidytowns.com/project/wildlife/">http://ennistidytowns.com/project/wildlife/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/wildlife/welcome/">http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/wildlife/welcome/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.iwt.ie/wildlife-information">http://www.iwt.ie/wildlife-information</a></li> </ul>
4	Reducing the use of herbicide and pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/weed-whacking-herbicide-p/">https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/weed-whacking-herbicide-p/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://greensideup.ie/16-natural-alternatives-to-herbicide-why-you-should-use-them/">http://greensideup.ie/16-natural-alternatives-to-herbicide-why-you-should-use-them/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.gcbl.org/live/home/landscaping/is-there-a-safe-alternative-to-roundup">http://www.gcbl.org/live/home/landscaping/is-there-a-safe-alternative-to-roundup</a></li> </ul>
5	Community orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.wetlandsystems.ie/goephow.html">http://www.wetlandsystems.ie/goephow.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11466/1973262.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11466/1973262.pdf</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.theorchardproject.org.uk/">http://www.theorchardproject.org.uk/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	Nature walk/talk during Heritage Week and Biodiversity Week; Run winter lecture series with heritage theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Clare County Council Heritage Officer, Environmental Awareness Officer or Tidy Towns Co-ordinator</li> <li>• <a href="http://ennistidytowns.com/">http://ennistidytowns.com/</a></li> </ul>
7	Biodiversity projects and events for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://greenschoolsireland.org/biodiveristy/">https://greenschoolsireland.org/biodiveristy/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.noticenature.ie/Educators2.html">http://www.noticenature.ie/Educators2.html</a></li> </ul>
8	Tree identification trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://treecouncil.ie/">http://treecouncil.ie/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie/en/learn/irish-trees">http://www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie/en/learn/irish-trees</a></li> </ul>
9	Nature trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/MP488.pdf">http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/MP488.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.irishtrails.ie/national_trails_office/publications/trail_development/guide_to_planning_and_developing_recreational_trails_in_ireland.pdf">http://www.irishtrails.ie/national_trails_office/publications/trail_development/guide_to_planning_and_developing_recreational_trails_in_ireland.pdf</a></li> </ul>

10	Pollinator-friendly planting/ beekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/local-communities/">http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/local-communities/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/gardens/">http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/gardens/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/resources/">http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/resources/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://bannerbeekeepers.com/">https://bannerbeekeepers.com/</a></li> </ul>
11	Wildflower meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://bumblebeeconservation.org/images/uploads/Resources/BBCT_Land_Factsheet_2_Managing_wildflower_meadows.pdf">https://bumblebeeconservation.org/images/uploads/Resources/BBCT_Land_Factsheet_2_Managing_wildflower_meadows.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/grassland_management_for_wildflowers_0.pdf">http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/grassland_management_for_wildflowers_0.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Pollinator-How-to-Guide-2_ALT_FINAL.pdf">http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Pollinator-How-to-Guide-2_ALT_FINAL.pdf</a></li> </ul>
12	Bat boxes, bird boxes and insect hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.batconservationireland.org/pubs/reports/Leaflet_3_batboxes.pdf">http://www.batconservationireland.org/pubs/reports/Leaflet_3_batboxes.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Portals/0/pdfs/GBS_Nestboxes.pdf">http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Portals/0/pdfs/GBS_Nestboxes.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.clarebirdwatching.com/">http://www.clarebirdwatching.com/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Pollinator-How-to-Guide-1-ALT_FINAL.pdf">http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Pollinator-How-to-Guide-1-ALT_FINAL.pdf</a></li> </ul>
13	Annual Spring Clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.nationalspringclean.org/">http://www.nationalspringclean.org/</a></li> </ul>
14	Invasive species control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://invasivespeciesireland.com/toolkit/">http://invasivespeciesireland.com/toolkit/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Invasive-Species/invasive-species.html">http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Invasive-Species/invasive-species.html</a></li> </ul>
15	Birdwatching facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.clarebirdwatching.com/">http://www.clarebirdwatching.com/</a></li> </ul>
16	Run Common Swift nest project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.clarebirdwatching.com/">http://www.clarebirdwatching.com/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Swifts/Swift/tabid/1127/Default.aspx">http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Swifts/Swift/tabid/1127/Default.aspx</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.ouririshheritage.org/page/swift_conservation_project">http://www.ouririshheritage.org/page/swift_conservation_project</a></li> </ul>
17	An Taisce Green Flag for Parks Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.greenflagforparksireland.org/">http://www.greenflagforparksireland.org/</a></li> </ul>
18	Annual Ennis Tidy Towns Green Areas award and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://ennistidytowns.com/green-area-competition/">http://ennistidytowns.com/green-area-competition/</a></li> </ul>



## Useful contacts and information sources

Name (Group/ Individual)	Activities/ Expertise	Contact details
Heritage Officer, Clare County Council	All matters relating to heritage	Tel. (065) 6846408 <a href="http://www.clarecoco.ie/recreation-culture/heritage/">http://www.clarecoco.ie/recreation-culture/heritage/</a>
Environmental Awareness Officer, Clare County Council	All matters relating to waste, water and the environment	Tel. (065) 6821616 <a href="mailto:envawareness@clarecoco.ie">envawareness@clarecoco.ie</a> <a href="http://www.clarecoco.ie/water-waste-environment/">http://www.clarecoco.ie/water-waste-environment/</a>
National Parks and Wildlife Service	Responsible for the protection of Ireland's natural heritage, particularly sites designated as Special Conservation Areas, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, and Nature Reserves etc., and species of conservation concern	Conservation Ranger 076 1002582 <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>
Vincent Wildlife Trust	Promote conservation of bats and other mammals; provide information and advice; organise walks and talks on bats	<a href="mailto:katemcaney@vwt.org.uk">katemcaney@vwt.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.mammals-in-ireland.ie/">www.mammals-in-ireland.ie/</a>
BirdWatch Ireland, Clare Branch	Promote conservation of birds and their habitats; conduct surveys and organise birdwatching events in Clare	<a href="http://www.clarebirdwatching.com">www.clarebirdwatching.com</a>
Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT),	IWT is a conservation charity committed to raising awareness of Ireland's natural heritage and protecting it for future generations.	<a href="http://www.iwt.ie">www.iwt.ie</a>
Garden of Eden Projects	This project provides advice and supports for groups that would like to plant a community orchard.	<a href="http://www.wetlandsystems.ie/goepworkshops.html">www.wetlandsystems.ie/goepworkshops.html</a>
Ennis Men's Shed	A Men's Shed is a dedicated, friendly and welcoming meeting place where men come together and undertake a variety of mutually agreed activities.	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/EnnisMensShed/">www.facebook.com/EnnisMensShed/</a>
Transition Town Ennis	In response to the challenges of global economic uncertainties, peak oil and climate change, some communities in Ireland and	Féidhlim Harty 065-6797355

	beyond are adopting the transition process to increase our ability to look after ourselves into the long term and to adapt to the shocks that energy, food, economic and climate crises may bring.	
Inland Fisheries Ireland	Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) are the state agency responsible for the protection, management and conservation of Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources	<a href="http://www.fisheriesireland.ie">www.fisheriesireland.ie</a>

## Potential funding sources

Fund/ Funding Body	Description
Leader	Leader provides full and part funding for a variety of community-led projects. Discuss potential projects with the Community Development Workers prior to submitting applications to determine if they meet the Leader Programmes criteria for projects.
The Heritage Council	The Heritage Council offer grants to community groups and individuals for heritage projects. See their website for details of the grant application criteria and application process ( <a href="http://www.heritagecouncil.ie">www.heritagecouncil.ie</a> )
Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund, Clare County Council	<p>This fund is administered by the Environment Section of Clare County Council; it promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at a local level.</p> <p>Further information is available online at <a href="http://www.clarecoco.ie/water-waste-environment/grants/local-agenda-21/">http://www.clarecoco.ie/water-waste-environment/grants/local-agenda-21/</a></p> <p>or contact the Environmental Awareness Officer, Clare County Council; Tel. 065 6821616; E-mail <a href="mailto:kfoley@clarecoco.ie">kfoley@clarecoco.ie</a></p>
Foras na Gaeilge	<p>Foras na Gaeilge provides grants for signage and booklets etc. that include use of the Irish language.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gaeilge.ie/">http://www.gaeilge.ie/</a></p>
Clare County Council	For additional information in relation to funding for heritage projects, contact the Heritage Officer tel. 065 6846408

## Appendix 1.

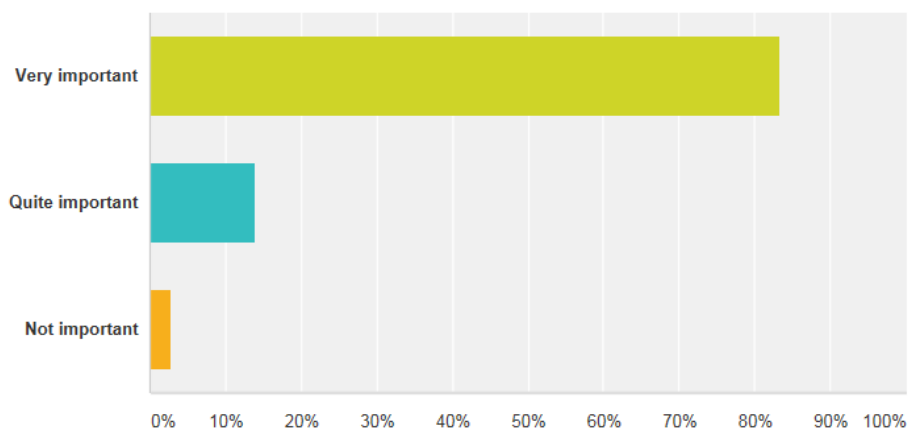
List of participants in biodiversity workshops

	Name
1	Anne Hanrahan
2	Anne Neylon
3	Antoinette Barry
4	Antoni Kucharski
5	Bill Glynn
6	Bridie Fraley
7	Carmel Duff
8	Christy Leyden
9	Claire Bhamjee
10	Cormac McCarthy
11	Edel Ryan
12	Elizabeth Brady
13	Eoin Donnelly
14	Féidhlim Harty
15	Frances Dillon
16	Jim Martin
17	Jim Spelling
18	Jo Walsh
19	John Finn
20	Loretta Brody
21	Moosajee Bhamjee
22	Margaret Neylon
23	Mary Coote Ryan
24	Mary Howard
25	Mary McAllister
26	Mary Meaney
27	Monika Beau
28	Patrick Walsh
29	Peggy Liths
30	Peter Bridgedale
31	Richard Collins
32	Teresa McGrath
33	Tom Neylon
34	Tommy Scott
35	Congella McGuire
36	Dave Lyons
37	Susan Griffin

## Appendix 2. Results of online survey.

### How important is the natural environment of Ennis to your everyday life?

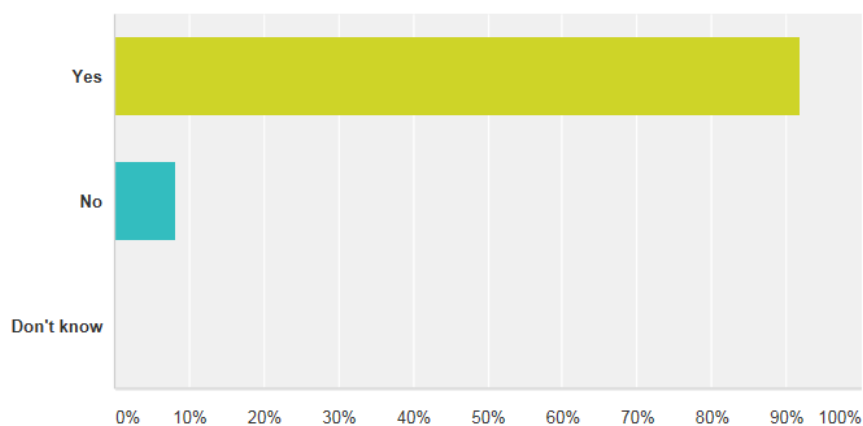
Answered: 36 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important	83.33%	30
Quite important	13.89%	5
Not important	2.78%	1
Total		36

### Have you heard of the term 'biodiversity'?

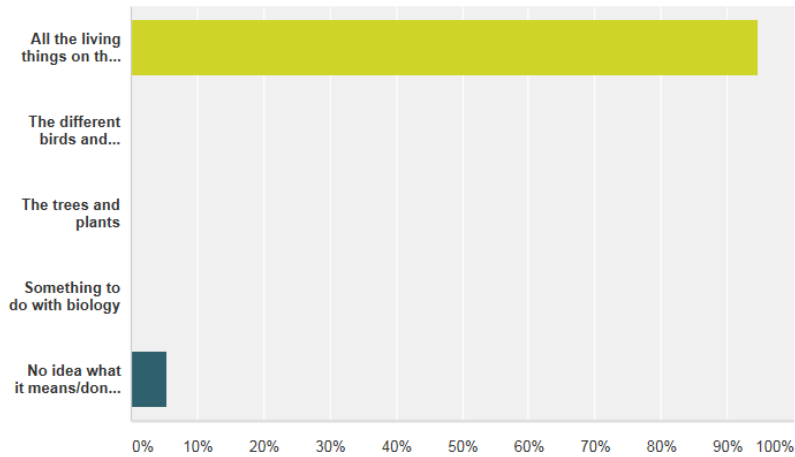
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	91.89%	34
No	8.11%	3
Don't know	0.00%	0
Total		37

## What do you understand the term 'biodiversity' to mean?

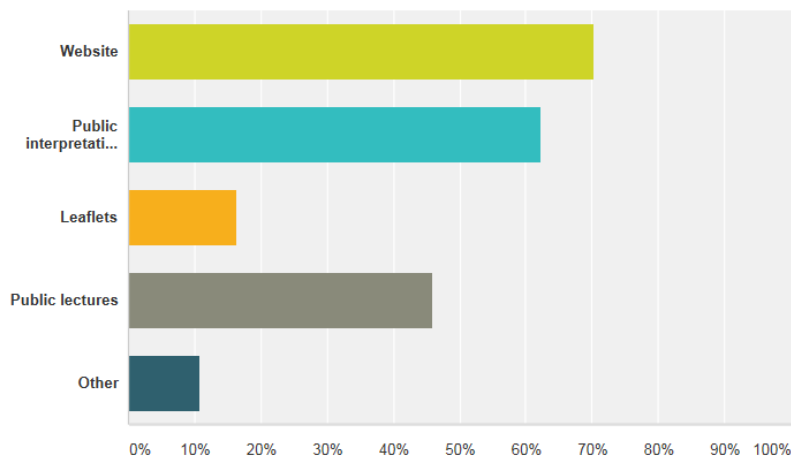
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ All the living things on the planet, including us	94.59%	35
▼ The different birds and animals	0.00%	0
▼ The trees and plants	0.00%	0
▼ Something to do with biology	0.00%	0
▼ No idea what it means/don't know	5.41%	2
Total	37	

## How would you like this information made accessible?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0

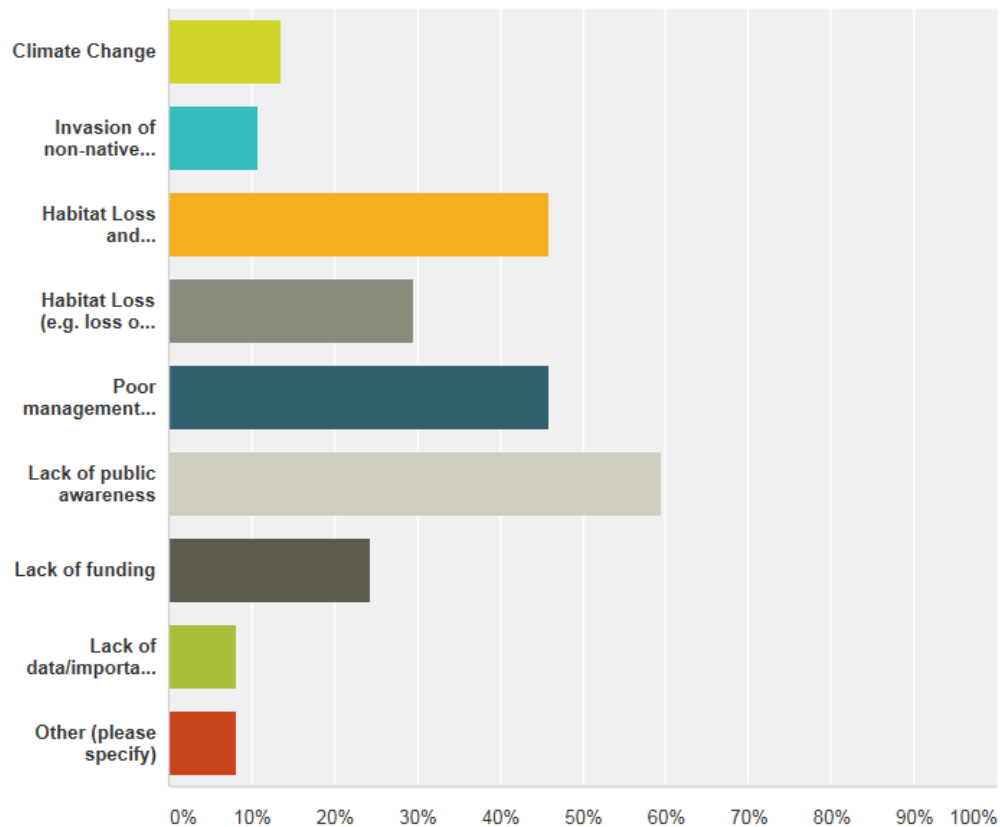


Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Website	70.27%	26
▼ Public interpretative panels	62.16%	23
▼ Leaflets	16.22%	6
▼ Public lectures	45.95%	17
▼ Other	10.81%	4
Total Respondents: 37		



## Which of the following threats to wildlife and biodiversity do you think is the greatest issue in Ennis?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Climate Change	13.51% 5
Invasion of non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron	10.81% 4
Habitat Loss and fragmentation (i.e. the ability of plants and animals to traverse the landscape through interconnected fields, hedges, rivers, etc.)	45.95% 17
Habitat Loss (e.g. loss of important wildlife refuges to development)	29.73% 11
Poor management practices (e.g. improper cutting of hedges and trees, dredging rivers during fish spawning times)	45.95% 17
Lack of public awareness	59.46% 22
Lack of funding	24.32% 9
Lack of data/important information to support decision making	8.11% 3
Other (please specify) <a href="#">Responses</a>	8.11% 3
Total Respondents: 37	

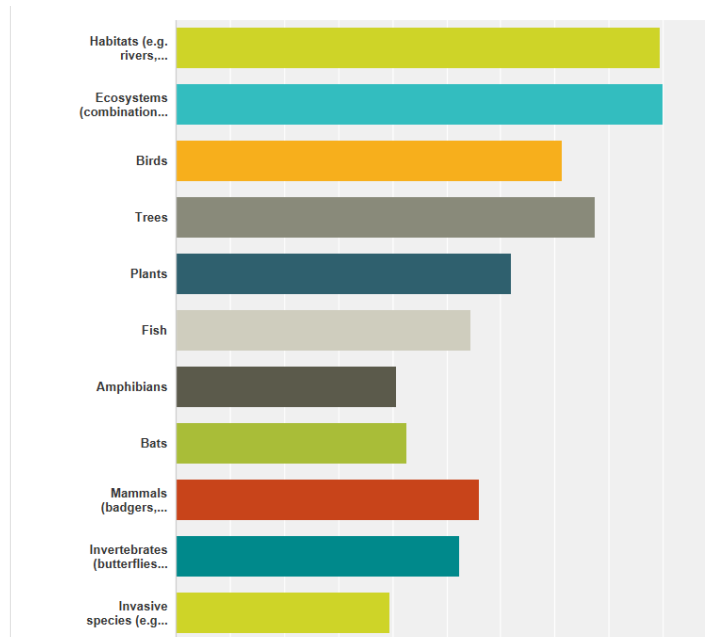
## Name your top three green-spaces in Ennis e.g. a park, a Local Nature Reserve, a stretch of river etc.

Answered: 36 Skipped: 1

1. The green field at the back of the post office
2. Quarry, Knoackanean - full of wild orchids, including bee orchids and marsh helleborines, dragonflies / Lees Road / Ballyalla
3. Lees Road, Fair Green, River side walk.
4. Lees Road Wood, Rocky Road, Fergus flood plain (from Ballyalla through to town centre)
5. I like Ballyalla lake, but can be tricky getting out onto the Ennis road. The Glor Centre is nice, but you can't sit down, it's noisy with cars. The Library is peaceful. There are too many cars in the centre of Ennis. I believe that Ennis does not have sufficient Quiet spaces.
6. Ballyalla Lake, Lees Road
7. Killone lake, Lees Road, Ballybeg
8. Post Office field: a delight! That's it - we're very short of green space. Possibly the trees opposite Glor but the traffic....
9. Lee's Road Woodland Ballyallia. The wetland flood-plain area along the bypass
10. Dromore Woods, Ballyalla, Ballybeg Woods
11. Lee's road, Tom Smyth park
12. Fairgreen, Ballybeg woods, Westfields green
13. Lees Rd , river Fergus bank , Fairgreen
14. Ballyallia Lees Road Post Office Field
15. Post office field, flood lands the river which runs right through the town..
16. Post office field and river! Rocky road. Lee's road and graveyard in Drumcliffe.
17. Lee's road. Fair Green. Fergus at Knox's bridge.
18. Ballyalla. River Fergus. Lees road amenity park & nature walks.
19. Ballyalla lake lees road complex rocky road
20. Lees Road, Fair Green, River Fergus Walk
21. River Fergus town .post office field,
22. Lees Road Fair green Ballybeg woods
23. Lee's Road, Post Office Field and Ballyalla
24. Ballyalla lake River Fergus Tim Smythe park
25. Ballyallia, Lees road, fergus
26. Peoples park . Ballyalla lake. Lees road.
27. Lees Road, Tim Smyth Park, Ballyalla
28. Ballybeg Woods, River, Post office field
29. Ballyalla, Parnell St/Mill Rd river walk, Garden of Remembrance Cloughleigh.
30. Ballyalla lake River Fergus Less road
31. River Fergus, area around Glor, Ballybeg woods.
32. Tim Smythe Park Lee's Road Cusack Park
33. The River Fergus, Post Office Field, Tim Smyth Park
34. The River, The Fairgreen , Peoples Park, Post Office Field
35. Tim Smythe Park, Lees Road, Part of the Fergus along the River Walk
36. Post Office Field, the Fairgreen, Ballyalla lake

# Ennis Tidy Towns to raise awareness about biodiversity in our town. Please rank the following (1 = most important / 11 = least important) which you would most like to see information on?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 3

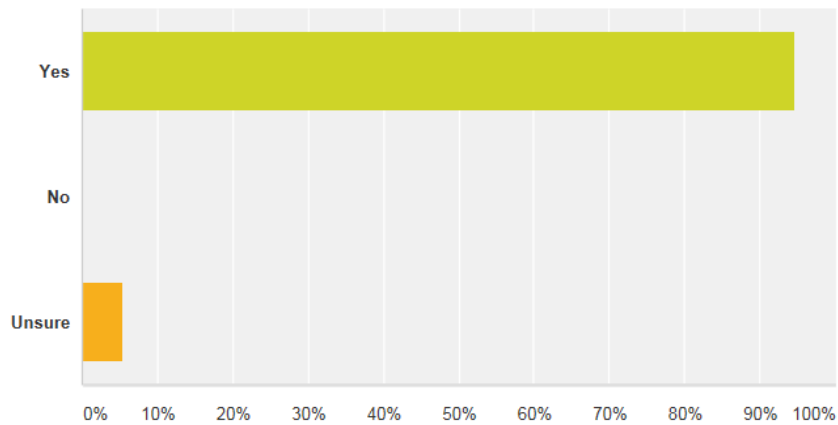


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total	Score
Habitats (e.g. rivers, grasslands, hedgerows, etc.)	35.71% 10	32.14% 9	7.14% 2	7.14% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	7.14% 2	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	3.57% 1	28	8.93
Ecosystems (combination of habitats - e.g. rivers are aquatic habitats, reed fringes, river beds, etc.)	37.93% 11	34.48% 10	3.45% 1	6.90% 2	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	3.45% 1	6.90% 2	29	9.00
Birds	3.70% 1	11.11% 3	7.41% 2	22.22% 6	22.22% 6	11.11% 3	11.11% 3	7.41% 2	3.70% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	27	7.15
Trees	7.41% 2	3.70% 1	40.74% 11	14.81% 4	3.70% 1	14.81% 4	7.41% 2	0.00% 0	3.70% 1	3.70% 1	0.00% 0	27	7.74
Plants	0.00% 0	7.41% 2	3.70% 1	18.52% 5	18.52% 5	14.81% 4	18.52% 5	7.41% 2	3.70% 1	3.70% 1	3.70% 1	27	6.19
Fish	8.00% 2	0.00% 0	16.00% 4	4.00% 1	8.00% 2	4.00% 1	8.00% 2	24.00% 6	16.00% 4	4.00% 1	8.00% 2	25	5.44
Amphibians	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.85% 1	3.85% 1	7.69% 2	3.85% 1	15.38% 4	19.23% 5	26.92% 7	11.54% 3	7.69% 2	26	4.08
Bats	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	3.57% 1	10.71% 3	0.00% 0	10.71% 3	17.86% 5	0.00% 0	21.43% 6	21.43% 6	10.71% 3	28	4.25
Mammals (badgers, hedgehogs, otters, etc.)	7.41% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	14.81% 4	14.81% 4	14.81% 4	11.11% 3	11.11% 3	14.81% 4	11.11% 3	0.00% 0	27	5.59
Invertebrates (butterflies, bees, moths, snails, etc.)	6.90% 2	3.45% 1	6.90% 2	0.00% 0	17.24% 5	10.34% 3	10.34% 3	13.79% 4	3.45% 1	24.14% 7	3.45% 1	29	5
Invasive species (e.g. Rhododendron)	0.00% 0	3.13% 1	9.38% 3	6.25% 2	6.25% 2	15.63% 5	0.00% 0	3.13% 1	6.25% 2	9.38% 3	40.63% 13	32	3

Feedback

**Would you be supportive of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Ennis, implemented by a group of relevant stakeholders (e.g. Ennis Tidy Towns, Clare County Council, community groups, businesses, etc.)**

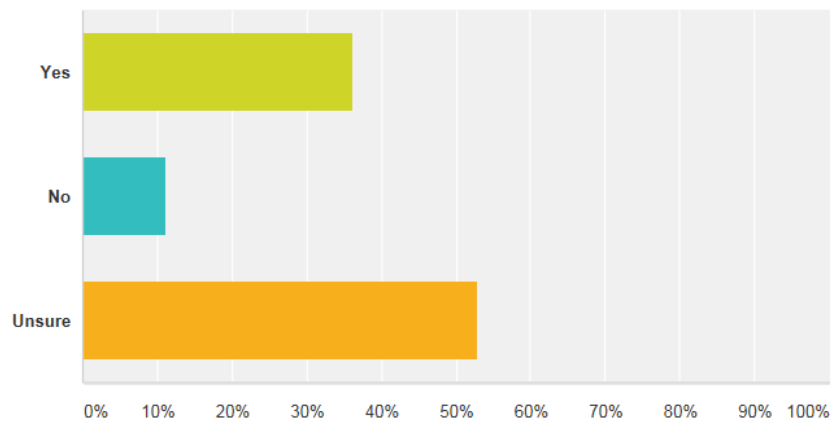
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Yes	94.59%	35
▼ No	0.00%	0
▼ Unsure	5.41%	2
Total	37	

**Would you like to get involved in helping biodiversity?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Yes	36.11%	13
▼ No	11.11%	4
▼ Unsure	52.78%	19
Total	36	

## Appendix 3. Biodiversity-related resources for further information

### Trees and tree planting- 'Buds of the Banner'

- [http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/heritage/pdfs/buds\\_of\\_the\\_banner.pdf](http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/heritage/pdfs/buds_of_the_banner.pdf)

### Native varieties of fruit trees- Irish Seed Savers Association

- [www.irishseedsavers.ie](http://www.irishseedsavers.ie)

### How to conduct a biodiversity audit

- <http://www.devon.gov.uk/devon-community-toolkit-for-the-natural-environment-feb-2012.pdf>

### Habitat mapping

- [http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/uploads/docs/publications/Communities\\_publications/Paris\\_h\\_Wildlife\\_Toolkit\\_WEBv2.pdf](http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/uploads/docs/publications/Communities_publications/Paris_h_Wildlife_Toolkit_WEBv2.pdf)

### Developing nature or heritage trails/ walking routes

- [www.irishtrails.ie/National\\_Trails\\_Office/Publications/Trail\\_Development/Guide\\_to\\_Planning\\_and\\_Developing\\_Recreational\\_Trails\\_in\\_Ireland.pdf](http://www.irishtrails.ie/National_Trails_Office/Publications/Trail_Development/Guide_to_Planning_and_Developing_Recreational_Trails_in_Ireland.pdf)
- [www.noticenature.ie/Walking\\_Trails\\_in\\_Ireland.html](http://www.noticenature.ie/Walking_Trails_in_Ireland.html)

### Interpretive signage/ materials

- [http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Heritage/Publications/Telling\\_People\\_About\\_Our\\_Heritage-Interpretation\\_and\\_Signage\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Heritage/Publications/Telling_People_About_Our_Heritage-Interpretation_and_Signage_Guidance.pdf)
- [http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/miscellaneous/Bored\\_of\\_Boards.pdf](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/miscellaneous/Bored_of_Boards.pdf)
- <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/wildlife/Interpretive-trail-signs-exhibits.html>

### Building bird or bat boxes

- <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Default.aspx?tabid=270>
- [www.batconservationireland.org/pubs/reports/Leaflet\\_3\\_batboxes.pdf](http://www.batconservationireland.org/pubs/reports/Leaflet_3_batboxes.pdf)

### Planting to attract wildlife and pollinators

- [http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Local-communities\\_actions-to-help-pollinators\\_April-2016.pdf](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Local-communities_actions-to-help-pollinators_April-2016.pdf).
- [www.butterflyconservation.ie/wordpress/?page\\_id=33](http://www.butterflyconservation.ie/wordpress/?page_id=33)
- <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/bees-needs>
- [https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/conservation-and-biodiversity/wildlife/rhs\\_pollinators\\_plantlist](https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/conservation-and-biodiversity/wildlife/rhs_pollinators_plantlist)
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/wildlifegarden/>
- <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/>
- <http://www.ipcc.ie/advice/wildlife-gardening-tips/>

### **Creating a wildflower meadow**

- <http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/meadows-grassland>
- <http://www.wildflowers.ie/>
- <http://www.bordbia.ie/consumer/gardening/organicgardening/Worksheets/Wildflowers%20meadows.pdf>
- [http://www.fingalbiodiversity.ie/resources/encouraging\\_garden\\_wildlife/Wildflower%20Meadows.pdf](http://www.fingalbiodiversity.ie/resources/encouraging_garden_wildlife/Wildflower%20Meadows.pdf)

- **Invasive species**

- <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/>
- <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/invasive-species/>
- <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Invasive-Species/invasive-species.html>

- **Protected sites, species and habitats**

- [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

### **Environmental NGOs**

BirdWatch Ireland

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

Irish Peatland Conservation Council

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

Irish Wildlife Trust

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

An Taisce

[www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org)

Irish Whale & Dolphin Group

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

Vincent Wildlife Trust

<http://www.mammals-in-ireland.ie/>

Green sod land trust

<http://www.greensodireland.ie/>

Bat Conservation Ireland

<http://www.batconservationireland.org/>

### **State organisations**

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

[www.ahg.gov.ie](http://www.ahg.gov.ie)

National Parks and Wildlife

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

Environmental Protection Agency

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

**Dr Janice Fuller, September 2016**



## Appendix 4. Habitat management guidelines

### 1. Grassland along road verges

- Where possible, mow the grassland along road verges less tightly in order to encourage wildflowers to flower and set seed. This will increase the cover of flowers, and provide food and shelter for pollinators and birds. To maximise the cover of wildflowers, mow early in the growing season (May- June) and late (late August- September). Remove grass clippings and compost in a suitable location.
- Do not spray herbicides unless controlling invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.



*Flower-rich roadside verge*

### Grassland in gardens, school grounds and public green spaces

- Where possible, reduce the mowing regime to allow grassland flowers such as Buttercups, Clovers and Daisies to flower. These flowers are hugely important to pollinators.
- If you have enough space, leave some areas unmown during the summer months to create a meadow grassland (e.g. grassland along walls or in quiet corners). Mow early and late in the growing season, collect the clippings and compost.



*Garden lawn cut less frequently with buttercups, clovers and daisies*



*Border of garden with flower-rich meadow; achieved through management not planting of wildflowers*

### **Wildlife-friendly gardening**

- Plant a variety of trees, shrubs and flowers in your garden and consider including a few native species; many native trees are highly attractive and grow well in gardens e.g. Rowan and Guelder Rose.
- If planting wildflowers, use only native plants and seeds that have been grown in Ireland. Wildflower mixes on sale in shops and garden centres are often not native. For native seed try <http://www.wildflowers.ie/>
- Aim for a mixture of plants that flower and set seed or fruit at different times of the year in order to provide a continuous source of food for wildlife.
- When landscaping, consider incorporating a variety of habitats and features such as stone walls, log/wood piles, a native hedge, flower beds with mix of perennials and a pond or water feature (providing water for wildlife and habitat for aquatic species).
- Put up birdfeeders in the garden but make sure they are cleaned regularly as old food and dirt can be lethal to small birds.
- Where possible use peat-free compost or at least peat-reduced compost. Compost your garden and kitchen waste for use in the garden.
- Avoid using slug pellets and weed killer as they are harmful to birds and small mammals.

### **Managing native hedgerows**

- With certain exemptions (not including local community groups), the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000) prohibits the cutting of hedges during the bird-nesting period 1st March to 31st August (inclusive).
- Where necessary, trim or lay hedges while dormant, from the beginning of September to the end of February.
- To keep the base dense, trim hedges so that they are wider at the base and narrower at the top.
- Hedges that are cut hard every year produce much less flowers and fruit than those cut less frequently. It is recommended that a length of hedge be cut once every three years. Trimming hedges once every three years results in maximum flowering and fruiting of the shrubs in the hedges.
- Avoid the use of herbicides.



*Flower-rich native hedgerow*