

South Dublin County

Biodiversity Action Plan

: preparation process

Policy Context - SDCC

- **Corporate Plan** **LUP&T: Obj. 2.v**
- **County Development Plan** **Policy: HCL1:2**
- **County Heritage Plan** **Action: 3.1.viii**

Policy Context - National and International Obligations

- **International Convention on Biodiversity (1992)**
- **EU Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Strategy**
- **National Biodiversity Plan (2017 - 2021)**
- **The Wildlife Act 1996 (as amended in 2000)**
- **The EU Habitats Directive and EU Birds Directives**

Currently

Elements of biodiversity are addressed by SDCC under:

- **County Development Plan**
- **County Heritage Plan**
- **Development Management – Planning Applications**
- **Public Realm – Parks and Open Spaces**
- **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan**
- **Council’s Climate Action Plan**

... a dedicated County Biodiversity Plan ...

- to be a central focus for the co-ordinated protection and management of the County's biodiversity resource
 - a 'one-stop-shop for biodiversity'

Biodiversity ...

- *the sheer variety of life on earth, including all living organisms – plants, animals, micro-organisms, bacteria, and genes*
- *all of which work together in a complex web, interacting with the inanimate environment to create habitats and living ecosystems*
- *it is all around us, not just in wild places and nature reserves but also in our houses, gardens, cities, farmland, and our countryside*
- *we are an integral part of this biodiversity web and we exert a major influence over it*

Natural Habitats

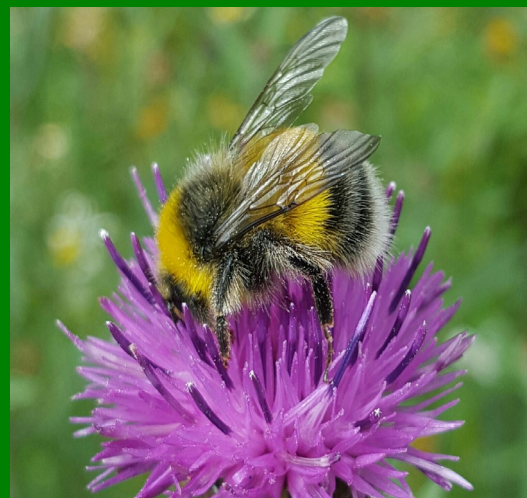




Protected and Rare Species



Pollinating Insects



Parks and Open Spaces



Additional habitat creation



Private Gardens



Other landowners



Connecting with Nature

A Biodiversity Action Plan for South Dublin County (2020 -2025)

4 Themes

1. Getting to know what we have ... spatial projects

- ✓ map habitats and species
- ✓ support the County's Green Infrastructure Network
- ✓ survey and gather baseline information
- ✓ identify local 'high value' biodiversity areas
- ✓ focused habitat plans e.g. woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, gardens etc.

4 Themes

2. Telling the story ... engagement and education

- ✓ develop a Council communications strategy to promote the County's biodiversity and to highlight reasons to protect and enhance it e.g. multi-media platforms, biodiversity events *etc.*
- ✓ support both urban and rural communities to undertake local biodiversity projects
- ✓ support local participation in national objectives – National Biodiversity Plan, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Climate Change Plan, Tidy Towns, the Pure Mile, NeighbourWood Scheme *etc.*

4 Themes

3. Leading the way... policy and good governance

- ✓ ensure the integration of national and EU biodiversity policy and legislation requirements across all Council plans and projects
- ✓ develop biodiversity guidance documents for stakeholder groups e.g. local communities, businesses, farming community, developers, schools, etc.
- ✓ develop training courses on biodiversity policy and legislation for Council staff and community groups
- ✓ develop and implement appropriate maintenance guidelines for habitats and species in parks and open spaces

4 Themes

4. Adapting to change ... climate change measures

- ✓ work with the Council's Climate Change Action Plan to highlight and address impacts on biodiversity from climate change
- ✓ undertake a County Wetland Survey to plan for future biodiversity and water management issues
- ✓ assess and quantify the carbon sequestration benefits of the County's trees, hedgerows, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands
- ✓ quantify the Ecosystem Services and the Natural Capital economic benefits provided by the County's natural landscape and biodiversity

Time Frame

- ✓ SPCs February 2020
- ✓ Public Consultation 26th March to 24th April 2020
- ✓ Report on consultation to SPCs May 2020
- ✓ Report to ACMs in June 2020
- ✓ Bring to Council in July 2020.

