

In attendance: Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin, Cllr. Alan Edge, Cllr. Shane Moynihan, Deirdre Mooney, Úna Ruddock, Rosaleen Dwyer (Heritage Officer). It was agreed that the political reps will rotate the Chair with Cllr Moynihan chairing initially and that the same report will go to both SPCs, prepared alternately by Cllrs Edge and Ó Broin.

Rosaleen Dwyer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), outlining the context of the Plan in terms of corporate objectives, our national and international obligations and relevant legislation.

Governance Structure:

1. Joint Sub committee of LUPT and EWCC SPCs – 4 Cllrs and 2 Sectoral Representatives.
 - To meet prior to the quarterly SPC meetings
 - To assist with prioritising annual projects and to report progress back to SPCs & Council.

2. Internal Working Group for Biodiversity
 - 10 Staff members from LUPT and EWCC
 - To prioritise projects and assist with internal progression and implementation of actions
 - Meet 2 3 times per year.

3. Internal Steering Group
 - Working Group plus Directors of Service for LUPT and EWCC.

Themes for Biodiversity Actions:

1. GETTING TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE – Spatial Projects
 - Surveying and Mapping, preparation of a GIS database of the biodiversity in the County

2. TELLING THE STORY - Engagement, Education & Research
 - Connecting with nature, researching, celebrating and promoting biodiversity, developing a Communications Strategy, communicating our objectives and our achievements etc.

3. LEADING THE WAY – Policy, Good Governance & Climate Action
 - Integrating biodiversity objectives across the decision-making process, biodiversity training, monitoring programmes, best practice guidance documents etc.

4. BIODIVERSITY – Protect, Restore & Create
 - River protection and restoration plans, implement objectives in County Development Plan and

Projects

2The following biodiversity projects and internal processes were discussed and agreed for 2021:

1. **Survey of Pollinator Sites in 3 Council Parks.** This is Phase 2 of a detailed survey of flowering meadows in Tymon Park, Waterstown Park, and Lucan Demesne, recording the botanical richness of these sites and the variety of pollinating species that the grasslands support.
2. **Survey for Swifts.** This is a follow-on project from the 2020 Survey for Swifts project which recorded the size and the distribution of Swifts in South Dublin County. 2020 will see the implementation of recommendations arising from the 2020 survey, including an awareness campaign, and engaging with local communities to monitor the species.
3. **Tagging of Swans in Council Parks.** Ring-tagging of swans in SDCC parks has been on-going for five years. A report on the swan populations supported in Council Parks is due in 2021.
4. **Invasive Species Management.** Invasive species in Council owned/managed lands are being mapped and controlled. Issues with the digital programme that maps and records the treatment applied are to be addressed and updated in 2021.
5. **Communications Strategy.** The preparation of a Communications Strategy for Biodiversity will be completed in 2021. This will establish and build a SDCC social media presence for biodiversity. Proposed actions include events listing, continuing weekly newspaper column 'Nature on our Doorstep, the publication of Vol 2 compilation of those columns, Citizen Science projects etc.
6. **Heritage Officer input** on biodiversity issues to Council plans and projects, including: the review of County Development Plan; input to the preparation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy); liaise with SDCC's Climate Change Action Plan team regarding shared objectives; input biodiversity advice to development applications and to forward planning projects.

'Gardening for Biodiversity'. This book can be made available in hard or soft copy and is a lovely resource. Agreed that heritage@sdublincoco.ie email address can be distributed for those seeking a hard copy.