



# Sligo Communities Biodiversity Training: Introduction Session 1/6



*To inform Sligo communities about wildlife and habitats in their areas  
and how they can excite and inspire action to benefit them.*

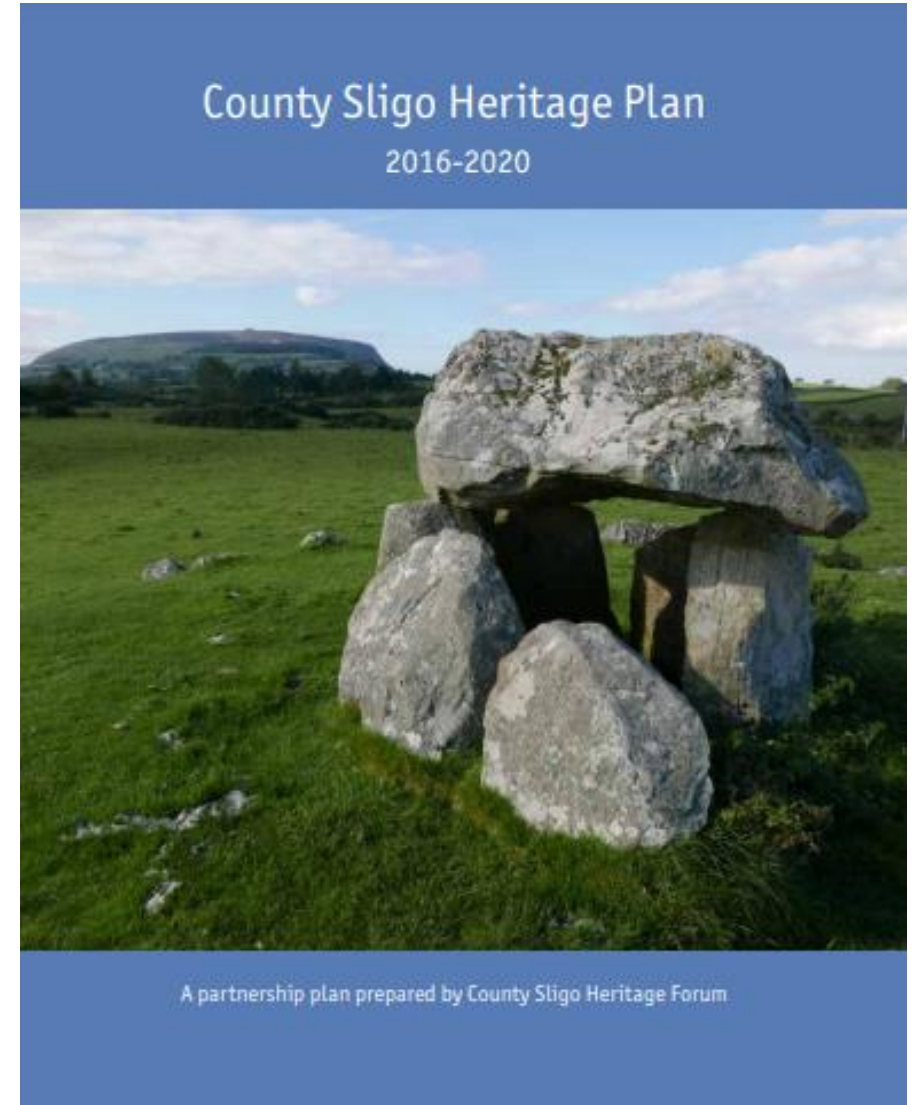
# Ireland's Vision for Biodiversity

*That biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally.*



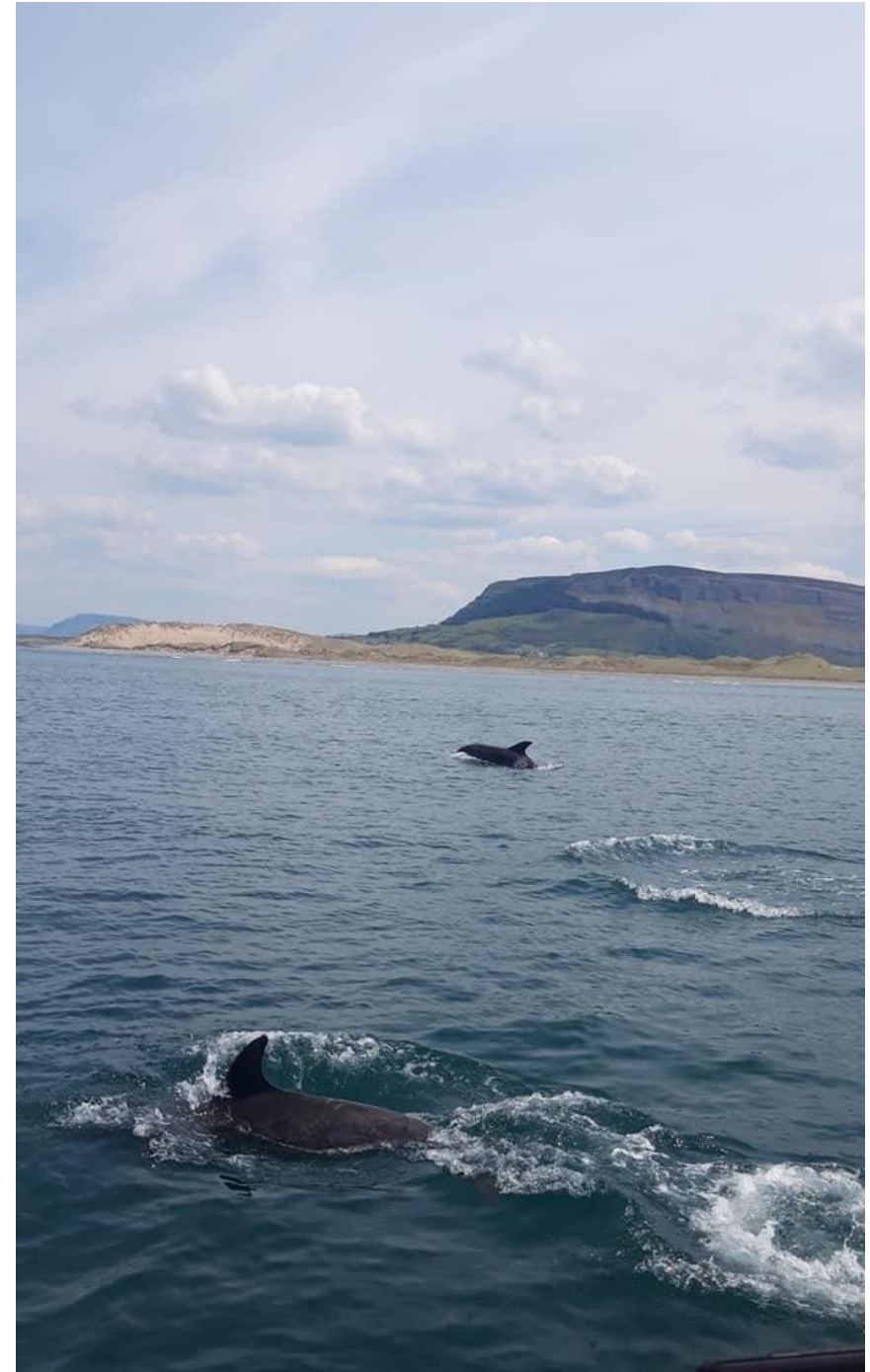
# County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan - Key Actions:

1. Direct Action **through Resourcing & Partnerships.**
2. **Raise Awareness** of Sligo's Biodiversity.
3. **Raise Understanding** of our biodiversity.
4. To **Protect and Enhance** Biodiversity, bearing in mind National & Local Priorities.



# Aims of this Training

- To equip groups with skills and knowledge to develop the potential in areas of biodiversity, habitat conservation, protection and mapping.
- To assist 10 groups to develop their own habitat conservation and development plan for their areas.
- To adopt an inclusive, whole community approach to preparing local plans;
- To assist groups to promote biodiversity conservation and protection and management.



# Who is taking Part?

## Overlap/ similarities in groups

## Opportunities to train together/overlap?

- Achonry Mullinabreena Community Enhancement group
- Ballintogher Tidy Towns
- Ballymote Tidy Towns & Tourism Limited
- Carney Tidy Towns
- Cartron Biodiversity
- Cloonacool Environmental Group
- Coolaney Rockfield Tidy Towns
- Curry Gaa
- Doorly Park Residents Association
- Dromore West Village Enhancement
- Grange Tidy Towns
- Gurteen Tidy Towns
- Moylough Arts & Heritage Centre
- Sligo Children's Community Garden
- Sligo Kayak Club
- Sligo Rowing Club
- Spraioi Glas
- Strandhill Biodiversity Action Group
- Tubbercurry Tidy Towns

# How Woodrow will work with your group?

We will:

- Deliver Communal biodiversity training on-line with different speakers/topics.
- Direct/ signpost you to information
- Collate local biodiversity information for your community.
- Facilitate community discussion on your community.
- Organise specific training sessions as identified for groups in geographic areas or similar interest groups:

Residents

Visitor Destinations

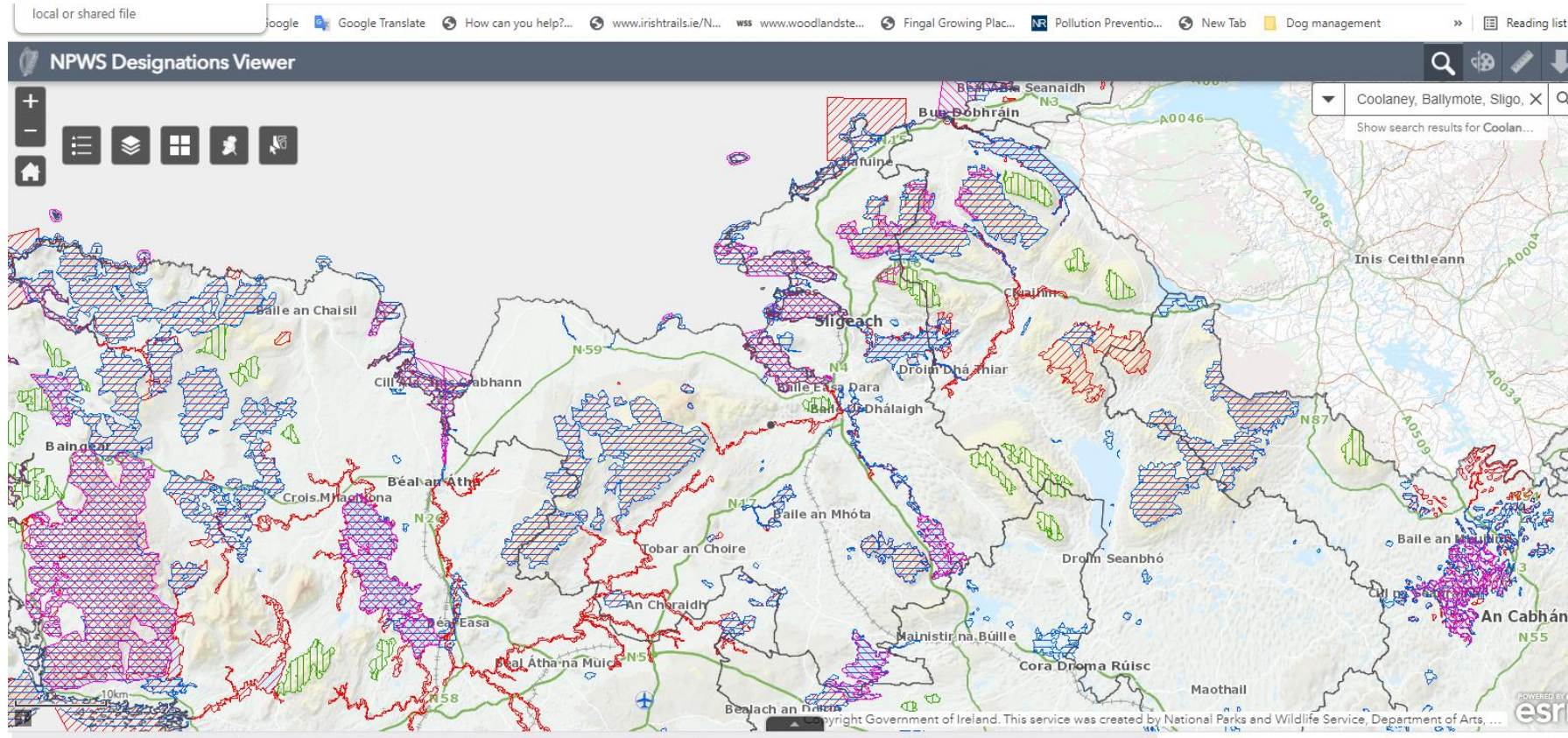
Sports groups

# Theme 1 – Raise Awareness

- Find out about wildlife in your area

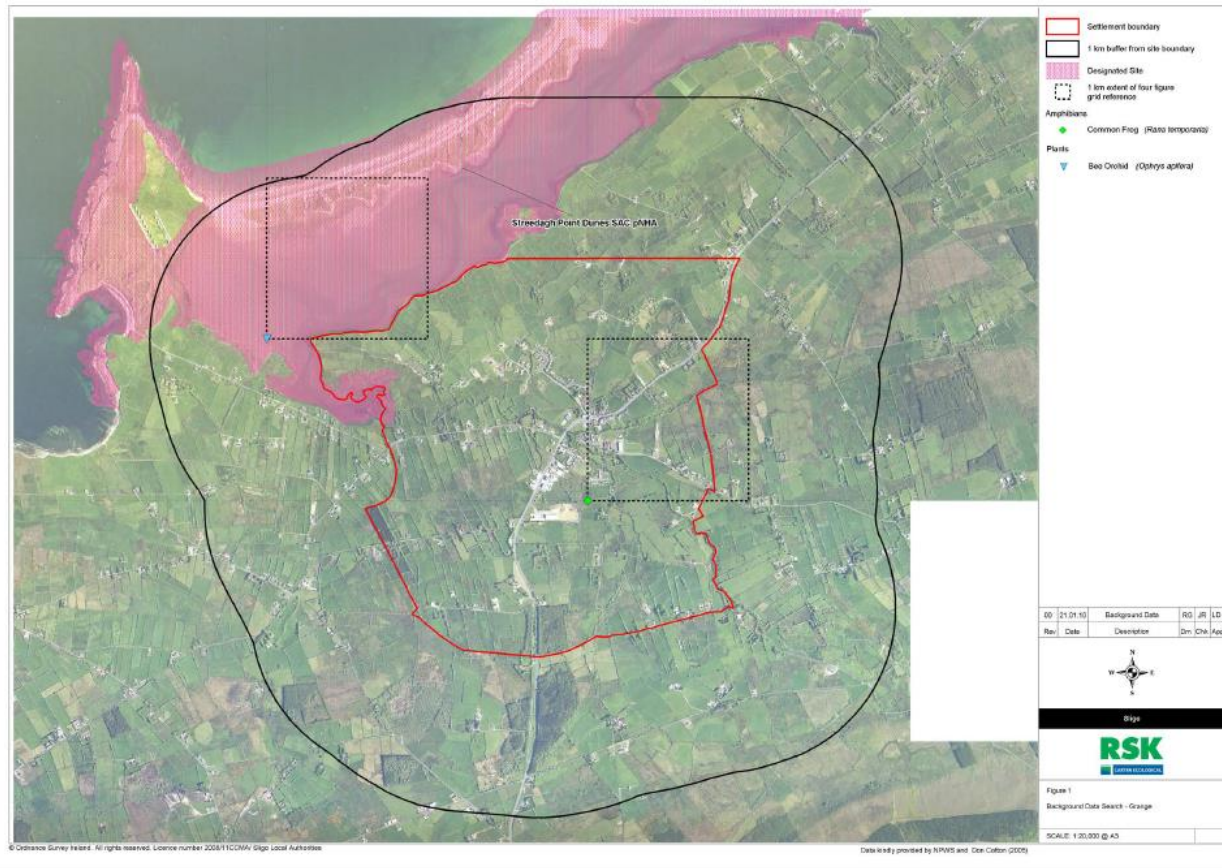
# Important Wildlife Sites in Sligo

<https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>





# Heritage Office providing any biodiversity data they have for areas :



- Habitat Maps for 9 communities
- Japanese Knotweed point data on roads.
- Swift Survey 2019

# Finding Out about Wildlife in your Area:

- National Parks & Wildlife Services:

<https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

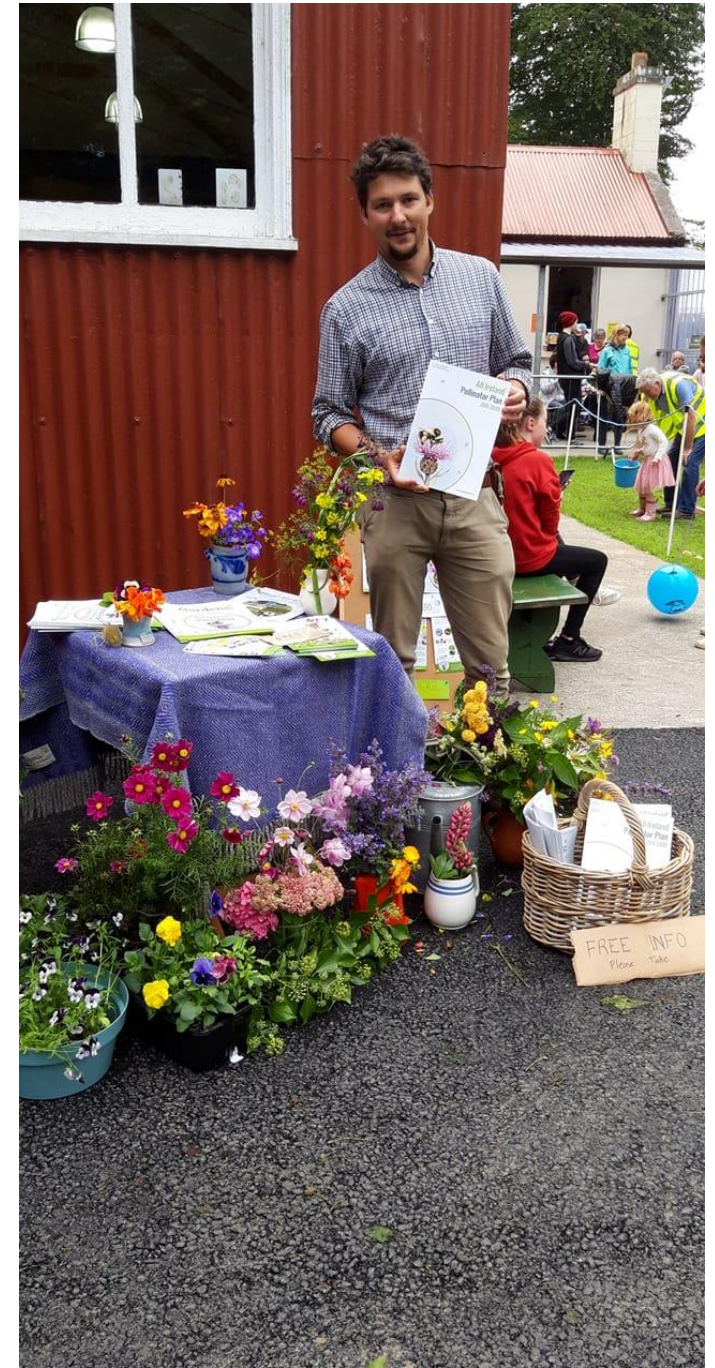
Sligo County Council's Heritage Office:

<https://www.sligococo.ie/planning/Heritage/>

National Biodiversity Data Centre:

<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>

## 2 - Raise Understanding



## 2: Understanding: Trip Cameras to show off wildlife



# Wildlife Communications

Bug hunts, Bog bounces, bat walks, Bird choruses

Toilets in Knightstown – notices about EU designated habitats

Facebook – Competition – first swallow, spotted in a community!



# Signage - Well designed, researched & practical



# 2: Understanding: Biodiversity Dates



## .....IMPORTANT BIODIVERSITY DATES

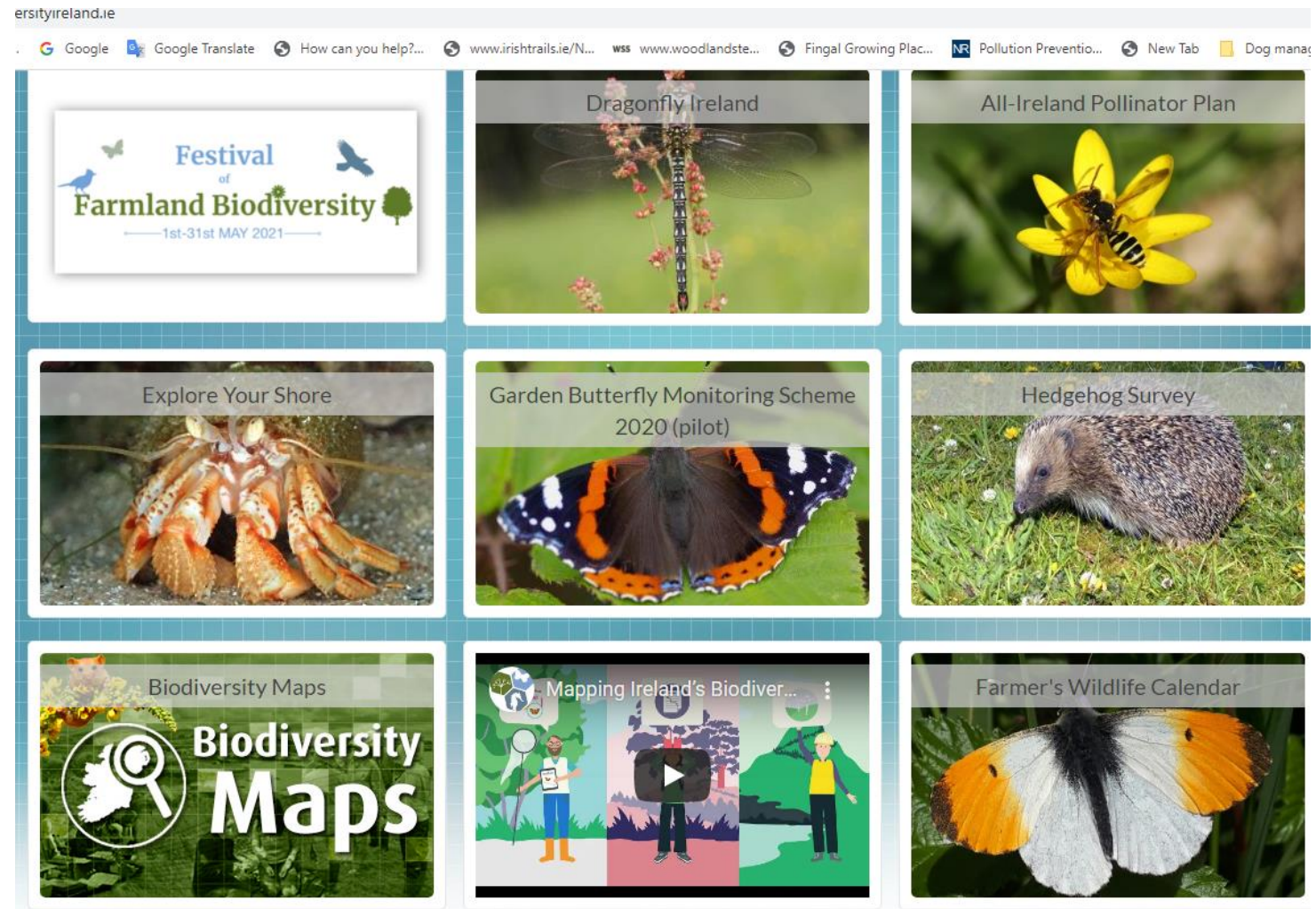
<b>Action:</b>	<b>Start-Date</b>	<b>End-Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>NO-HEDGE-CUTTING</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup>-March</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup>-August</b>	Hedge-cutting and burning of vegetation is regulated under Section 40 Wildlife Act. However, there are exemptions. Such as for some forestry projects, the destruction of noxious weeds, or cutting of roadside hedges as a safety precaution.
<b>NO-BURNING-VEGETATION</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup>-March</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup>-August</b>	Farmers can burn untreated trees, wood trimmings, leaves, bushes or similar materials, eg. Gorse, which arise as a result of Agricultural practices, once they have been granted permission from the local County Council
<b>ORGANIC-FERTILIZER-SPREADING</b> These are made up of natural materials, usually from animal manure ("Slurry") or vegetable matter (eg. compost).	<b>16<sup>th</sup>-January-2021*</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup>-October-2021*</b>	These are the dates for Zone B which includes Clare, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Roscommon, <b>Sligo</b> and Westmeath.
	<b>1<sup>st</sup>-February-2021*</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup>-October-2021*</b>	Dates for Zone C includes Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim and Monaghan.
<b>CHEMICAL-FERTILISER-SPREADING</b> These are synthetic fertilizers used to encourage growth of plants.	<b>16<sup>th</sup>-January-2021*</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup>-September-2021*</b>	Zone B includes Clare, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Roscommon, <b>Sligo</b> and Westmeath.
	<b>1<sup>st</sup>-February-2021*</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup>-September-2021*</b>	Zone C includes Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim and Monaghan.
<b>FARM-YARD-MANURE-SPREADING (FYM):</b> FYM is a mixture of animal excretion and bedding material (eg. Straw) which is in a solid form.	<b>16<sup>th</sup>-January-2021*</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup>-October-2021*</b>	Zone B includes Clare, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath.
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2. Creatively brightening what's normally mundane...





# 3. Citizen Science Projects of interest



## 3 – Enhance - River Cleans

- River Stewards - clubs to help with clean ups esp. times like now when water levels are low.



### 3 - Enhancement of Natural Habitats



- Native Trees & hedges
- Community involvement to make feeders / Bird or Bat Boxes
- Well designed and positioned bird boxes.
- Wild bird food table - *Community could plant sun flowers and leave heads for seeds.*



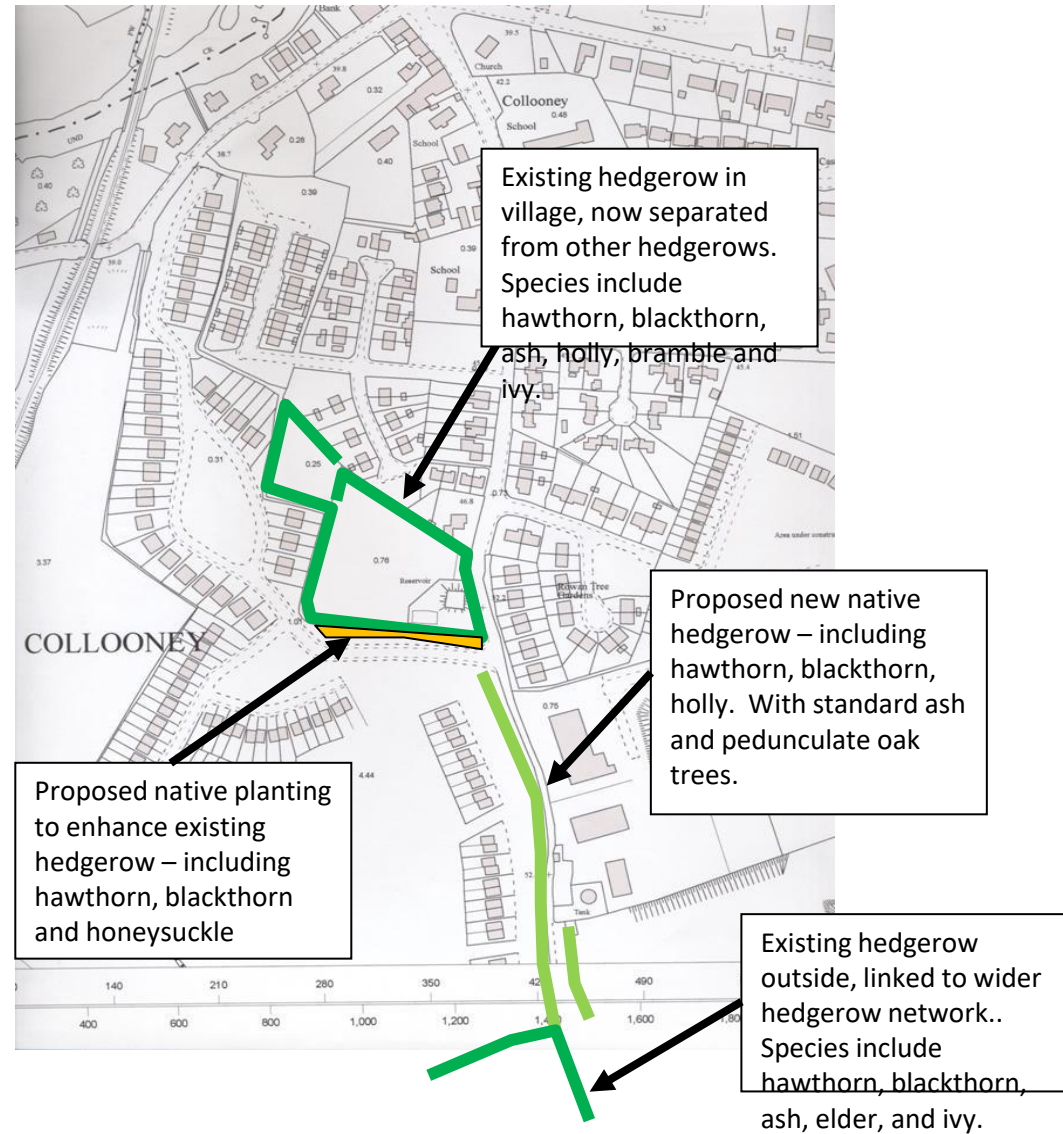
# 3 – Enhance eg. Pollinator Planting



### 3. Enhancement - Making Connections

- Make Connections

Link up natural habitats through planting trees and hedges thus making Wildlife Corridors.

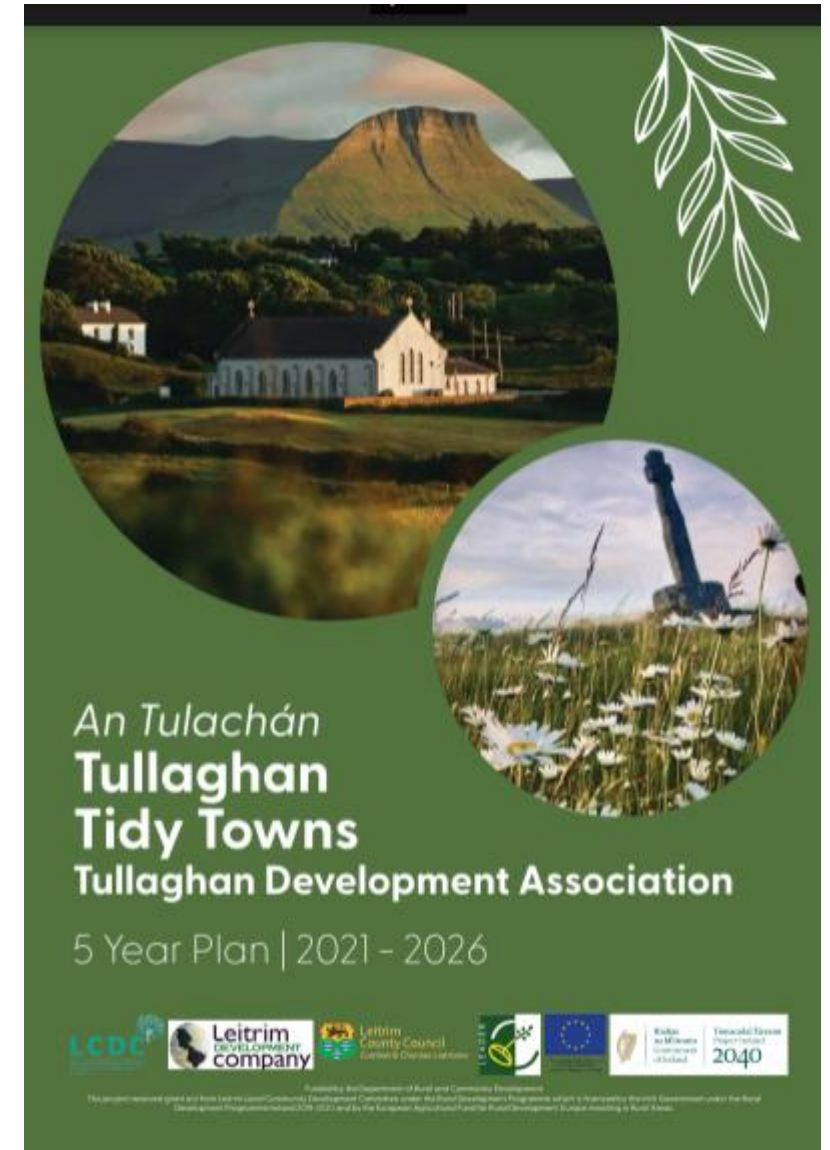


### 3. Awareness/management IASs



# Drafting your Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- Template to be circulated and you can add bits into the template for your community as we work through the programme.
- Gather ideas from the community once know important habitats, species and what's of interest in your area
- Actions to be realistic, specific and affordable (or attractive to funding providers).



# Biodiversity Actions that have been LEADER funded:

- Water Bottle Filler;
- Creation of wildlife corridor;
- Provision of 5 x mature trees;
- Biodiversity planting plan;
- Training in chainsaw carving,
- Community orchards,
- Pollinator planting,
- Green roofed bus-stops.







Creative interpretation – bored of boards

# Activity Ideas:

## Visitor Centres – Scavenger Hunts/



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

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**1. Insect-Crossword**

1) - An insect that flies at night?  
2) - The insect lives in a hive?  
3) - How many pairs of wings to most insects have?  
4) - Who are the flying acrobats in the insect world?  
5) - This insect is red with black dots and is hiding behind the crossword?

6) - How many years can a worm live?  
7) - The first stage of an insects life?  
8) - What do bumblebees and butterflies do during the winter?  
9) - What do bees collect?  
10) - A flying insect that was a caterpillar?

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**2. BUTTERFLY-Word Search**

Find the words below in the mess of letters.

EGG  
PUPA  
NECTAR  
HIBERNATE  
CATERPILLAR  
BUTTERFLY  
FOODPLANT  
WINGS  
TONGUE  
ANTENNAE  
FLOWER

B	L	T	E	R	F	L	Y	C	
T	C	N	G	E	T	A	A	A	
D	S	N	E	C	T	A	R	N	T
F	G	O	D	P	L	A	N	T	E
A	P	M	E	A	D	F	E	R	R
S	L	D	S	M	A	R	L	N	P
T	P	T	W	L	N	G	S	N	I
L	A	K	K	C	L	S	R	A	L
H	T	B	E	S	N	A	T	E	L
E	T	L	O	W	E	R	N	N	A
S	L	K	C	E	G	G	A	W	R

**3. The Maze**

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Can you find your way through the maze?

Can you spot the differences between a Bumble-Bee and a Honey-Bee?

BUMBLE-BEE	HONEY-BEE
Differences:	

**Bug-Hunt-in-your-garden**

Take a quiet walk through your garden and see if you can find a bug. When you do pick it up and place it in a jar. Now have a close look at the bug and answer the questions below before you release it again.

# Pollinators – Tuesday 20th July

- Simple actions in gardens, in estates and in the wider community.

**In time to submit entry to Pollinator Special Award – 23 July, or to prepare for next year's entry form. Tips on entering the competition are available at:**

**<https://pollinators.ie/communities/tidytowns-pollinator-award/enter-the-2021-local-authority-pollinator-award/>**

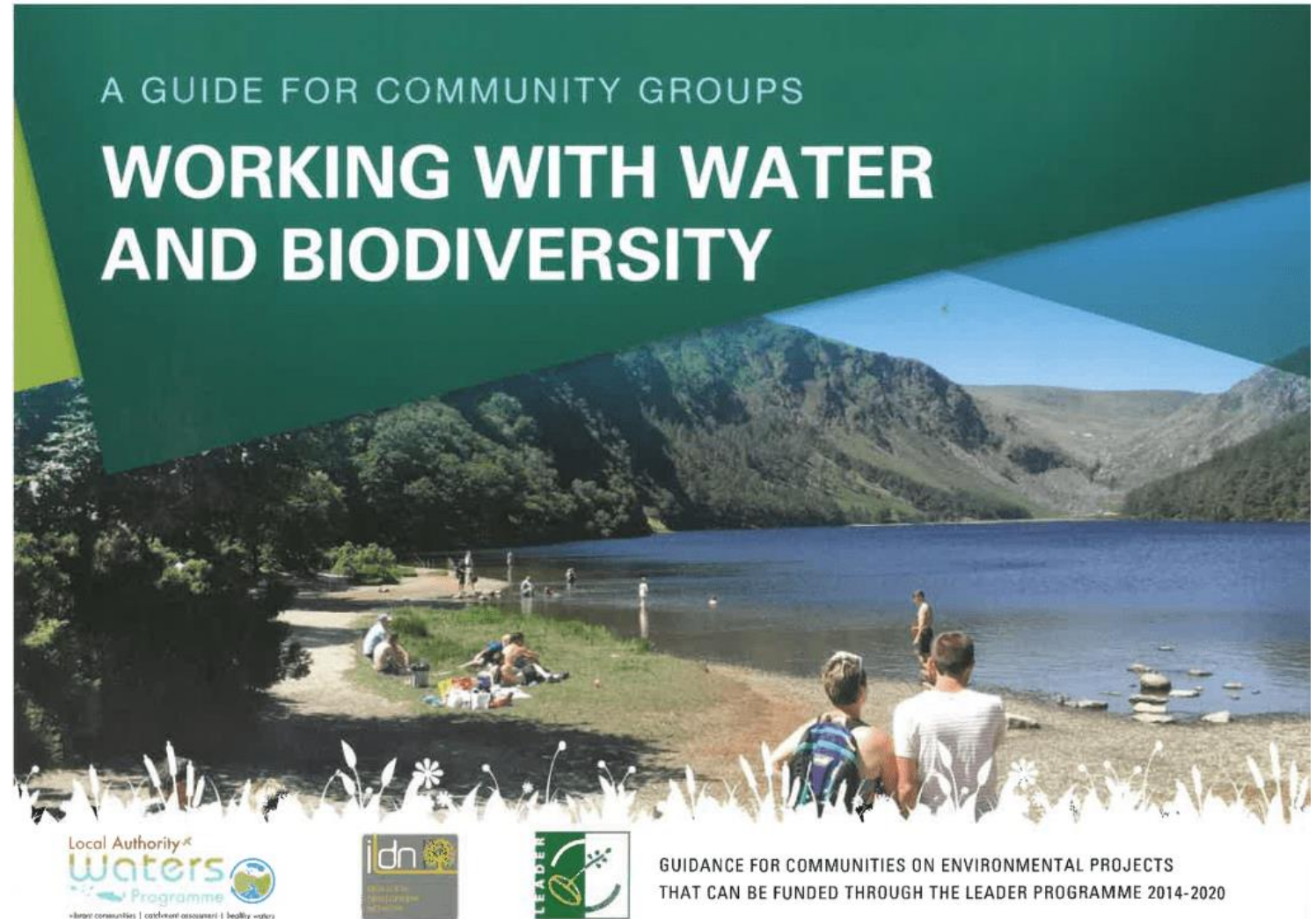


# Karen Kennedy – LAWPRO – 3rd August

Importance of Local waterbodies.

Will discuss examples of aquatic biodiversity projects and funding opportunities:

Tuesday 7pm



# Invasive Species – 17th August

- Looking at Aquatic & Terrestrial Species
- How to ID these
- How to treat them
- Which are dangerous to humans



# Wildlife Surveying & Tips 7 September

**Survey Skills - How to record, track and survey Wildlife & Habitats in your community.**



## **Citizen Science Projects**

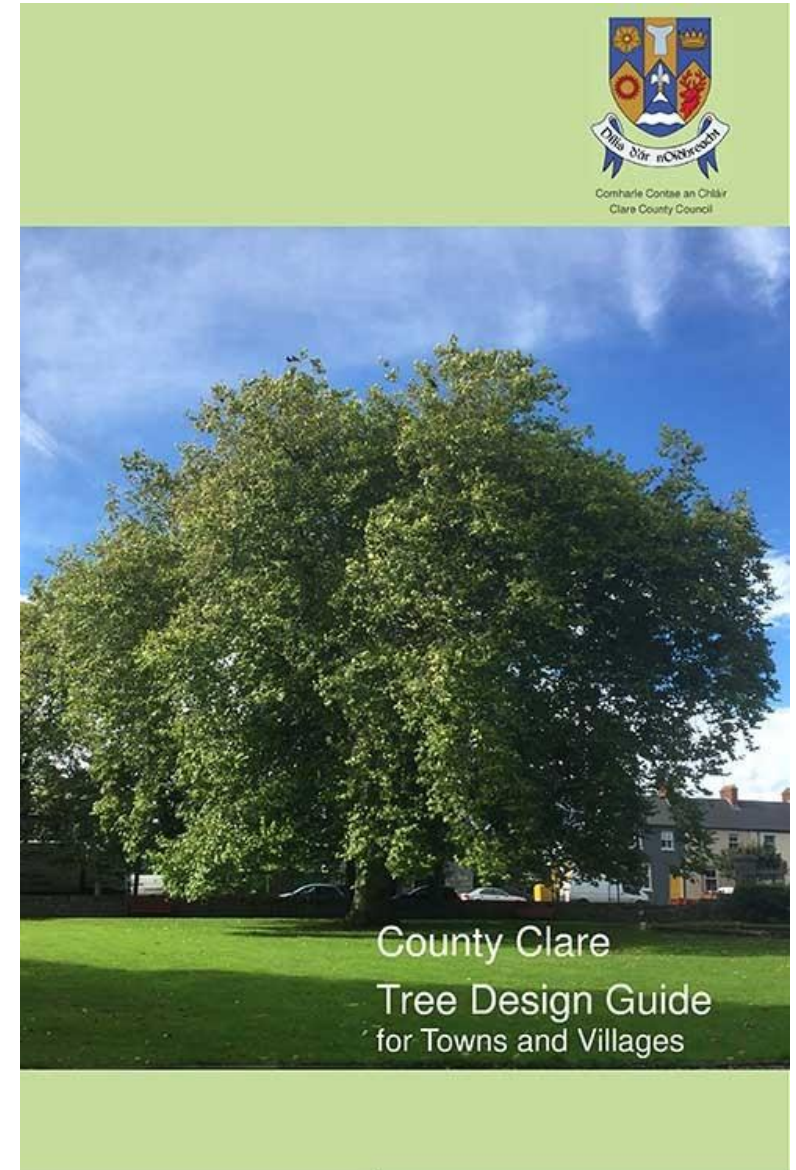
**Lots of great videos and resources to use**

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYNptVfV3jzT7TBFGSWFr4g> -
- <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/monitoring-scheme-initiatives/>



# Trees & Hedgerows 21st September

- What, where, when and why?
- Look at local habitat data maps available
- Consider opportunities.







# All recordings and resources will be available here:

- <http://woodrow.ie/resources>

## **End of this programme:**

- Attended training on specific areas of biodiversity.
- Got views & Ideas from the Community
- Will have drafted a plan for your area, collating the ideas of your community.
- Have actions in the plan that could be funded by LEADER in the future or other funders