**Let’s Get Buzzing**

**Local Authority Pollinator Award, 2017**

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**About the Award - €9,000 prize money for 8 communities across Ireland**

The Pollinator Award aims to encourage TidyTowns groups to implement pollinator friendly actions in their towns and villages as part of the TidyTowns competition. Irish bees, crucial in the pollination of our plants, trees and vegetables, are in decline. This is because we’ve drastically reduced the areas where they can nest and the amount of food our countryside provides for them. The aim of the award is to reverse this trend by encouraging TidyTowns groups to take simple pollinator friendly measures in their local area. The Local Authority Pollinator Award supports the [*All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020*](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan)and is sponsored by the Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland. There are two award categories:

1. Village or Small Town
2. Large Town or Urban Centre

A prize of €1,000 will be awarded to the four Regional winners in each of the two categories. Out of these eight regional winners, one overall national winner will receive an additional €1,000. Awards will be given to all categories subject to satisfactory criteria.

For more details see [www.TidyTowns.ie](http://www.TidyTowns.ie) or [www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan)

**What types of activities are we looking for?**

Local communities can lead the way in driving a better and more sustainable balance for pollinators, and bringing more natural, flower-rich pockets back into our landscape. A guidance document for local communities is available on the Pollinator Plan website that outlines 24 actions you can take to help pollinators in your local community. These actions are not costly, and all are very clearly explained. They range from changing your mowing regime in certain areas, to planting pollinator friendly trees and shrubs, drilling holes in wooden fencing for solitary bees to nest and raising awareness by promoting the junior All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to youth groups and schools in your community. Lots of possible actions are suggested, enabling local groups to identify those that are most appropriate for their own area. The more of these actions you can take the more pollinator friendly your local area can become. We particularly encourage a whole-town approach, rather than isolated projects – as it’s more effective for the pollinators.

**How to Enter**

1. Please use the attached application form to let us know in **no more than** **2000 words** how your community is implementing pollinator friendly programmes and projects. Only ONE application will be accepted per group, and applications must come from an official TidyTowns group (as agreed with the National Tidy Town Unit).
2. Your application should refer to the suggested actions in the guidance document, **Local Communities: Actions to help pollinators,** whichcan be downloaded from the Pollinator Plan website [www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan)
3. Please also fill out the Entry Form below
4. Email your entry to TidyTowns@pollinator.ie, with “Pollinator Award” in the subject line. Your entry must consist of a **single file** less than 5MB in size (please reduce the size of any photographs and then embed photographs into the application form).

**Closing Date: May 25th, 2017**

**Judging the Award**

All entries will be assessed by a panel of suitably qualified judges including Local Authority Heritage Officers & Biodiversity Officers, and National Biodiversity Data Centre staff.

**Let’s Get Buzzing**

**Local Authority Pollinator Award**

**ENTRY FORM**

**Nominated Project Name**:.......................................................................................................................

**Name of TidyTowns Group and County:**  ...............................................................................................

**Nominated contact in TidyTowns Group**: ..............................................................................................

**Postal Address**: .......................................................................................................................................

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**Phone number**: ................................................. **Email**:........................................................................

Any material submitted may be used in promotion of this award. TidyTowns Terms and Conditions apply.

**Let’s Get Buzzing: Local Authority Pollinator Award**

**Application Form**

**Please fill in you submission below by briefly answering the following questions.**

* Submissions must not exceed **2000 words**
* Please include photographs in this application to help demonstrate your work (Embed photos in application form. Max. File size is 5MB).
* Please support your application with a map of your town/village marking the locations of your pollinator-friendly actions.
* You **MAY** use bullet points to answer the questions below.

**Please write one sentence which summarises your Pollinator work** *(we may use this to promote the award)*

**1. Work commenced prior to May 2017**

 *We are mainly interested in pollinator projects undertaken in the past year- from May 2016-May 2017. However, if you maintained any* ***old*** *pollinator projects, tell us about them here (****MAX 200 words****)*

**Work carried out from May 2016-May 2017** (The rest of the application refers to this)

**2. How did you identify and protect existing areas in your community that were ALREADY good for pollinators?**

**3. Did you reduce the frequency of mowing of grassy areas, and what were the results for pollinators?** (Please provide details of locations, size of areas etc where this was undertaken)

**4. Did you undertake any pollinator friendly planting?** (Please provide details of where, and the names of any pollinator-friendly plants used)

**5. Did you provide wild pollinators with nesting habitats?** (i.e places to shelter, protect from predators, and allow next year’s pollinators to grow in).Please provide details

**6. Did you reduce the use of pesticides?** Please provide specific details

**7. How did you raise public awareness of pollinators in your local area?**

**8. Are you measuring the impact of your work? Is it making a difference?**

 **8a**. Have you added your pollinator sites to the online mapping system called ‘Actions for Pollinators’? This site allows us to track the build-up of food and shelter for pollinators across the island (see <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>)

 **8b.** Are you taking part in the National Biodiversity Data Centre’s Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme? (see <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/>).

 **8c.** Any other ways that you are measuring the impact of your pollinator work

**9. What are your next THREE priorities or future projects for pollinators for the coming year?**

**10. Is there anything else you’d like to report?** (i.e any other pollinator initiatives not covered in the previous questions)

**If your group uses social media please include links to Facebook pages or Twitter handles.**

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