

Wicklow Local Biodiversity Project

Seeking Expressions of Interest from Tidy Towns Groups

The Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council is seeking expressions of interest from Tidy Towns groups in Wicklow to participate in a new pilot initiative called the *Wicklow Local Biodiversity Project*.

This initiative seeks to support and encourage community led action for biodiversity by arranging for biodiversity experts to work directly with selected Tidy Towns groups. The relevant experts will help groups to develop and enhance the necessary skills, structure and knowledge to identify, manage and care for local biodiversity.

The outcomes from the project will include a heightened awareness and knowledge of biodiversity locally and the production of a simple habitat map and biodiversity action plan to enhance habitats for pollinators and biodiversity generally in the relevant town/ village. We would anticipate that this training would be considered favourably by Tidy Towns Adjudicators in the allocation of marks and that it may assist towns in gaining marks under wildlife and natural amenity in the coming years

The project is due to commence in early October and to be delivered via periodic (e.g. weekly) meetings, training workshops and site visits with the relevant groups over a 4 week period, at venues and times to suit the group's requirements.

This project is co-funded by Wicklow County Council and the Heritage Council as an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and is being carried out in association with the Environmental Awareness office of Wicklow County Council. There is no charge for participating groups.

Please complete and return the "Expression of Interest" form by 30th September 2016 if your group is interested in participating. Return by e mail: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie or by post to Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town.

For further information please contact: Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer at the above e mail or by telephone 0404 20100.



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Expression of Interest Form

It is likely that no more than four groups will be selected for participation in Autumn 2016, however, depending on the level of interest, a shortlist may be formed for future initiatives in 2017 subject to resources. The selected groups will be those who most clearly demonstrate an interest in local biodiversity enhancement and a track record of successfully undertaking projects in their area. Please fill in as follows:

Name of Group: _____

Number of Members: _____

Contact name for all correspondence: _____

E Mail address _____ Tel: _____

Are you interested in entering the Local Authority Pollinator Award in the Tidy Towns Competition? _____

Please describe below (max 500 words) why you would like to participate in the Wicklow Local Biodiversity Project and give examples of projects successfully undertaken by your group in recent years (continue overleaf as required): Return by e mail to: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie or by post to Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town by 29th September 2016