

The IEN is an umbrella group of nationally active NGOs in Ireland. It supports these groups in their work through the distribution of core funding as well as providing help through training and advice.





Environmental Pillar

Working for a sustainable future

The Environmental Pillar is comprised of national environmental NGOs, who work together to create and promote policies that advance sustainability.

Public Participation Networks

This is a body through which the Council communicates with the community



INFLUENCE
LOCAL POLICY

ACCESS FUNDING



COMMUNITY
WELLBEING

INFORMATION



COMMUNICATE



Local Environmental Networks

Independent voluntary groups
that work to:

Connect - Communicate - Collaborate

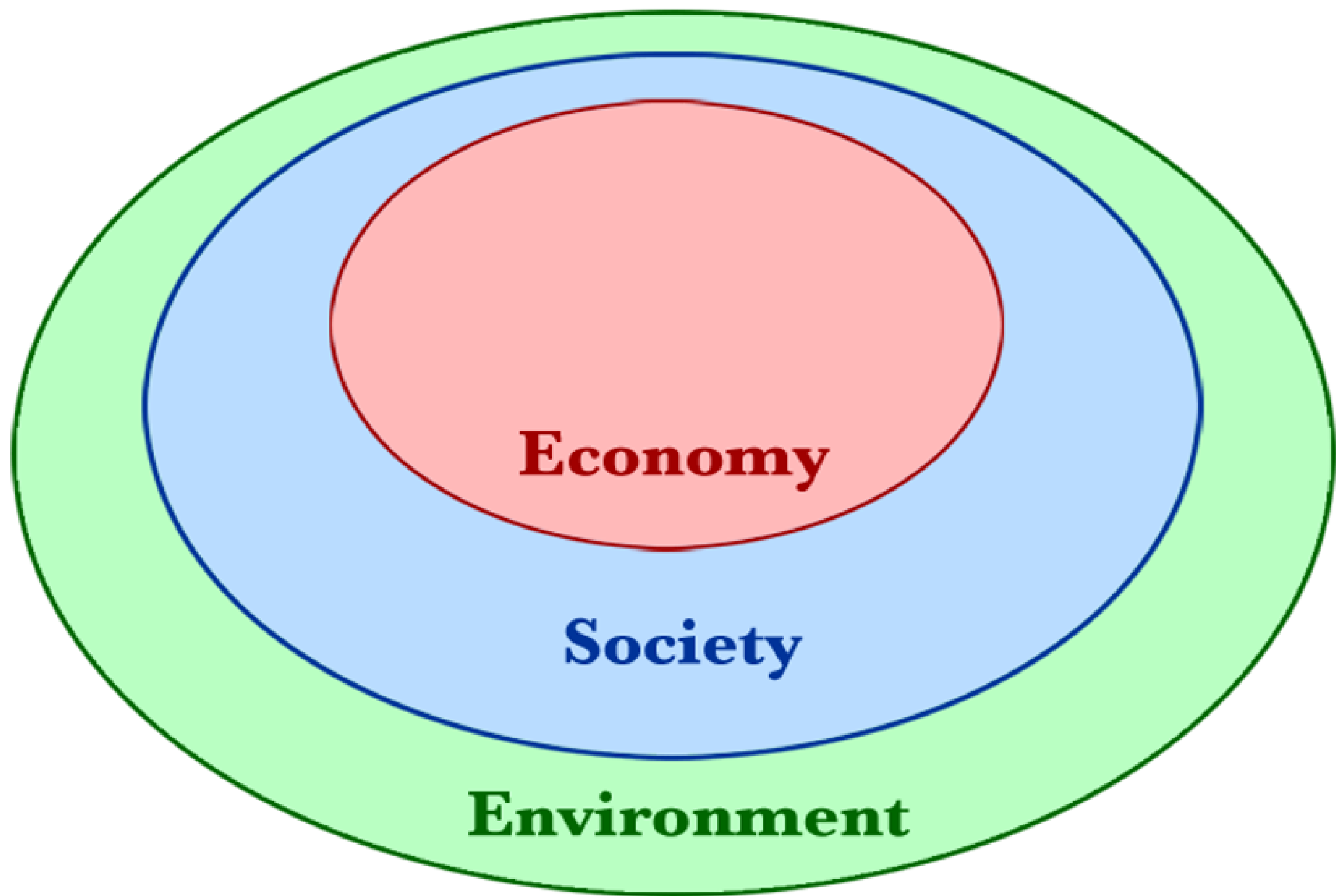
Sligo Environmental Network:
sligonetwork@gmail.com
[Find them on Facebook](#)

This evening:

- Introduce sustainability through the Global Goals
- How to join the PPN as an environmental group
- What is an environmental group? - working on climate goals in your community

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is the process of living within the limits of available physical, natural and social resources in ways that allow the living systems in which humans are embedded to thrive in perpetuity.









WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY

A sustainable community is one that meets the needs of everyone in the community while protecting the environment it relies on, and limiting damage to the environment.

JOINING THE PPN ENVIRONMENTAL COLLEGE

Links:

[Criteria document](#)

[Community Groups Eligibility Form](#)



Make a change towards
Best Practice

A photograph of a mother deer and her fawn in a forest. The mother deer is partially visible behind a large, dark green square that contains a large white number '1'. The fawn is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The background is a lush green forest.

1

Having considered the environmental impact of all of your activities, your organisation is actively working towards being more environmentally friendly.



2

Being aware of any ecologically sensitive areas within your geographical area, and what impacts your work has on these areas.

(Eg. Bogs, wetlands, rivers and waterways, native woodland, meadows, hedgerows, coastlines, copses, grassland, open areas, protected species etc.)

Freshwater marshland, home to frogs among others. Photo via The Bride Project.



Derelict buildings for bats and barn owls (photo via The Bride Project)



Bridge with Daubenton's bat roost by G. Stanton. Via batconservationireland.org



House martins nesting under eaves



'Bee scrape' for hibernating bees. Courtesy of The Bride Project (www.thebrideproject.ie)

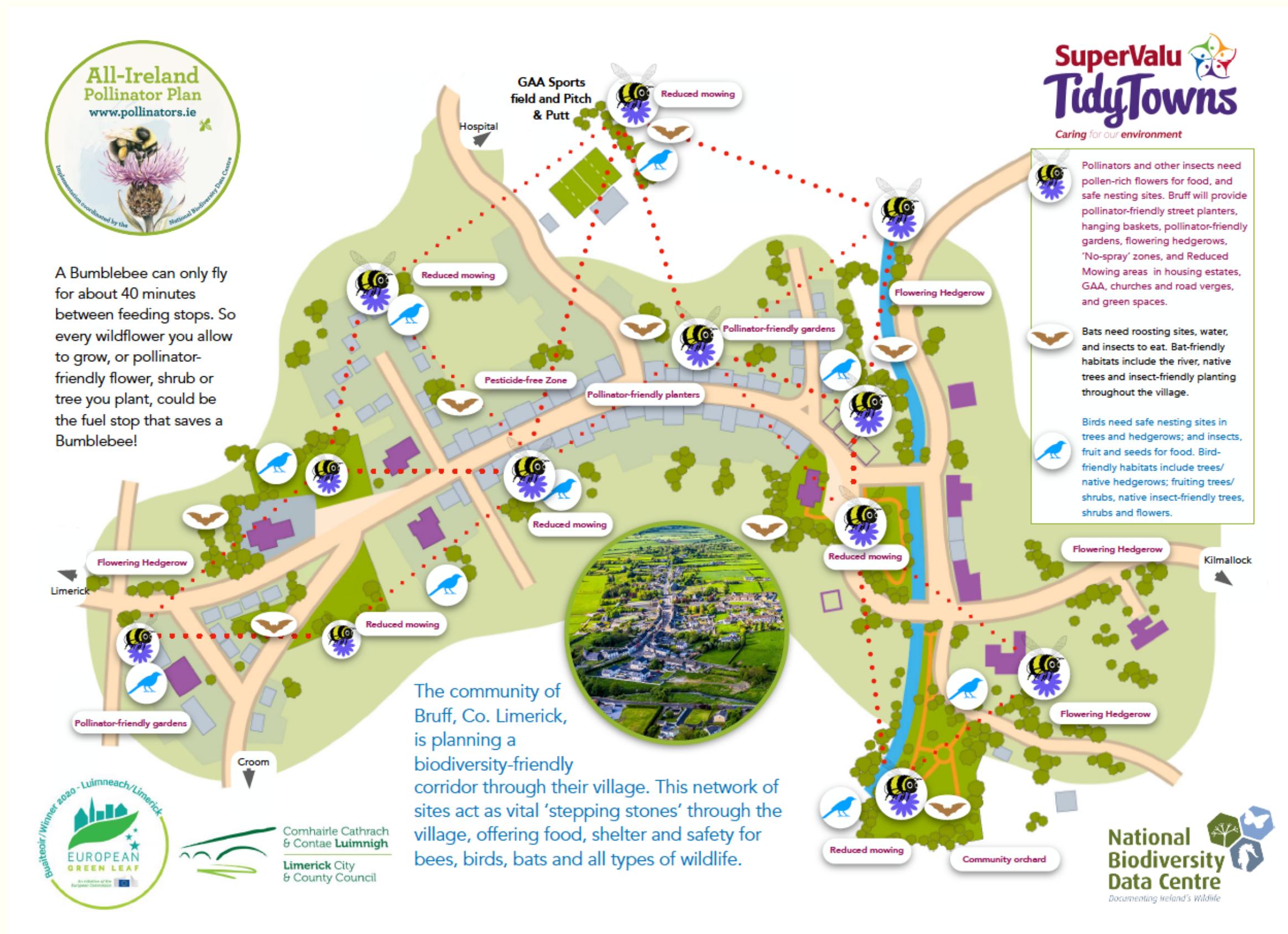


Merlin Woods, Galway. Photo bt Car Stanley via Facebook page Friends of Merlin Woods

Next step: Connecting habitats.

"The community of Bruff, Co. Limerick, are planning to create ecological corridors through the town to join up green spaces using pollinator-friendly planting."

[See more on this project on pollinators.ie](https://pollinators.ie)



A person is using a green laser line tool on a lawn. The tool is held in their hand, and a bright green laser line is projected onto the grass. The person is wearing dark clothing. The background is a grassy area with some trees in the distance.

3

Only use weed and plant control methods that are accepted under national Organic Standards.

Why

We have 99 bee species in Ireland. One third of these are threatened with extinction from Ireland.

100 crops provide

90% of the
world's food
71 are pollinated by bees



ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL





NO WEED CONTROL

Requires a change in our perspective of aesthetics.



PREVENTION

Such as more regular cleaning programme of footpaths and gullies to prevent a build-up of growing substrates.



MANUAL WEEDING

ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL



STRIMMING



ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL

NOVEL TECHNIQUES

Thermal weeding (flame or hot air), foam, steam, and hot water weeding, and vinegar have been trialed in different countries with various degrees of success.



Information from presentation to Dublin City Council by Biodiversity Officer 2017.

For full presentation email catherine@ien.ie.

[Dublin City Council](#)
[Herbicide Use Policy](#)
available here



4

Only be involved in cutting, trimming, grubbing, burning or otherwise destroying hedgerows and ditches within the open cutting season (Sept 1st until February 28th) as provided for in law, including in urban and suburban areas.



FOOD FOR POLLINATORS

Hedgerows provide early food for pollinators. Willow (and dandelions) are the earliest flower to bloom and essential for queen bees.



NESTING SITES

Birds nesting in hedgerows and upland areas at risk, including red listed greenginches, yellowhammers and curlew.



HOMES

Hedgerows and upland scrub provide food, shelter, habitat, and wildlife corridors.

More info on hedgelaying: <https://hedgelaying.ie/>



Photo:

<https://www.irisht Examiner.com/farming>

A close-up photograph of a cluster of pink foxglove flowers on the left side of the image. A bumblebee is visible near the flowers. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the number 5.

5

Be planting majority native and pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs. (Use the resources provided in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.)



How to create a wildflower meadow

Planting an area

1. Reduced and well timed cutting
2. Planting locally sourced wildflower seeds

(Eg of sellers: Irish Seed Savers/Brown Envelope Seeds/Fruit Hill Farm/Future Forests)

Help and inspiration:
Pollinator Plan guidance documents:
<https://pollinators.ie/>



How to create a wildflower meadow

Rewilding an area

Simply let it grow, or:

1. Cut grass after the first dandelions have gone to seed
2. Cut grass again in September and remove the clippings
3. Repeat for three years or so

Help and inspiration:
We are the ARK
(www.wearetheark.org)

A photograph of three badgers in a natural setting, likely a woodland. The badgers are positioned in the lower half of the frame, facing right. They have characteristic black and white striped patterns on their heads and backs. The ground is covered in dark brown soil and some small green plants. In the background, there are trees and foliage. A dark green square with the white number '6' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

6

Whilst engaged in your groups activities, protecting all native animals, including birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles from persecution.

A dark bird of prey, possibly a buzzard, is perched on a grassy hill. The bird is facing right, with its head turned slightly towards the viewer. It has dark plumage and a sharp, hooked beak. The background is a soft-focus green field.

7

Confirm that your group does not persecute, trap, destroy, shoot or otherwise harm animals, with exceptions for invasive alien species.

INVASIVE SPECIES

a species of plant or animal that outcompetes other species causing damage to an ecosystem



Native bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) vs Spanish bluebells



Himalayan Balsam



Rhododendron eclipsing native fauna.
Photos via superfolk.com



Thank you!

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