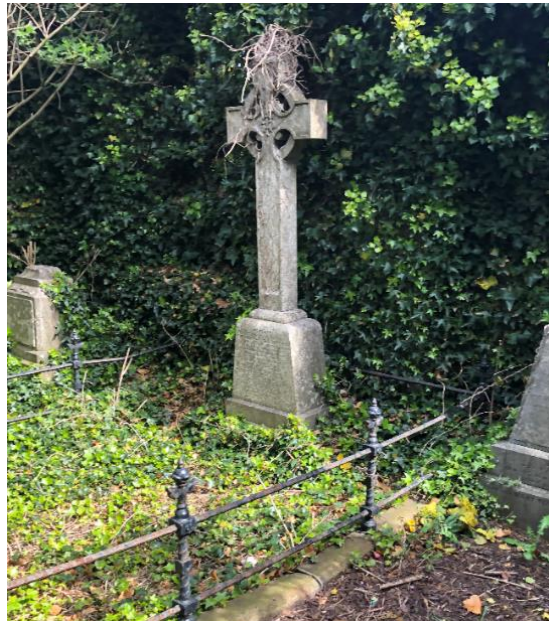




Bayside Tidy Towns Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027



An Action of the Fingal County Biodiversity Plan 2010-2015

Compiled by NatureCubsIreland



Cover photo: Overgrown burial plot at Kilbarrack Cemetary

All photos in LBAP taken by Author unless otherwise stated

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Biodiversity and Local Biodiversity Action Plans

There are many definitions of 'Biodiversity'. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 2019) defined Biodiversity as "*the variability among living inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic systems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and between ecosystems*". In layman's terms, it is how all elements of nature work together to preserve functioning ecosystems.

The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by Ireland in 1996. One of the obligations of Signatories is the publication of National Biodiversity Reports. A relevant Action of Ireland's first National Biodiversity Action Plan (2002) was for Local Authorities to produce their own Biodiversity Action Plans. The production of these Tidy Towns Local Biodiversity Action Plans is an objective of Fingal's Biodiversity Action Plan (2010).

The changing face of Ireland's landscape; Tidy Towns Competitions, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The 2010 Handbook for the National Tidy Towns Competition describes the category; 'Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities'. This category requires local groups to manage spaces for wildlife, instead of simply for tidy aesthetic reasons. Groups are awarded for leaving spaces wild, for planting perennial species and for taking note of the wildlife and flora in their surroundings.

This Tidy Towns category is in sync with the first All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) (2015-2020) and the latest AIPP (2021-2025) which provide tools to groups to fulfil the Tidy Towns Wildlife category. The AIPP changed perceptions of untidiness in public spaces and provided the practical tools to local groups to know what and when to plant and when to leave nature alone in order to help our declining pollinator species.

In 2016, The Tidy Towns Competition introduced the Tidy Towns Local Authority Pollinator Award which again, added to the interest by Community groups in pollinator actions.

Tidy Towns groups and Community Groups all over the country have embraced this change in landscape management. This Fingal Local Biodiversity Action Plan project validates their efforts and provides further tools to enhance the biodiversity of their areas.



Project Description

Fingal County Council acknowledged the many pollinator initiatives of Tidy Towns and Community groups across the County and realised the importance of assisting these groups in their endeavours. This Local Biodiversity Action Plan project was initiated to provide these groups with additional tools to protect and enhance local biodiversity. Ecological Contractors were hired to assist Tidy Towns and Community Groups groups to identify local biodiversity opportunities; to advise on ecological best practice methods and to write subsequent Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

The areas covered within the remit of this LBAP are public spaces where the Tidy Towns groups already carry out activities or wish to do so in the future.

Private spaces were also visited where that stakeholder was interested in participating e.g. GAA Clubs, Scout Dens, Churches, Schools etc. Biodiversity reports were written for these private sites as part of this LBAP as these would prove to be valuable in terms of adding to the network of nature-friendly stepping stones across the whole Tidy Towns area. A list of these private site reports in Bayside is found in Table 1.

Biodiversity Connectivity

Much of this Plan is focused on providing biodiversity connectivity across the Bayside Tidy Towns area (Figure 5). By its nature, a LBAP is limited in size and thus must acknowledge man-made green connections between naturally occurring biodiversity to enable flora and fauna to adapt to change and survive.

'Biodiversity hotspots' in Bayside were identified by Bayside Community Association (Figure 6) and Actions to conserve and enhance their biodiversity identified (Tables 2 and 3). Naturally occurring or man-made linkages between these Hotspots and to other natural spaces were identified and informed Actions in this Plan. These man-made linkages are termed 'Green Infrastructure' and they are corridors along which animal and plant species can co-exist with man's uses of this same infrastructure e.g. train line, pedestrian or cycling pathway and football pitches.

Some Green Infrastructure corridors were identified within the Bayside area while writing this Plan:

- The Iarnród Éireann trainline links Bayside's wildlife to Baloye to the north and any green spaces to the east and west.
- The Promenade stone wall could be considered to be an element of Green Infrastructure. It is the boundary of a recreational pathway yet it is also a habitat in which local wildflora grow and thus provides habitat and a corridor along which invertebrates and birds can feed and shelter. Many wild flora grow along the base of this stone wall. It forms an important link in the coastal pollinator corridor.

These man-made green connections form links to connect naturally occurring biodiversity hotspots in this Local Biodiversity Action Plan.



Bayside and its environment

Bayside is a coastal town situated on the south east part of Fingal County. In 2008, a Bayside Square Urban Design Framework was published with the objective of enhancing this 'mature' area (Fingal Development Plan, 2005).

Bayside is fortunate to look out over Dublin Bay and have views of North Bull Island Nature Reserve and Howth Head.

A unique aspect of the older part of Bayside is the interconnecting series of alleyways that link pocket green spaces which are hidden behind houses. It thus lends itself to a natural biodiversity corridor throughout the original area of Bayside.

The Bayside Community Association is very active and involved in biodiversity initiatives locally. It has already implemented many useful biodiversity actions and identified a number of locations that should to be conserved and interpreted.

Survey

Desktop survey:

A Desktop Study was carried out to research existing Bayside biodiversity information. A review was taken of previous biodiversity surveys, of information relating to protected species and habitats and any National or Local policies or Plans that might impact biodiversity. The Desktop survey also attempted to identify and liaise with groups that might like to participate in the LBAP. During this time, the true boundary of the Tidy Towns area was finalised with the help of the Tidy Towns groups.

The Desktop Survey noted the following information pertinent to Bayside biodiversity:

- North Dublin Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code 0206)
- North Bull Island (SPA) (Site Code 4006)
- Bayside Square Urban Design Framework 2008

Google Earth Pro software was used to produce a map with the information derived from the Desktop Survey. Fingal County Council Development Plan (2017-2023) Open Spaces, High Amenity area, Nature Development Areas and Ecological Buffer Zones were added. Biodiversity hotspots identified by local groups were then added to this map to create a visualisation of potential wildlife corridors across Bayside and to reveal major gaps in this connectivity.

Field survey:

A series of site visits was carried out so that areas of biodiversity that were important to the community were identified. As much of the Tidy Towns area was visited as possible.

Maps generated in the Desktop Survey phase were used to identify locations not suggested by Tidy Towns groups and these were visited for their potential biodiversity significance. The following categories of information were recorded during any site visit:

- Notable habitats/species (flora or fauna)
- Challenges to these notable habitats/species
- Existing uses if any of these identified habitats/sites
- Potential biodiversity outcomes for that site
- Wishlist of the Tidy Towns/Community Group
- Best practice methods to be employed at a location
- Potential for site enhancement for biodiversity
- Need for biodiversity interpretation

Many of the spaces of interest were quite small so habitat classification e.g. Fossit (2000) was not usually applied as could not be mapped on a large scale. Instead, 'Biodiversity Hotspots' were noted and described (Figure 6).

Sports groups, Community groups, Tidy Towns volunteers, Schools, churches, Scout troops and other interested also participated in these site visits on occasion. These stakeholders had been identified or came forward in the Desktop Survey phase of the project. Many of these groups offered to assist the Tidy Towns groups going forward e.g. Pobailscoil Neasáin. This was considered to be an important outcome of this LBAP as all the Tidy Towns groups stated that they were already overworked due to lack of volunteers and the age profile of volunteers. A list of biodiversity reports written for these participating groups' private lands such as Schools and Sports Clubs in Bayside is included as Table 1 below.

Additional Biodiversity Report	Actions recommended Y/N	Report available Y/N
Bayside Senior National School	Yes	Yes
Naomh Barróg GAA Club	Yes	Yes
Bayside Train Station	Yes	Yes

Table 1: List of Biodiversity reports written for private stakeholders as part of the Bayside LBAP

As a result of the site visits; a better understanding of the of the local community, of the local biodiversity and of previously unidentified biodiversity emerged. This allowed for the formulation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan that would be specific to this particular area and community.



Generic Actions and points to note for all Local Biodiversity Action Plans

a) Monitoring Actions and recording results

Any Community Group implementing biodiversity initiatives should familiarise themselves with the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) website (www.biodiversityireland.ie). It is here that many practical resources are made available to local groups. It is also here where biodiversity data are recorded. Community groups should monitor the effectiveness of their actions to see what is working and what is not. The best way to do this is to participate in Citizen Science surveys. Many of these are described on the NBDC website.

The results of these surveys may change over the period of a project, thus giving us a picture of the effectiveness of efforts. Any wild species, whether flora or fauna, should be recorded on the NBDC website and any pollinator sites created within an area, should be logged on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan website (www.pollinators.ie).

This will create a true map of pollinator corridors across the country. Thus, Citizen Science surveys are not included in the Tables of Actions (Table 2 and Table 3) as it is a given that they will be conducted as part of this LBAP and results logged on the NBDC website. See Appendix 10 for a list of Citizen Science surveys and instructions on how to log results.

b) Actions Requiring Consent for SACs and SPAs

If your area falls within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area for birds (SPA), then certain activities that can be carried out here are limited without specific permission. There is a list of activities called Activities Requiring Consent (ARC) that cannot be carried out here without permission from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The list of ARCs is found in the Statutory Instrument (S.I) for that SAC or SPA (www.irishstatutebook.ie). Schedule 4 of the relevant S.I. will list the ARCs for that site.

Description of some of the projects in this Plan:

The Tables of agreed Actions to implement this Local Biodiversity Action Plan are given in Tables 2 and 3. Table 2 is the list of Actions to be undertaken by Fingal County Council over the 5 year period. Table 3 is the list of Actions that will be undertaken by Bayside Community Association, with the support of Fingal County Council and with the assistance of other named local community groups. As mentioned previously, private stakeholders such as Schools and Sports Clubs will be implementing biodiversity actions and these participating groups are listed in Table 1.

Four of the larger LBAP projects are described below. Detailed site reports are available for all areas of the LBAP and can be made available as a resource to implement all Actions in the Plan.

13 Appendices have been included at the back of this Plan. The objective of including these Appendices is to provide a practical tool to the Tidy Towns groups when carrying out the Actions.

There are myriad resources available to help groups and it can become overwhelming to figure out which to use. These Appendices have pulled together information from many sources so that a single location can be used as a source of practical guidance.

Target species are identified in Tables 2 and 3 to allow for monitoring of effectiveness of Actions.

1) Bayside Alleyways:

The older area of Bayside has the unique feature of a complex interconnecting system of alleyways leading to pocket parks and their associated housing estates. This lends itself to a natural biodiversity connectivity but also a strong interest from those communities in those small green spaces and interconnecting linkages. Perennial planting (Appendix 2), retention of ivy on walls and planting of wildlife friendly bulbs and plants around street trees (Appendix 2) are actions recommended for enhancing the biodiversity connectivity of these alleyways.



1a



1b

Figures 1a and 1b: Alleyways interconnecting pocket park green spaces in Bayside

2) Bayside Park (Lambchop):

This unusual nomenclature comes from the shape of the park. Bayside Community Association has already commenced biodiversity actions here including an insect hotel, composting, growing herbaceous perennials and a Winter Garden. A naturally occurring wet area exists close to the composting area and it is recommended that a Bog Garden is planted in this hollow (Appendix 13). Cutting out 'hedgehog doors' in compost areas and creation of logpiles for hedgehog hibernacula (Appendix 7) are some activities that would add to the wildlife friendly biodiversity initiatives here.



2a



2b



2c

Fig. 2a: Bayside Park (Lambchop) Fig. 2b: Bayside Park (Lambchop) Fig. 2c: Insect hotel at Lambchop



Fig. 2d: Uncut grass area of Lambchop Fig. 2e: Terrace Garden at Lambchop (photos courtesy Tony Quirke) Fig. 2f: Compost area at Lambchop with image of inserted 'hedgehog door'

3) Killester Cemetary

This is a real jewel in the crown of biodiversity in Bayside. Cypress trees, overgrown burial plots, mosses and lichens on old headstones and vegetation growing on the boundary stone wall make this a wonderful habitat for wildflowers and wildlife. A good variety of wildflowers were attempting to grow in areas where grass was longer. Recommendations for the graveyard were the cessation of herbicide use, allowing areas of grass to be left uncut (Appendix 1), managing the stone wall sensitively (Appendix 9), erection of bat and bird box in agreed locations (Appendix 7) and growing locally sourced Large Carder Bee favourite food Kidney Vetch (Appendix 2) on the sandy soil areas along the boundary stone wall.



Fig. 3a: Monterey Cypress tree at Killester Cemetary Fig. 3b: Overgrown burial grounds at Killester Cemetary Fig. 3c: Thick Ivy at Killester Cemetary



3d



3e



3f

**Fig. 3d: Potential for Kidney Vetch planting in sandy soil
Killester Cemetary**

**Fig. 3e: Biodiverse stone wall at
Killester Cemetary**

Fig. 3f: Possible Solitary Bee nest in sandy soil in Killester Cemetary

4) Alden Park:

This public park is found behind Bayide National School and is used frequently by the school. This school has undertaken to implement a number of biodiversity actions at the school itself as part of this LBAP (Table 1). Alden Park has a perimeter hedgerow which has terrific biodiversity potential if managed according to best practice (Appendix 5). A monument of standing stones is to be erected in the park and this would look wonderful surrounded with a circle of long grass and hopefully, resulting local wildflowers (Appendix 1). A variety of wildlife friendly bulbs could be planted in strips throughout the park, and in areas not used for recreation (Appendix 2). These would benefit birds, invertebrates, birds and bats. The local residents' group at Alden Park is keen to participate in these initiatives.



4a



4b

Fig. 4a: Alden Park tree copse

Fig. 4b: Treeline boundary and new Birch trees



4c

Fig. 4c: Damage to trees from ill fitting cage wire



4d

Fig. 4d: Weed control around base of trees



Table 2: Fingal County Council Actions as part of Bayside Tidy Towns Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Theme	Animals benefitting	No.	Action	Appendix	Location	I.D.	Year	Partners
Grass Maintenance Schedule Target species: • Bee species • Butterflies	A, B, Bt, EF OIS,P, R, TM	1	Meadow cut once a year and remove cuttings	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayside Park (Lamb chop) • Joyce Green • Oscar Wilde Green 	1 2 3	1	FCC
Target species: • Bee species	A, B, Bt, EF OIS,P, R, TM	2	Leave long grass uncut	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alden Park standing stones grass • Sarto Lawns tree copse grass • Kilbarrack cemetery 	4 5 6	1	FCC
Planting Schemes Target species: • Bee species • Butterflies	B, Bt, OIS, P, R, TM	3	Alleys between pocket parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial wildlife planting • Planting around base of street trees • Wildlife friendly Shrubs/Fruit bushes 	2	Bayside alleyways and residential streets	7	2	FCC/BCA
Target species: • Bee species • Butterflies	A, B, Bt, EF OIS, P, R, TM	4	Alden Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife bulbs/Large Carder Bee food • Native Irish hedgerow management 	2 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase variety of bulbs & introduce Large Carder Bee food. • Cut perimeter hedge sensitively 	8	2	FCC
Target species: • Common frog	A, B, Bt, EF, OIS, P, R, TM	5	Bayside Park (Lambchop):	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet area near compost corner 	9	3	FCC/BCA

A: Amphibians e.g. Frog, Common Newt

EF: Endemic flora e.g. local wildflowers

R: Reptiles e.g. Common Lizard

BoCCI: Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland

AI: Aquatic Invertebrates

OIS: Other Invertebrates and Spiders

TM: Terrestrial mammals e.g. Hedgehog, Shrew, Field Mouse, Fox, Badger

Annex IV: Annex IV of EU Habitats Directive EU92/43/EEC

B: Birds

BT: Bats

P: Pollinators e.g. Bees, Moths, Butterflies, Hoverflies



			• Bog garden/pond planting					
Target species: • Bee species	All	6	Cease herbicide use	-	All including Kilbarrack Cemetery	-	1	FCC
Target species: Bats (Annex IV)	Bt	7a	Bat boxes	7	Bayside Pk. (Lambchop) trees	6	2	FCC/ BCA/Schools
		7b	Countywide Urban Bat Survey			All	1-5	
Target species: • Red list bees	B, BT, EF, OIS, P	8	Biodiverse Brown Roof	4	• Train Station flat roofs • Bayside N.S. Caretaker building	10 11	3	FCC/Irish Rail/Bayside N.S.
Target group: Trees	All	9	Tree Survey	-	All Bayside	-	3	FCC
Education	All	10	Interpretation Panels:	-	Public green spaces with long grass/perennial planting/hedgerow	-	3	FCC/BCA/Pobalscoil Neasáin/Dublin Bay Biosphere
Target species: Birds	B	11	Countywide Urban Bird Survey	-	All	-	1-5	FCC/BCA/Schools

A: Amphibians e.g. Frog, Common Newt

EF: Endemic flora e.g. local wildflowers

R: Reptiles e.g. Common Lizard

BoCCI: Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland

AI: Aquatic Invertebrates

OIS: Other Invertebrates and Spiders

TM: Terrestrial mammals e.g. Hedgehog, Shrew, Field Mouse, Fox, Badger

Annex IV: Annex IV of EU Habitats Directive EU92/43/EEC

B: Birds **BT:** Bats

P: Pollinators e.g. Bees, Moths, Butterflies, Hoverflies



Table 3: Bayside Community Association Group actions as part of Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Theme	Animals benefitting	No.	Action	Appendix	Location	I.D.	Year	Partner
Target species: Endemic Flora	All	T1	Sow locally collected wildflower seed	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayside alleyways • The Orchard area 	7 12	1-5	BCA/Pobalscoil Neasáin
Target species: Hedgehogs	A, B, H, OIS, P, TM, R	T2	Log pile hibernacula/Compost corners	7	Bayside Park (Lamb chop)	1	2	BCA
Education	All	T3	Bayside Biodiversity Communications Plan	-	All Bayside	-	2	BCA
Target species: • Bees • Butterflies	P	T4	Link in with adjacent pollinator corridors	-	• Liaise with Dublin City Council	-	1	FCC/DCC/BCA

A: Amphibians e.g. Frog, Common Newt
EF: Endemic flora e.g. local wildflowers
R: Reptiles e.g. Common Lizard

AI: Aquatic Invertebrates
OIS: Other Invertebrates and Spiders
TM: Terrestrial mammals e.g. Hedgehog, Shrew, Field Mouse, Fox, Badger

B: Birds
P: Pollinators e.g. Bees, Moths, Butterflies, Hoverflies

BT: Bats
Tx: Tidy Towns Group Action



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Maps generated as part of the Bayside Tidy Towns Local Biodiversity Action Plan



Figure 5: Biodiversity Connectivity in Bayside Tidy Towns Area



Figure 6: Biodiversity Hotspots identified in Bayside Tidy Towns Local Biodiversity Action Plan



Figure 7: Bayside Tidy Towns Local Biodiversity Action Plan Action Locations

