

# Bandon Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2028



**PRODUCED BY CORK NATURE NETWORK**

on behalf of  
Bandon Environmental Action Group  
& the Bandon Community

# Introduction

The Biodiversity Action Plan for Bandon is a 5 year plan developed by Bandon Environmental Action Group (BEAG), in consultation with the local community of Bandon, to help provide direction and to map interconnections for actions taken by BEAG, the local authority, local businesses and community groups and organisations in the future.

BEAG is rooted in the community and aims to assist in making a positive contribution to its local community on a range of issues that affect the environment.

Cork Nature Network, a non profit organisation, were contracted to carry out the research and facilitate the development of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Bandon. The plan has been developed with the support of LEADER funding and the Avondhu Blackwater Partnership.

This action plan aims to ensure that actions for local biodiversity in Bandon are undertaken in the context of an overall framework, with individual actions contributing towards a common set of objectives.

Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

Cover Art by:

Hannah O'Sullivan, age 10, 5th class, Presentation Primary School, Bandon



# About Biodiversity



Squirrel in the Park in Bandon by Martin Quirke

## Why is Biodiversity Important?

Vital services provided by nature are generally taken for granted. These services include but are not limited to; clean air, fresh water, materials and medicines. These ecosystem services are critically threatened by biodiversity loss, destruction of local habitats and ecosystem deterioration.

## Biodiversity and Wellbeing

The significance of biodiversity to our physical and mental health and wellbeing is increasingly recognised. One of the goals of the Action plan is to reconnect people with nature, by encouraging the local community to become more involved in helping biodiversity thrive in Bandon and to provide opportunities to engage with the natural world regularly.

## What is Biodiversity?

"Biodiversity" is shorthand for 'biological diversity' which simply means the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity underpins our economy, livelihoods, our health and wellbeing and provides invaluable ecosystem services. It represents the interconnectedness and interdependence of all living things and is essential to the survival of humans on earth.

## Biodiversity Loss & Climate Change

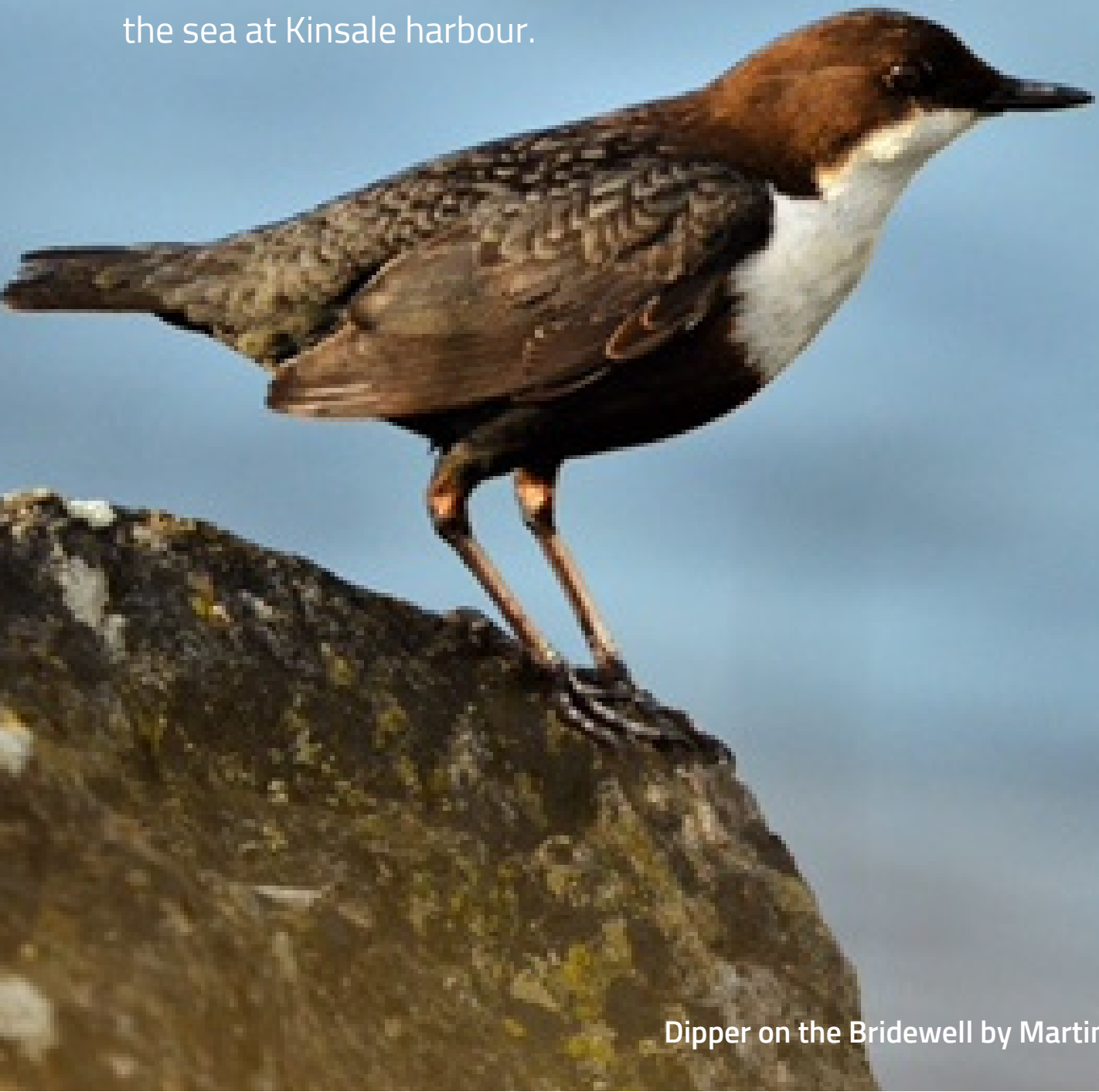
The rate of Biodiversity Loss in Ireland is accelerating at an alarming rate. One third of our 98 wild bee species are close to extinction while 60% of our bird species are now on the red or amber conservation lists.

Climate change impacts on biodiversity through interaction with other stressors, like habitat loss, pollution and invasive alien species. The Bandon Biodiversity Action Plan includes measures, from tree planting to rain gardens, that aim to help with mitigation of the effects of climate change on our biodiversity in Bandon

# Biodiversity in Bandon

The Bandon River and valley supports a diversity of habitats and species, many rare and important. Habitats of the valley and floodplains include woodlands, marshes, fens and grasslands while other lowland habitats form the agricultural and urban landscapes that have been shaped by human settlement.

The Bandon river is joined by two tributaries in the town; the Bridewell from the south and the smaller Kilbrogan from the north, and runs eastward towards Inishannon before turning south to join the sea at Kinsale harbour.



Dipper on the Bridewell by Martin Quirke



# Projects in Bandon

BEAG in partnership with the West Cork Branch of Birdwatch Ireland and in collaboration with local businesses installed five swift boxes on or adjacent to McSweeney's Quay in Bandon town in 2021. The boxes are made up of two treble boxes and three doubles. There are plans to include a Swift Caller in 2023



Bandon Playground Group formed in 2017 with the mission of enhancing Bandon by developing a Playground & Green space. A centrally located inclusive community play park, the site design includes biodiversity friendly landscaping and a range of native tree species.

Bandon Grammar School has been developing a Biodiversity Plan for their school grounds, and has carried out tree planting and installed bee houses for solitary bees. St Brogan's and Hamilton High are currently identifying appropriate actions and projects for biodiversity



Bandon Tidy Towns has developed a nature trail to showcase biodiversity in the Bandon River Valley. The trail has informational signs on flora & fauna that can be seen along the route. New tree sculptures added in 2022 include a fox, rabbit, heron, egret, owl, otter, hare, mallard duck and a flower.

In 2021, MSD Brinny formed a Biodiversity Team and became a member of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. MSD provided biodiversity expert-led talks for employees. A Biodiversity Opportunity Assessment was carried out. Actions included tree planting and changes to garden management practices to benefit biodiversity.

Bandon Co-op signed up to the All Ireland pollinator Plan. Bandon Co-op distribute Spring flowering pollinator friendly species, and Whitethorn and Blackthorn, to milk suppliers through the West Cork Tree Project. They also planted small wildflower meadow areas on site and held a 'No Mow Zone' competition in June and July to raise awareness.

Carbery's Origin Green program identifies biodiversity as a key target area 'No Mow May' introduced in 2021 at their site, expanded in 2022. 'Carbery Trees' distributed 100,000 native trees to farm suppliers in West Cork. They run Beekeeping Workshop, Schools Biodiversity Workshops, and distribute bee friendly plants and wildflower seeds to employees.

# A Vision for Bandon

Bandon is a Biodiversity-friendly town. People benefit from connection with green spaces, and share an awareness of the importance and value of Nature.

This poem written by Bandon Grammar Transition Year Student, Yuna Helder, is a wonderful representation of the shared vision for Bandon

## My Wish for the Future ♥

My wish for the future  
Is that air will be crisp and clean  
And the weather and temperature cooler  
The Plants and grass more green

I wish for Bandon to stop neglecting  
And for biodiversity to thrive  
So we won't have to keep protesting  
To keep the Earth and it's creatures alive

Global warming is not a hoax  
We take but aren't giving  
Earth dying is not a joke  
Change the way we are living



# In Our Nature

## Community Consultation

An open forum community consultation event facilitated by Cork Nature Network, gave members of the local community and groups an opportunity to come together and explore what the Biodiversity Action Plan meant to them and to create a vision for what they would like to see achieved for nature in Bandon.

An online survey was distributed via Bandon Environmental Action Group and Cork Nature Network via social media and email in August 2022. Over 40 responses were received. These were the questions and responses:

### 1. Does Bandon town and environs have green spaces for nature?

The majority indicated that 'little to a moderate amount of green space for nature' exists in Bandon. 8% of respondents believe there are 'a lot of green spaces', 37% said a 'moderate' amount and 48% said 'little'. Only one respondent felt there is a great deal and only one felt there is none at all.

### 2. What areas in Bandon do you feel are most valuable to nature/biodiversity?

Overall, the rivers and woodlands feature strongly alongside other local sites like Castle Bernard, the Bogs and Quay Road. The responses in full are available in the Final Report from BEAG









## 5. Can you identify any actions or sites in Bandon with the potential to improve biodiversity within the town?

Some sample responses listed here, all responses available in Final Report from BEAG.

'The river needs improvement works carried out. More green spaces available to families.'

'The Town Park has a lot of potential. I think education and raising awareness is key. We need more community engagement.'

'The road works on the cork road have new verges that would be perfect for sowing native wildflower seeds instead of grass.'

'Removal of Rhododendron from local woodlands. Leave wild patches in sports grounds.'

'Be lovely to regreen and plant edges of river to slow it down.'

'Joined up thinking between the council and biodiversity experts.'

'All new developments should have traditional green areas for play but also include biodiversity corridors.'



Drawing by Elisabeth Kopczynski, St Peter's Guides, Bandon



**Our Wish For The Future**

As Autumn falls around our town

Bandon's beauty wears a crown

Lucky are we to see every day

The wonders around us as we grow and play

Walk by the river, feel the river's flow

Hear the birdsong; you may meet a heron you know!

Colour bursting from seasonal flowers

Everything comes to life after April showers

So much to see, so much to be thankful for

Our wish is to keep safe nature's balance for the future

We wish for more trees, they clean the air we breathe

We wish for a Bandon with pollinating bees

We know every small step is one in the right direction

And we promise to keep having this conversation

We see the bigger picture and we love our town

We wish to protect Bandon's nature crown

I WANT  
MORE BIRDS



# Habitat Mapping & Ecological Surveys

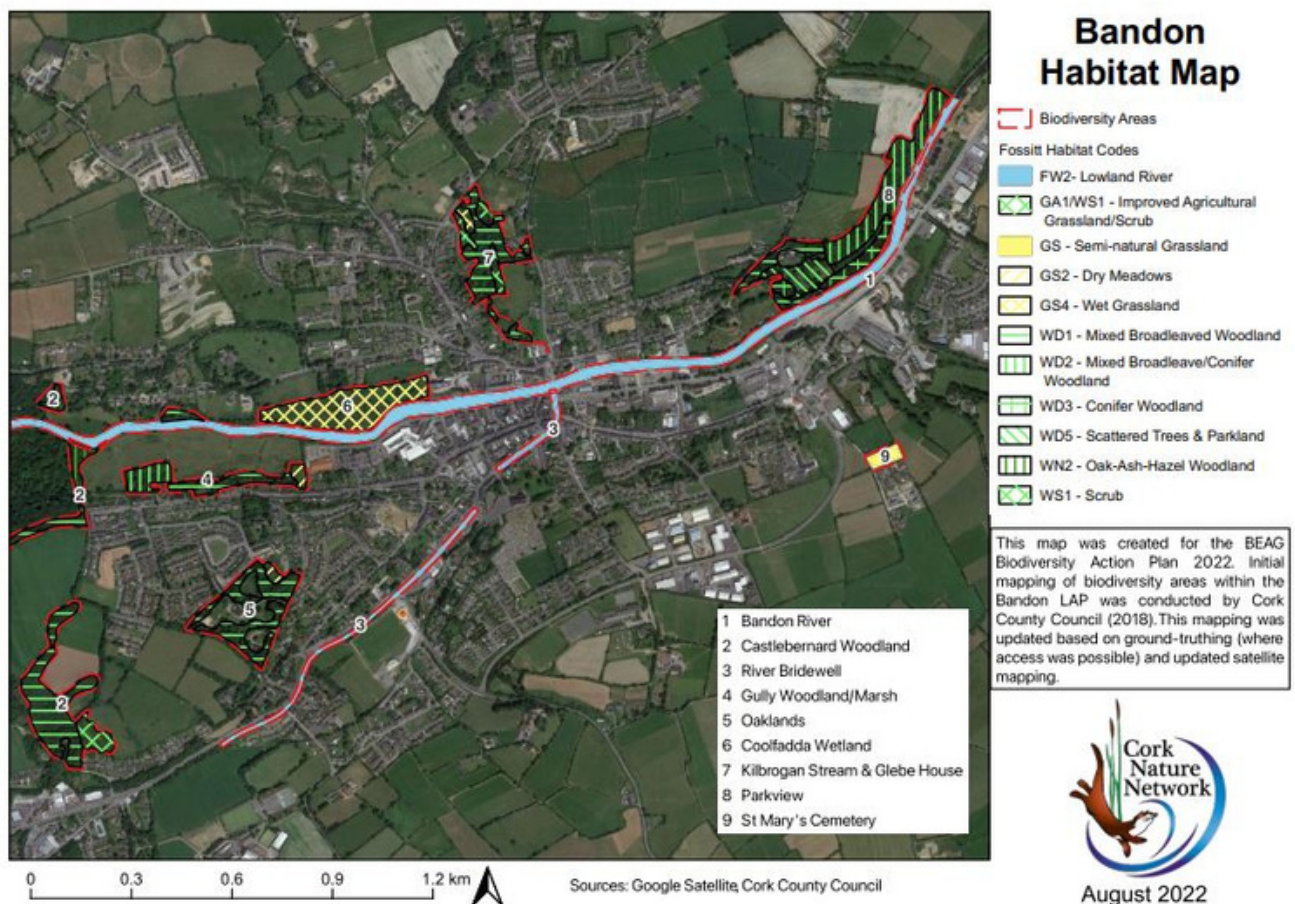
Between May and July 2022, bird, botany and freshwater ecology surveys were undertaken at targeted sites around Bandon town. Reports provided species list at each site and recommendations for this action plan.

The sites surveyed were:

- **St Mary's Cemetery**, Spring Lane. (15 bird species, 61 plant species)
- **River Walkway**, adjacent to Caulfield's Shopping Centre. (22 birds, 3 amber and 1 red listed species, 69 plant species).
- **Bernard's Bridge**, Clonakilty Road. (17 bird species recorded)
- **Bandon River and the Bridewell**. Dipper, grey heron, brown trout, emperor dragonfly and beautiful demoiselle were observed .

For full ecological reports contact BEAG.

In 2018 Cork County Council commissioned habitat mapping for a number of towns in County Cork to identify biodiversity areas and inform land use decisions. As part of this a report and habitat mapping was carried out in Bandon. For the purposes of this Action Plan the habitat map was updated in 2022 by Cork Nature Network.



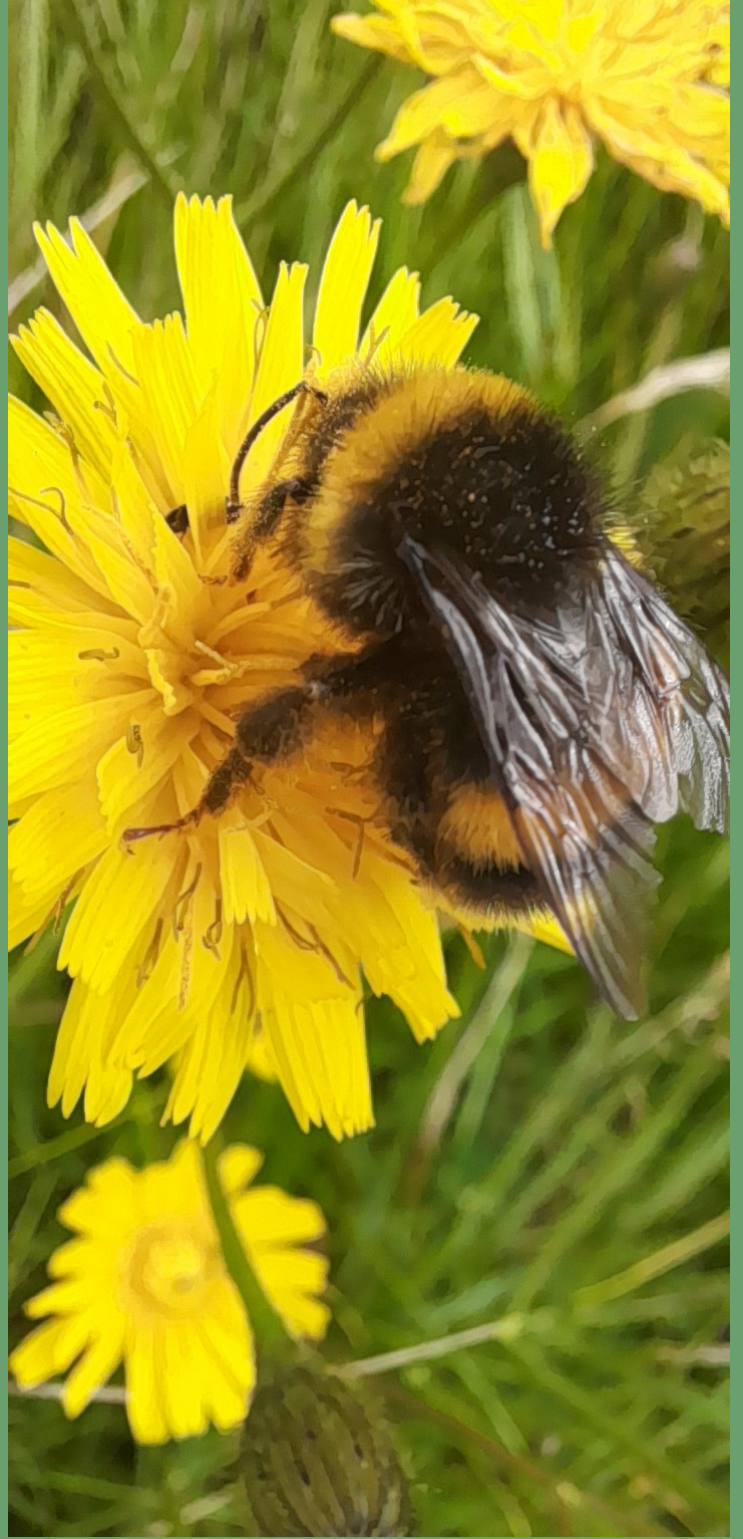




# Actions for Habitats



No	Action	Location	Agent	Resources	Year	Additional Info
1	Swift Boxes	MacSwiney Quay	BEAG and Birdwatch West Cork	Birdwatch	Complete	Five swift boxes installed in collaboration with local businesses
2	Swift Caller Installation & monitoring	MacSwiney Quay	BEAG Birdwatch West Cork	BirdWatch <a href="https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Saving-Swifts-Guide.pdf">https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Saving-Swifts-Guide.pdf</a>	Year 2-3	Attraction calls must be played under NPWS licence. If registered with Swift Conservation Ireland they can be covered under their annual licence.
3	Dipper Nest Boxes	Bridewell River	BirdWatch West Cork Bandon Rivers Trust, Schools	Birdwatch Heritage Council Community Grant	Year 1	Install dipper and/or grey wagtail nesting boxes into box culverts
4	Install Nest boxes	Bernards Bridge	BEAG, Birdwatch, County Council, Schools	Guidance from Birdwatch West Cork	Year 2	Work with local schools to build boxes, installation by Cork County Council
5	Bat Habitat Survey and Improvement	Bandon River and Town	Bandon Guides Kate Mahony	Citizen Science <a href="https://birdwatchireland.ie/product/wooden-arundel-bat-box">https://birdwatchireland.ie/product/wooden-arundel-bat-box</a>	Year 1	Survey walks with bat detector. Bandon Guides fundraising for Bat boxes
6	Contact HSE re St Mary's Cemetery Site	Community Hospital (Owners of St Mary's Site)	BEAG	Volunteers	Year 1	Contact to offer guidance and assistance with management of St Mary's Cemetery for Wildlife
7	Develop mini management plan for site in agreement with HSE	St Mary's Cemetery, Spring Lane	BEAG provide for use by HSE	Cork Nature Network (See recommendations)	Year 1	Hedgerow management Invasive Species Grass Cutting Minimal management
8	Hedge-planting for habitat improvement *Subject to HSE permission	Existing hedge banks that have degraded at St Mary's Cemetery, Spring Lane	BEAG Schools - Education project for Transition Years	Green Economy Foundation Nikki Keeling NeighbourWood Scheme	Year 1-5	Hawthorn, Blackthorn Elder, Guelder Rose, Spindle, Ash Hedge on northern boundary of site Staged hedge laying in sections
9	Create Pond Habitat *Subject to HSE permission	St Mary's Cemetery	BEAG with HSE	Heritage Council Community Grant	Year 3-5	Creating habitat for aquatic invertebrates and amphibians with food source for birds
10	Prevention of Dumping *Subject to HSE permission	St Mary's Cemetery	BEAG Cork County Council	Signs designed by BEAG and supplied by Cork County Council	Year 1	Remove green waste for composting. Discourage practice with informational signage on risks of invasives
11	Explore potential for an Introduction to Hedge-laying workshop *Subject to HSE permission	St Mary's Cemetery	BEAG with HedgeLaying Association of Ireland	Biodiversity Action Plan Funding	Year 1	One day workshop
12	Management for Riverwalk Habitats providing food & shelter for birds, mammals & invertebrates	Riverside walkway to West of town adjacent to Lidl Carpark	Cork County Council	Cork Nature Network (See recommendations)	Year 1 Ongoing	Allow scrub, refrain from tidying the riverbank. Cut embankment annually in late Autumn to allow north facing bank to continue to diversify - rewinding from amenity grassland
13	Riverwalk Embankment Habitat Diversification of species	Riverwalk Embankment Adjacent to Lidl Carpark	BEAG with Tidy Towns LIDL & Caulfields	National Biodiversity Data Centre Ireland resources	Year 1-2	Top and south face of embankment - scarify earth to encourage diversification. Managed for Wildlife signage
14	Stone Wall Habitats. Allow to thrive and diversify Eliminate use of herbicides. Refrain from weeding	In Bandon town and Environs	Tidy Towns	National Biodiversity Data Centre Ireland  No additional resources needed	Ongoing	Walls provide shelter for pollinators, lizards, shrews, field mice, and food for birds. Wall cavities NB for solitary & social bees. Undisturbed habitat for perennial herbs to grow, providing diverse resources for bees to forage on.
15	Leave Standing Dead Wood	Bernards Bridge	Cork County Council	None required	Ongoing	Standing dead wood is an important nesting site for hole-nesting birds. Encourage Great Spotted Woodpecker. Dead wood in semi-shaded conditions is good for fungi and invertebrates.
16	Evaluate Habitat Improvement/ Biodiversity Enhancement Measures	Sites surveyed by ecologists for Action Plan	BEAG, Tidy Towns and Community	Citizen Science led by ecology experts NPWS Grants for Small Recording Projects	Year 4-5	Refer to baseline surveys and species list and evaluate effectiveness of biodiversity measures to track progress-educational/training events



# Actions for Pollinators



No.	Action	Location	Agent	Resources	Year	Additional Info
17	Local Authority developing Pollinator Friendly Management Practices with Council ecologist Bandon Pollinator Plan	Bandon town and Hinterland	Cork County Council With Ecologist	Municipal District working with Cork County Council Heritage Office Ecology team	Ongoing	Bandon council exploring potential for Pollinator Plan for Bandon town and environs and seeking out best practice examples
18	Biannual Meetings	Council offices	Cork County Council BEAG	Council engineers BEAG team members	Ongoing	Meetings with Council and BEAG to discuss progress of Actions
19	Mowing for Long Flowering Wildflower Meadows to provide food and shelter for pollinators	Roadside verges as identified by Municipal District Office	Cork County Council	Heritage Office CCC Ecology team National Biodiversity Data Centre	Annual	Long flowering Meadows 1 <sup>st</sup> cut April 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut September  Remove cuttings
20	Short flowering meadows to provide food for pollinators & allow natural regeneration from native seedbank	Locations where 6-8 week cuts are suitable identified by Council	N71 Contractors and Municipal District Office	Heritage Office CCC Ecology team  National Biodiversity Data Centre Resources	Ongoing	6-8 Week cut where appropriate 1st cut late April 2nd end of May 3rd mid to late July 4th end of August 5th after mid October
21	No Mow May in public land management	Roadside verges & green spaces	Cork County Council	Heritage Office CCC Ecology team National Biodiversity Data Centre	Ongoing	Practise <i>No Mow May</i> to allow for early foods for pollinators.  Signage to educate
22	Plant pollinator friendly trees and shrubs	In green public spaces maintained by Tidy Towns	Tidy Towns and BEAG	Pollinators.ie	Year 1-5	Grey/Goat Willow, Blackthorn, Whitethorn, Rowan, Crab apple or Wild Cherry - provide food for pollinators.
23	Plant bulbs for pollinators	Incorporate pollinator friendly bulbs in planting schemes	Tidy Towns and BEAG	Heritage Council Community Grant  Advice from Heritage Office Ecology team		E.g. Snowdrop, Crocus, Muscari, Allium etc
24	Plant perennial flowers for pollinators	Flower beds and green spaces maintained by Tidy Towns	Tidy Towns and BEAG	Heritage Council Community Grant  Advice from Heritage Office Ecology team		Low maintenance; <b>Spring flowering</b> Helleborus Comfrey Pulmonaria Catmint <b>Heathers</b> <b>Early Summer</b> Calamint Comfrey Wallflower Thyme Oregano <b>Late Summer</b> Salvia Aster Lavender
25	Native Wildflower Planting Scheme Playground	New Playground Site	Landscape Designer	<a href="https://www.foxgardens.com/">https://www.foxgardens.com/</a>		Area separating playground from the Mart. List of all species in appendix
26	Expand Wildflower Meadow and establish herb garden	Bandon Allotments	Bandon Allotments	Funding	Year 1	Plan to extend area of native wildflower in 2023 and create a pollinator friendly herb garden
27	Provide habitat for above ground cavity nesting solitary bees.	School grounds, St Mary's Cemetery, Bernard Bridge	BEAG, Local Schools	For information on making bee boxes: <a href="https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2022/05/ActionSheet_Solitary-Bees-WEB-2.pdf">https://biodiversityireland.ie/app/uploads/2022/05/ActionSheet_Solitary-Bees-WEB-2.pdf</a>	Year 3	We have 15 species of these bees. Ensure there are flowers to forage nearby the chosen locations for boxes
28	Provide habitat for ground-nesting solitary bees	Locations identified at action sites in plan.	BEAG			We have 64 species of mining solitary bees A well-drained sunny south or west facing bank, Ensure flowers nearby. Along hedgerows & field boundaries

Poster by Mariana, 5th class, Presentation Primary Girls School



# Actions for Trees





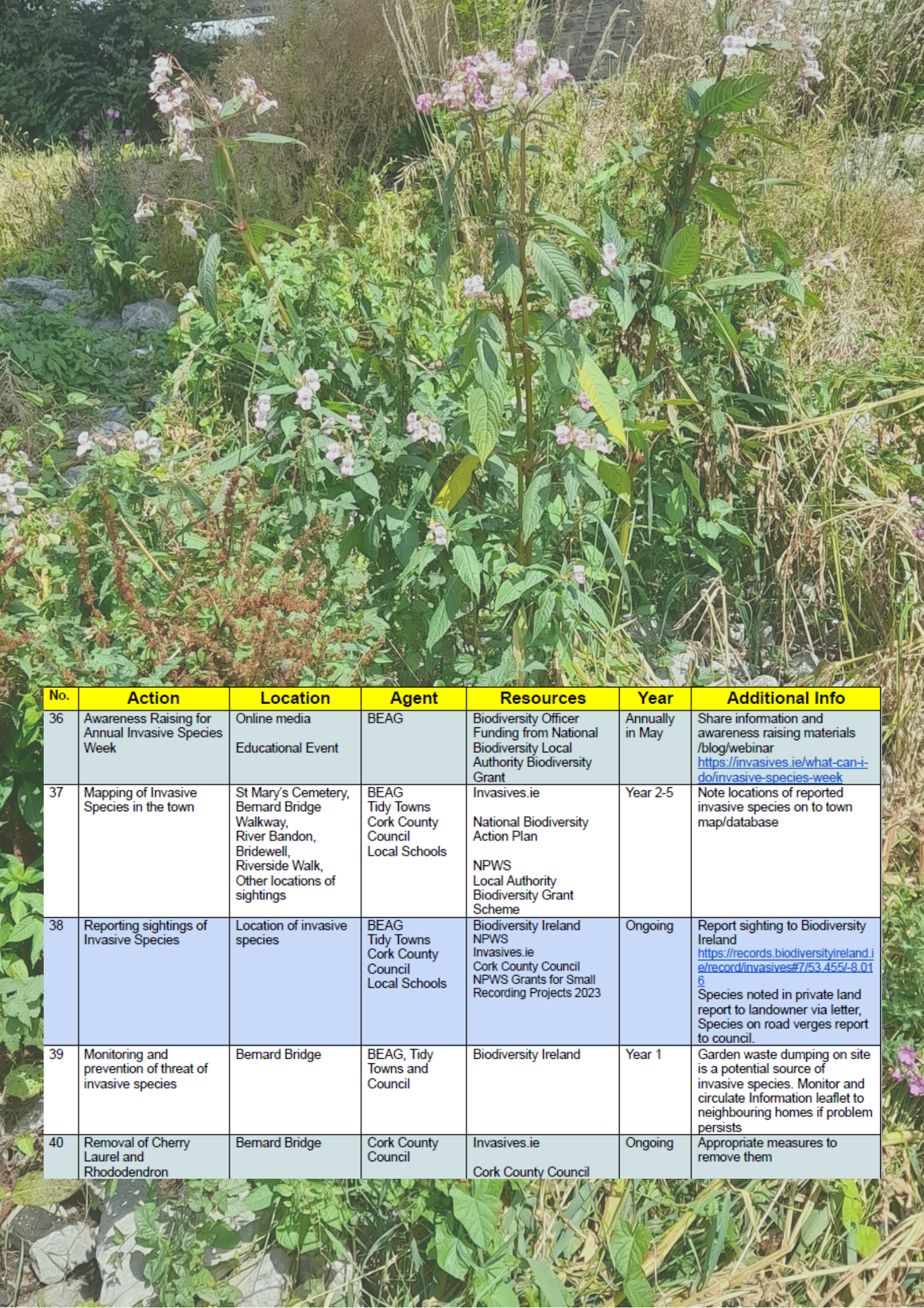
No	Action	Location	Agent	Resources	Year	Additional Info
29	Tree Planting	Along Bandon river by Skatepark & Bypass	BEAG	Volunteers	Complete	2000+ native trees planted
30	Continued Management of Trees planted	As above	BEAG	Volunteers	Year 1-5	Monitor health and spacing of trees planted in 2021 on ongoing basis
31	Community Orchard/ Native Forest Garden	Hill Terrace Green	BEAG in consult with residents	Trees on the Land Scheme 2023-24 Apply by Oct 2022	Year 2-3	Oak birch hazel alder rowan hawthorn Crabapple wild cherry spindle guelder rose & heritage apple trees
32	Woodland planting scheme	New Playground Site	Playground Group	Neighbourwood Scheme  Trees on the Land	Year 1	12 Silver Birch, 6 Sessile Oak, 6 Crab apple, 11 Elder, 10 Strawberry tree, 6 Wild Cherry and 9 Goat/Pussy Willow
33	Bandon Public Realm Tree Planting	Bandon Town and Environs Landscaping	Cork County Council Bandon TPREP	Cork County Council		Incorporating native tree species in new landscaping schemes wherever possible.
34	Natural Regeneration of Woodland	Council owned 0.8 acre site at Casement Rd	Cork County Council	None needed	Ongoing	Allowing site to rewild
35	Tree Nursery for distribution of trees	Bandon Allotment Site	Bandon Allotments Group	NeighbourWood Scheme Trees on the Land Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	Year 1-5	Grow native fruit trees & soft fruit to make available free/nominal
36	Tree planting once invasive cherry laurel and rhododendron removed	Bernard Bridge Site	BEAG with County Council	Trees on the Land	Year 3-4	Opportunities to plant native species into site once invasives have been cleared





Invasive  
Species





No.	Action	Location	Agent	Resources	Year	Additional Info
36	Awareness Raising for Annual Invasive Species Week	Online media Educational Event	BEAG	Biodiversity Officer Funding from National Biodiversity Local Authority Biodiversity Grant	Annually in May	Share information and awareness raising materials /blog/webinar <a href="https://invasives.ie/what-can-i-do/invasive-species-week">https://invasives.ie/what-can-i-do/invasive-species-week</a>
37	Mapping of Invasive Species in the town	St Mary's Cemetery, Bernard Bridge Walkway, River Bandon, Bridewell, Riverside Walk, Other locations of sightings	BEAG Tidy Towns Cork County Council Local Schools	Invasives.ie  National Biodiversity Action Plan  NPWS Local Authority Biodiversity Grant Scheme	Year 2-5	Note locations of reported invasive species on to town map/database
38	Reporting sightings of Invasive Species	Location of invasive species	BEAG Tidy Towns Cork County Council Local Schools	Biodiversity Ireland NPWS Invasives.ie Cork County Council NPWS Grants for Small Recording Projects 2023	Ongoing	Report sighting to Biodiversity Ireland <a href="https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/invasives#7/53.455/-8.016">https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/invasives#7/53.455/-8.016</a> Species noted in private land report to landowner via letter, Species on road verges report to council.
39	Monitoring and prevention of threat of invasive species	Bernard Bridge	BEAG, Tidy Towns and Council	Biodiversity Ireland	Year 1	Garden waste dumping on site is a potential source of invasive species. Monitor and circulate Information leaflet to neighbouring homes if problem persists
40	Removal of Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron	Bernard Bridge	Cork County Council	Invasives.ie  Cork County Council	Ongoing	Appropriate measures to remove them





*Con Scantlon*

# Actions for Water



No.	Action	Location	Agent	Resources	Year	Additional Info
41	Explore potential to open up access to river and increase visibility by inserting section of glass walls	Bridewell River along the bank by the footpath	Cork County Council Bandon TPREP	Council Funding	Year 2-3	No opportunity to see the river, habitats, species it supports. Allow people to see the river - provide connection, sense of responsibility for its health. Pollution incidents currently can go unnoticed/unreported.
42	Monitor water quality issues to improve on moderate quality	Bridewell River	BEAG Bandon Rivers Trust Lawpro	Local Authority Waters Programme Officer, EPA, Cork County Council Funding: Community Water Grant November	Year 2	Investigate potential misconnections - river walks to identify any outfalls or diffuse inputs combined with water chemistry sampling
43	Citizen Science Workshop	Bridewell River Bandon River	BEAG and Community	LAWPRO	Year 1	Workshop early Feb/March 2023
44	Ongoing Monitoring of Water Quality	Bridewell	BEAG Bandon Rivers Trust	Volunteers Community Water Grant funds	Year 1-5	Regular Kick sampling Chemical analysis
45	Electrofishing survey	Bandon River	Bandon Rivers Trust	LAWPRO funding	Year 3	To assess whether river lamprey can access the Bandon River upstream of the fish pass.
46	Investigate feasibility of Installation of Rain Gardens	Bandon Town and TPREP design	Bandon TPREP Cork County Council Ecologist	Council funded public realm works	Year 1	Rain gardens divert urban rainwater from storm drains preventing river pollution and mitigating flooding

The Bandon Biodiversity Action Plan acknowledges the concerns expressed by local people for the health and biodiversity of the Bandon river. While remediation actions for the river are beyond the scope of this Biodiversity Action Plan, BEAG will work alongside Bandon Rivers Trust, the local community, local interest groups and councillors to continue to highlight these concerns, to try to ensure appropriate remediation measures, to restore the health of the Bandon river, are taken in the near future.



The background is a white surface covered in various hand-drawn elements. In the top left, there is a large, detailed purple flower with dark brown centers and several smaller purple and black flowers. In the bottom right, there are large, vibrant blue and green flowers. The central text is written in a bold, black, hand-drawn font, slanted upwards from left to right. The text reads: "SAVING THE PLANET, SAVING LIVES!!". There are also some faint, sketchy drawings of plants and flowers scattered throughout the background.

SAVING THE  
PLANET, SAVING  
LIVES!!

Actions for  
People

Art by Lily Crowley, 1st year,  
Bandon Grammar School



No.	Action	Location	Agent	Resources	Year	Additional Info
47	Wildlife Interpretative Signs	St Mary's Cemetery	BEAG	Council Heritage Office Heritage Council Community Grant	Year 1	Interpretative signage highlighting flora & fauna. Managed for nature signage
48	Wildlife Interpretative Signs	River walkway adjacent to Riverview S.C.	BEAG with Cork County Council	As above	Year 2	Interpretative signage highlighting flora & fauna. Managed for nature signage
49	Botany Education Walk	Riverside Walk at Riverview SC	BEAG with Cork Nature Network Jo Goodyear	Cork Nature Network	Complete	Plant walk in May 2022 to promote awareness of biodiversity in the area
50	Bird Walk	Quay Road	BEAG with CNN	Cork Nature Network	Complete	Guided bird identification walk in June 2022
51	Educational Wildlife Photography Exhibition	Bandon vacant shop fronts	Tidy Towns			Vacant shop fronts show local wildlife photos
52	Borrow, Grow, Return Seed Library	Bandon Library	Cork County Council Library Service	Library Staff. Seed donations from local allotments, library patrons.	Year 1	Donate from September 2023 Borrow in Spring
53	Mapping of Wildlife Corridors	Bandon town and Environs	BEAG with Schools Transition Year Project	Funding Community Biodiversity Grant	Year 2-5	Educational/citizen science - students facilitated to map Wildlife habitats & corridors in the vicinity of their schools
54	Annual Awareness Raising Event	Bandon town and Environs	BEAG	Biodiversity Action Plan Funding	Annual	Like the popular dawn chorus walk
54	Relationship Building for resilience	Bandon Town and Environs	BEAG Local Community Schools Sporting		Year 1 -5	Continue to nurture and build on collaborative connections with schools, sports clubs, groups etc seeded through the development of the Action Plan in 2022
55	Review Bandon Biodiversity Action Plan	Not Applicable	Action Plan Steering Committee	Meeting venue Admin	Year 3	Carry out a review of the plan and actions carried out to date.





## Next Steps

Members of the steering committee for the Bandon Biodiversity Action Plan will reconvene annually to review progress on the Biodiversity Action Plan and to assess the success of actions undertaken.

Cork County Council Bandon Office to meet annually with Bandon Environmental Action Group to review actions agreed and explore potential for continued collaboration.

Bandon Environmental Action Group will update the Bandon community on the progress of actions as they are completed.

For the full report on the Biodiversity Action Plan, including ecological reports, please contact [bandon.beag@gmail.com](mailto:bandon.beag@gmail.com).

Cork County Council ecologist Tony Nagle to deliver training to BEAG and Bandon Tidy Towns on pollinator friendly planting in 2023.

BEAG to apply to the Local Biodiversity Action Fund for 2023. The funding supports locally-led projects that align with actions under the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

BEAG to explore the potential for human resources to oversee the management of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Bandon.

BEAG is committed to continue building upon the many collaborative relationships, with local schools, sporting organisations and community groups, that have been seeded through the process of developing this action plan.

# Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to the people of Bandon, of all ages, for helping to create a vision of a healthy and biodiverse Bandon, through participating in open-forum discussions, attending educational walks, completing online surveys, creating Art, submitting poetry and photographs and sharing their hopes for the future.

To the Bandon Biodiversity Action Plan steering committee, comprising representatives from Bandon Environmental Action Group, Tidy Towns, BirdWatch West Cork, Bandon Rivers Trust, Bandon Allotments, Bandon Playground Group, St Peter's Guides, local schools and individuals for their guidance and direction in developing this plan. Special appreciation for Fiona O'Neill's contribution and expertise.

To the staff of Bandon Library for all their help, the students and teachers of Bandon schools, to the Bandon businesses for supporting the project, Kevin O'Leary Group, Kellehers Topline, Bandon Coop and Bandon Credit Union.

To Cork County Council, Bandon office staff, especially Marie Kelleher for her enthusiasm, to the County Council Heritage Office ecology team; Sharon Casey and Tony Nagle and heritage officer Conor Nelligan.

To the Cork Nature Network team, Gill Weyman, Tara O' Donoghue, Séan Ronayne, Jo Goodyear, Letizia Cocchiglia, John Armstrong, Kate Mahony, Trev Williams and Richard Keyes McDonnell.

Thanks to photographers Martin Quirke, Con Scanlon and Gef Dickson for the use of their images of wildlife in Bandon.

To Avondhu Blackwater Partnership and LEADER for funding the Bandon Biodiversity Action Plan.

**A very special thanks to the children and young people of Bandon for demonstrating so creatively their hopes and visions for the future.**



Kevin O'Leary | Group

