

Sustainable Development: Protecting our Pollinators – Helping to deliver the Biodiversity Duty



Winners of the Schools wildlife gardening competition 2016 – Puddleducks Playgroup.

Over the summer if you were near the Strule Arts Centre in Omagh or Enniskillen Castle, you may have heard a bit more buzz about as 15 local schools 'done their bit for biodiversity' and planted up pots for pollinators.

As part of a campaign by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to help our bumblebees and other pollinating insects like hoverflies and honeybees, 15 local schools were given the opportunity to Adopt a Bee Bed from FODC and look after it during May and June 2016. They were in place in all their glory at these locations over the summer for public and visitors to enjoy them and learn a little about planting for bees.

From lavender to French marigolds, thyme to anemones, the planters were awash with colour and nectar, attracting bees in the summer sun.

In addition to this project, FODC are leading several other biodiversity initiatives to promote planting for pollinators such as their wildlife gardening competition and protecting the bee habitats we already have. FODC have also



Volunteer Biodiversity Assistant Naomi Mitten helped plant for bees at St. Ninnidh's PS, Derrylin

planted three roundabouts in the district with wildflower seed following the success of the Tempo Road roundabout show last year. Wildflower meadows continue to be maintained and improved for wildlife at the Grange Park, Omagh, Carnalea Bridge, Fintona and at Ely Lodge layby.

We continue to work in partnership with Ulster Wildlife and Transport NI to identify and raise awareness of the roadside verges throughout the district that are of high value for wildflowers and consequently pollinators. In 2016, we have expanded this scheme to include more verges than in 2015.