



22/02/2022

Damien, a chara,

Transition Kerry welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the Kerry County Council County Development Plan 2022-2028. Please find below our submission to some of the sections in this plan.

Chapter 2: Climate Change & Achieving a Sustainable Future:

We note that the position of Climate Officer has been advertised and look forward to working with the person who takes up this role, supporting and collaborating with 'Climate and Biodiversity Mentors' who are working with communities and their biodiversity and climate resilience initiatives. We look forward to this Climate Officer working in collaboration with local communities, The Biodiversity Officer, The Environmental Awareness Officer, The Climate Officer, The LAWPR Officer, Wellbeing Officer, Kerry PPN and the relevant SPC's.

<p>KCDP 2-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give the roles of Biodiversity priority by adding it to the title of Chapter 2: Climate, Biodiversity & Achieving a Sustainable Future. This would show that the Council understands the critical role that Biodiversity has in buffering communities from the effects of a changing climate and has the potential to create healthy, thriving and sustainable communities and local economies in the county - Support measures to build resilience to climate change throughout the county to address impact reduction, adaptive capacity, awareness raising, giving priority to integrated nature-based solutions, biodiversity and emergency planning.
<p>KCDP 2-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the development of sustainable communities that enhance the health and wellbeing of our people and places, giving priority to local biodiversity and integrated nature-based solutions - Fill the role of a full-time Climate Officer, who will work in collaboration with communities, The Biodiversity Officer, The Environmental Awareness Officer, The LAWPR Officer, Wellbeing Officer, Kerry PPN and the relevant SPC's. - Develop connections between existing urban 'biodiversity & climate resilience hotspots' such as Tralee Bay Wetlands and local community allotments and gardens
<p>KCDP 2-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote and support local based enterprises that create and employ the use of appropriate use of green technologies, giving priority to local biodiversity and integrated nature-based solutions



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take into consideration and highlight the embedded energy in all technologies used as part of the overall energy cost - Give priority to technologies that create circular economics and create resilience in the County's energy systems
KCDP 2-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support social enterprises and the circular economy within local communities to benefit biodiversity/nature, environmental protection, employment generation and community wellbeing and community development using a whole systems approach
KCDP 2-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote regenerative farming and local food production in communities all over the county, using the 'Transition Farming' and 'Climate Proofing' approach, with local biodiversity and integrated nature-based solutions and biodiversity being given priority
KCDP 2-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support integrated nature-based solutions and biodiversity to climate change challenges and also initiatives aimed at increasing soil carbon retention, sequestration and storage.
KCDP 2-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the efficiency and sustainability of local transport networks, including improvements and expanded public transport capacity and walking and cycling infrastructure, improved traffic management and bus priority, always giving priority to green infrastructure and local biodiversity
KCDP 2-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give priority to small networks of community owned energy co-operatives to embed local energy resilience - Take into consideration and highlight the embedded energy in all technologies used as part of the overall energy costs involved

Chapter 6: Sustainable Communities: Climate Actions & Sustainable Communities:

KCDP 6-3	<p>Continue to support the creation of sustainable communities throughout the County by facilitating the creation of attractive neighbourhoods where there are strong links and connections to local services, community facilities and employment areas and where walking, cycling, and public transport is prioritised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will include the protection of existing mature trees and hedge, prioritising the planting native species in green and public areas and integrating existing ecological corridors around and between communities in order for both wildlife and humans to move around safely.
KCDP 6-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate and support community-based initiatives that promote awareness of local food



production, the minimisation of food waste, local composting solutions and allied initiatives that encourage climate resilience and mitigate climate change.

Chapter 6: Sustainable Communities: Healthy Communities:

<p>KCDP 6-13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the provision of a range of community infrastructure within clusters located in easily accessible areas. - Give priority to biodiversity and natural green/blue spaces in this infrastructure, due to the critical role they play in supporting mental, physical and emotional health in communities - Develop connections between existing urban 'biodiversity & climate resilience hotspots' such as Tralee Bay Wetlands and local community allotments and gardens as places of wellbeing and healthy communities
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Chapter 11: Environment:

11.2: Biodiversity:

- Give the role of Biodiversity priority by adding it to the title of **Chapter 11: Environment & Biodiversity**. This would show that the Council understands the critical role that Biodiversity has in supporting all aspects of community life and has the potential to create healthy, thriving and sustainable communities and local economies in the county.
- We are proposing that there be a full-time role of Biodiversity Officer, who will work with all relevant Departments and Sections within the Council, including Roads, Planning, Environment, Heritage, Community & Wellbeing. This Officer would also have a role in consulting with local communities, education, raising awareness about biodiversity, including the benefits of trees, tree planting initiatives, local tree seed collection, etc. The Biodiversity Officer would have a role in supporting and collaborating with 'Biodiversity Mentors' who are working with communities and their biodiversity and climate resilience initiatives.
- The Biodiversity Officer would also work with communities in collaboration with: The Environmental Awareness Officer, The Climate Officer, The LAWPR Officer, Wellbeing Officer, Kerry PPN and the relevant SPC's.



11.2.6 Green and Blue Infrastructure - Ecological/Urban Blue Corridors

<p>KCDP 11-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority be given to the development and implementation of the proper recording, mapping, management and protection of existing mature trees and hedgerows, both urban and rural. - Designate an officer with responsibility to introduce Tree Preservation Orders, - Designate a person responsible for Hedgerow Protection Orders, Cutting and Management - Designate a person responsible for Habitat Site Protection Orders and Enforcement.
<p>KCDP 11-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce and use the procedures around Tree Preservation Orders to protect existing mature trees - Support 'Biodiversity Mentors' who will work with communities in engaging with their local biodiversity and natural heritage. - Include and prioritise local and appropriate nature-based solutions based around the existing habitats and ecosystems in the area in all habitat maps. - Prioritise the role of ecological corridors which connect habitats together: there include native trees & hedges, dry stone walls, wetlands, embankments, scrubby land, self-seeded rewilded areas, pockets of unused land in estates, gardens and parks, etc.

11.2.7: Urban Ecology:

<p>KCDP 11-22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give priority to the protection of existing urban trees and hedges as part of an integrated nature-based solutions approach all over the County, which assists with urban drainage, reduces flooding and improves local water quality. - Give priority to the planting of native trees and shrubs in urban areas due to their critical value to wildlife.
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11.2.5 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025:



KCDP 11-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give priority to the planting of native trees and shrubs in urban areas, due to their critical value to pollinators - Support community groups in protecting their local mature trees with Tree Preservation Orders. - Develop connections between existing urban 'biodiversity & climate resilience hotspots' such as Tralee Bay Wetlands and local community allotments and gardens
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11.2.7 Woodlands and Trees:

KCDP 11-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out public consultation in relation to the development of Tree Strategies. - Develop a Tree Strategy for the County and each Municipal District.
KCDP 11-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support communities in the process of Tree Preservation Orders around the County
KCDP 11-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Biodiversity Officer would have a role in supporting and collaborating with 'Biodiversity Mentors' who are working with communities and their biodiversity and climate resilience initiatives. - The Biodiversity Officer would also work with communities in collaboration with: The Environmental Awareness Officer, The Climate Officer, The LAWPR Officer, Wellbeing Officer, Kerry PPN and the relevant SPC's. - Prioritise these woodlands by making small woodlands bigger and connecting them through ecological corridors.

Sinne le meas

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