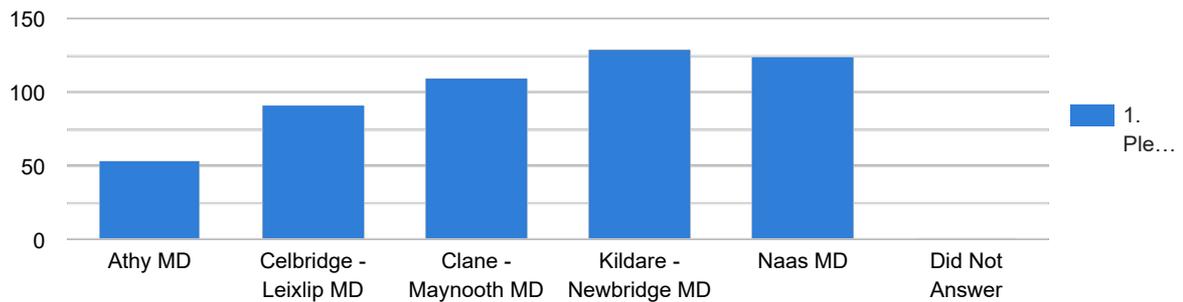




**Kildare County Council**  
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

# KCC Parks Maintenance Plan Survey

## 1. Please choose your Municipal District (MD)

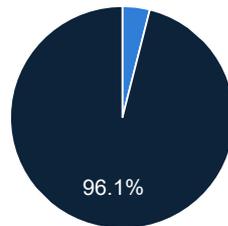


*Number of responses: 508*

Number of responses: 455

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### 3. Which of the following is more important to you?



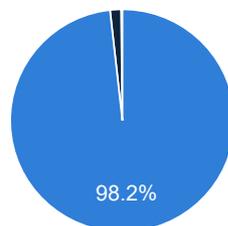
- That green spaces always look well manicured
- That green spaces are more environmentally friendly (for example: for biodiversity, pollinators etc.)

*Number of responses: 508*

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### 4. Would you like the Council to undertake maintenance of public amenity lands in a more environmentally friendly manner?

*For example, reducing the use of pesticides and other chemicals*



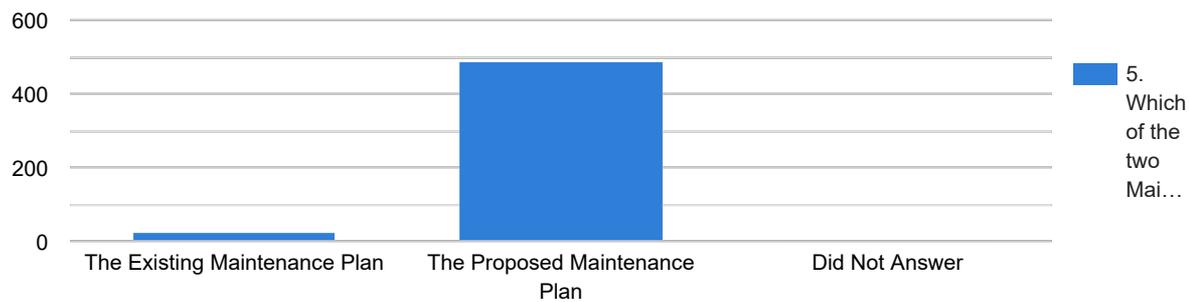
- Yes
- No
- Did Not Answer

*Number of responses: 508*

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## 5. Which of the two Maintenance Plans would you prefer KCC to follow?

*As per table provided in the attached List of proposed Pilot sites*



*Number of responses: 508*

## 6. Please give reasons for choosing your preferred maintenance plan

- biodiversity
- Biodiversity and climate change - local authorities should lead by example on this.
- For Biodiversity In association with this change of maintenance practices, might you consider Signing up as Council supporter of All Ireland Pollinators Plan Including pollinators requirements as part of landscape planning conditions Peter Cuthbert BSc Agr (Hort)
- It is important we protect our environment
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity
- Eliminates pesticides, promotes biodiversity, improves insect habitats -> good for birds, hedgehogs, etc.. Basically just the better way to do things.
- To encourage growth of wild flowers, for bees etc
- Climate change
- Better biodiversity to help with climate change and more natural look.
- Pesticides not being used and grass left more natural
- Biodiversity
- Enhances public space, education for community regarding natural season change, chance to see natural Flora/fawna etc
- For Biodiversity. I don't understand why main is required at all on some of these. If it must be done then strim rather than weedkiller is a brilliant idea.
- Please stop spending money on sprays that are dangerous to us, wildlife and earth. It is a climate and biodiversity emergency. KCC could take this opportunity to be a leader in this area
- Biodiversity and also it's a waste of KCCs time and energy fighting against nature.. especially when it's actually damaging to the environment & our food chain. So cut back sight lines but leave the rest to heal & put time into other better things than spraying.
- Biodiversity
- We need to strike a balance between wild and maintained areas, reduce chemical use, more areas for natural habitats to form and proper maintenance of these areas
- For biodiversity and climate change.
- We all needed to look at nature in a different light due to climate change for the betterment of all
- For biodiversity, to educate children and to help with climate change
- For biodiversity
- I am worried about bee and other wildlife as it has a huge impact on our environment
- biodiversity, allow bees to have adequate food supply. Don't use pesticides not good around humans!!
- The reduction is spraying.
- Biodiversity
- It saddens me to see people spraying chemicals on our wild plants, it not only kills the plants, but the little creatures who pollinate the flowers and live in their environ. Likewise there is nothing remotely interesting or attractive about the ecological dessert of a manicured lawn. Welcome nature into our town and let us all, young and old enjoy a natural buzzing environment.
- The green areas are for public use, only cutting them 6 times per year will stop them being a public amenity. It would be better to have pollinator areas along the edges or between the group of trees.
- To renew our biodiversity and to be an example to the public that this is the right way forward in gardening and maintenance .
- Reduction of Glyphosate for which impact on human health is not fully understood and may be harmful and to preserve biodiversity.
- I think that we need to prioritise environmental concern over aesthetics. E. G. Pollinators are essential for maintaining our food supply, which is much more valuable than a pretty lawn.

- Biodiversity
- To ensure the health of our bee population - we need to change how things are done to reverse the damage in our environment
- Biodiversity. Common sense. Bees!
- Increases biodiversity I. Natural predation returns and more balanced ecosystem. Looks better.
- Gives plants and wildlife the opportunity to develop and be of long-term benefit to the environment. Decrease in use of pesticide can only be a good thing. Would be great if verges and common green areas had more beneficial pollinating plants and flowers. A mix of "messy" and manicured looks pleasing.
- Biodiversity, climate change, stop use of pesticides
- The insect population is dying off exponentially and we need them in order to survive. I also like the idea of less chemicals being around areas where children play and may come into contact with them.
- Increasing our biodiversity is highly important. Something that should also be taken into account with and form part of the massive new housing developments that are proposed in North Kildare. Particularly at Crodaun where you are proposing one of the pilots
- concerned for the environment
- Biodiversity
- Ethical treatment to reduce harmful effects on plants and wild animals, long term protection of the planet
- Preserve natural habitats for wildlife and nature
- Save the environment Save the bees
- Important for the town of Maynooth that it looks well maintained and purposefully managed. We already have increasing levels of vandalism and graffiti - I fear that cutting back on maintenance of common areas will only further damage the look and reputation of the town. Please maintain or increase existing maintenance levels. Thank you.
- Improvements in biodiversity and decreased use of chemicals in parks and green areas
- To benefit pollinators
- Biodiversity, reducing carbon footprint
- Drastic decline in biodiversity must stop! We should do everything we can to promote biodiversity and save our pollinators.
- By small districts taking these actions, we can contribute to the health of the planet. Nothing is more important than that.
- Due to the current global Climate and Biodiversity Crisis, I believe we should prioritise habitat above what is viewed as 'popular aesthetics'. I also believe that in light of the current Biodiversity Crisis the new proposals are too mild and that a complete rewinding of these spaces should take place. The massive decline in insect and pollinator numbers is a crisis which is having a direct impact on our food production and the economic stability of our future and the future of our children. More drastic action needs to be taken. The improved proposals are more symbolic than impactful. It is our civic duty to do everything we can to protect biodiversity and to show leadership to those people who don't fully understand the consequences of biodiversity loss and climate change. Strimming will kill 'weeds' is: nectar producing wildflowers. It also creates excess carbon emissions. I suggest rewild the areas completely. There is a symbolic, awareness raising beauty in this. There is also beauty in the biodiversity and wildlife that wild areas support.
- Although very much in the background, the biodiversity crisis is just as big a problem as climate change. One statistic that brings this into stark reality is from a German study in 2018 which found that 75% of flying insects had disappeared in the last 25 years. This is shocking and a major wake up call. We must make every effort to support biodiversity. By taking these measures we are helping our insects and birds recover to a small degree but also helping educate the public on the issue, both of which are vitally important.
- The proposed maintenance plan is a start but all spraying of pesticides and herbicides should just cease immediately - I think that this is another practice that future generations will look back on this generation with incredulity.

- We need to leave Irish native plants, weeds, trees for the support of Irish native wildlife both in the form of food and habit, plus more connected corridors for the wildlife to travel within. No land is wasteland if its wild land.
- Biodiversity - Kildare should take the lead and show due care for the environment!
- Better for the environment, too many houses being built with little or no green space, what we have should be preserved and maintained to encourage biodiversity in the area. This is more important than cut grass. Also less use of pesticides is always welcome especially near children.
- Biodiversity, no need for pesticides if being looked after correctly.
- Manicured grass areas serve no purpose, a meadow with wildflowers is nicer to look at and it's better for our friends the bees. Win-win.
- Biodiversity. Climate change
- Biodiversity
- Benefits to pollinators especially bumblebees would be brilliant.
- Biodiversity
- Climate change, biodiversity, needs of animal kingdom
- We need to do our bit and help the environment
- Round up/weed killer being used far to much it's the easy way out,just spray and kill everything,it's actually looks worse that's a few weeds when it kills and scorches the ground and grass around the base of trees and bollards etc
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity and climate change, general environmental friendliness
- Definitely do not want pesticide use to continue, and believe large open spaces should be providing nature with all it needs, rather than being trimmed to serve aesthetic purpose only. Well done on the initiative I hope it takes off!
- it is more environmentally friendly but it doesn't encourage much biodiversity there should be wildflowers planted along all the major roads around Naas. less cutting is just peacemeal attempt at biodiversity.
- Biodiversity- chemical pesticides should not be used
- Climate change etc
- Bio diversity however in the case of strimmer use, while preferential to pesticides, could members of the Hort. Team be made aware of the possibility of frog life and hedgehogs sleeping in the area prior to strimming and checks made first. Pointless trying to protect wildlife if we then go slice them up.
- For biodiversity and climate change
- Biodiversity Help the environment
- For the bees and wild life
- Biodiversity and climate change reasons
- Biodiversity climate change and do on
- No pesticides use- biodiversity
- For Biodiversity. Fully agree with removing pesticide use. Another idea would be to sow wildflower seeds in the areas, for pollinators, and so the areas look attractive rather than poorly maintained.
- I feel not enough is being done to deter / enforce dog fouling policies in public open spaces particularly when in housing estates and the proposed maintenance plan would just be literally hiding the problem.
- We need more biodiversity, reduce chemicals, help insects, I don't mind whether it looks tidy or manicured. We need to take care of nature, by reducing our impact.
- We need to increase the level of activities focusing on BioDiversity. Its not difficult and if done correctly the wildlife, insects and flora that will come back to the area can have a positive immediate impact.
- It is more environmentally friendly... although it does not go far enough or fast enough. There should be a target for replacing all verges, margins and median with wild flower mix over a period of 3 to 5 years. One would expect significant savings in maintenance costs It would appear that the plan gives some priority to keeping contractors involved.

- As we have witnessed in recent weeks, the low impact on environment by us has been positive to the health of the local and global environment. Lets take this opportunity to begin a new era for improving the environmental health of Kildare and beyond. Thanks
- I am a firm advocate of sustainability and nature friendly environment. I am loving seeing the huge work done by OPW in Castletown. My only concern regarding bee friendly meadows is the impact for hay fever sufferers (not me!) and also the proliferation of rubbish in these long grasses. Thank you, keep up the good work
- Biodiversity
- Pesticides should not be used as they are harmful to people and the environment.
- Have seen this in a neighbouring estate and it looks lovely and great education for kids and adults alike
- Biodiversity improvement is welcome. Sounds like proposal might also have cost savings for council.
- I think the residents should be informed of what you are proposing to do. I think its very important to deduce cuts for biodiversity, spraying of chemicals and climate change.
- Grass needs to be cut more often during the summer
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity 100%
- To use no weed killer, more environmental plan. Also the wild flowers look good.
- improved biodiversity. more learning opportunities for children. It will also encourage people to do similar with their lawns/gardens
- Save the bees, encourage wildlife and natural flora and fauna
- For biodiversity, pollinator friendly, save the bees with no pesticides,
- I agree in a reduction or stop of pesticides, however reduction of grass cutting to just 6 times is crazy. Reduce it a bit from 16 but it should be done more than just 6 times a year.
- Biodiversity, climate change, environmental
- We should reduce the use of pesticides as much as possible in our public areas
- Parks can be both well maintained and bio diverse. There is no need to destroy wildlife to have a perfectly manicured park.
- Biodiversity.
- Greens spaces look best with a more natural look. Somebody decided that cutting grass low and spraying chemicals into the ground to deal with weeds/wild flowers that insect life depend on was a good idea. I would prefer to see more planting of trees / shrubs etc on green areas rather than wide expanses of grass. Many thanks
- 6 cuts per year will leave the grass very long for. Children playing and be unsightly
- To improve possible biodiversity or assistance to biodiversity, provide a more natural less manicured look overall. I have no wish to see a total ban on herbicides, they are necessary for the effective maintenance of playing areas etc. The Council could also develop some small areas of wildflower meadow, to be clear cut in September. These areas provide an attractive area of natural movement and colour.
- Pollinator friendly and biodiversity - two very good reasons to make a change.
- To support biodiversity
- It makes sense as we need to retain biodiversity in plants and insects rather than killing them off with chemicals and destroying their environment by manicuring their habitats.
- biodiversity, pollination, climate change, species extinction
- To help make more room for biodiversity and work to significantly reduce spraying with a chemical that is a known carcinogen and impacts pollinators hugely
- need to stimulate biodiversity, preserve water quality, provide essential food for pollinators, ensure that endocrine disrupters never enter the biome whether local or at greater scale, allow native plants to thrive and reproduce, build awareness among school children and their parents of importance of biodiversity and its positive contribution to the environment and human health and well being.
- Help support and regenerate biodiversity in Kildare
- Improved flora in an area leads to improved biodiversity, cleaner air, cleaner water and an overall better quality of life.

- Keep dangerous chemicals out of environment , leave more flowers for pollinators, nurture a better habitat for creatures.
- The use of pesticides and the damage it is doing to bees, insects, and the waterways is totally unacceptable. Despite the known harm it causes to humans and the environment, councils continue to use it.
- More environmentally friendly. Helps pollinators, protects biodiversity. Reduces production of co2.
- Biodiversity, public health, climate change
- The use of glyphosate should be severely restricted, if not completely eradicated and there should be wildflower areas for biodiversity.
- Good for nature and biodiversity
- Increased biodiversity. Health benefits. Better use of public funds. Could just do 2 cuts a year with conversion of these areas into meadow.
- We need our pollinators
- To increase the amount of wild flowers and grasses for insects, needed by birds. ie. for biodiversity. It provides cover for young birds and small mammals. Also the result of use of herbicide sprays looks terrible (see St Corbans cemetery)
- Chemicals can be toxic to insects, animals and humans. Important to encourage biodiversity and more natural habitats.
- All the above. We should be using this time to reevaluate the damage that we are doing to our environment. Plus , massive savings to be made financially
- Biodiversity and protection of the environment
- KCC should be leading by example. Using public money should be much more accountable - using more environmentally friendly methods of maintenance of large open public spaces. Petrol lawnmowers are seriously bad for the environment as is weed killer. Please consider using steam machines for clearing away around trees, bins, Main Street Naas. The vans collecting the rubbish & emptying bins should be electric as should the sweeping vans. Ye MUST move with the times. I would very much welcome a new school of thought in the grass cutting plan for Naas. The money that would be saved could perhaps pay for an appropriate sculpture for the town of Naas. Well done
- To encourage bees & pollinators
- For biodiversity/climate change reasons
- So that wildlife may continue to flourish!
- Biodiversity. Help the bees
- We shouldn't be waiting for "climate-change " to influence us. We should never have sprayed pesticides ! Well done on this endeavor
- Keep nature to the fore always
- We have a responsibility to leave a planet that's thriving with wildlife and biodiversity, not perfect lawns. Thanks for your efforts!
- Areas need to be kept clean and we'll maintained they are seen by lots people and we want a good impression of the community we live in to come across
- Biodiversity, actively promoting sustainable environmental practices
- There are lots of area where grass can grow freely eg motorway verges etc. I think there needs to be a balance where families can go somewhere for a walk or to kick a ball. Over grown areas will limit that. I think balance is required.
- It would be of benefit to wildlife & the environment
- In think it is important to encourage and support bees and insects and wildlife.
- Biodiversity.
- Biodiversity Climate change Nicer to look at
- grass is ok to be cut fewer times and strimming of weeds is more acceptable than weed killer, which damages all wild life and cats and dogs and humans
- Biodiversity, bees, insects

- Now more than ever its imperative we look after the plant and reduce the harm we are causing. We should make it as safe as possible for all species not just ourselves
- Biodiversity, I would ban all pesticides use in all public parks etc it does unfold damage to our bees, other insects .
- To contribute to biodiversity & alleviate climate disaster. To help lead the change in private estate green areas also.
- An effort to reduce impact on biodiversity, climate change & tax payer expense
- It looks nicer and is better for our planet
- Biodiversity
- The preservation of our biodiversity is absolutely key at this stage or our destruction of the planet. We need to be doing absolutely everything we can and I am so delighted to see theses moves being taken. My only negative point is that you are concentrating on so few areas. The use of pesticides needs to cease immediately
- No spraying of any kind is my preferred option grass cutting left to an absolute minimum note at the time of filling out this survey we are in lockdown no spraying no grass cutting pollinators are in their element proving some good comes from the worst of situations
- Please make our environment more bat friendly ceasing the use of pesticide. And give the bees a helping hand by not cutting the tops of the dandelions n leave the roadsides n green time for natural wild flowers grow.
- I would like to see local authorities take a leading role in the conservation of biodiversity
- We definitely need to protect our insect population. Our pollinators are under serious threat from pesticides, herbicides and over vigorous taming. Verges are so often hacked back when there is no traffic issues re vision.
- For Biodiversity. To slow the destruction of our wildlife, we should allow as much grass areas and hedges, as possible to grow wild.
- I feel that we all need to be aware of our actions impact on the planet I try to do my part delighted to see you are open to change.
- Absolutely no pesticides.
- Look at Germany. They do not cut road side verges but once or twice a year. Good for the environment and looks nice.
- Example reasons above and will bring back 'nature walk education' for next generation
- I am against the use of pesticides and the effects on the environment
- To improve biodiversity, promote and protect all wildlife, reduce all pesticides.
- I really value any attempts to support and encourage biodiversity. I think in areas where this is done already, it has paid dividends.
- As a member of Wild Kildare, I would strongly welcome any actions by KCC which would benefit biodiversity.
- We need to forget perfect manicured grass & go towards environmentally friendly thinking. Our insects will thank us!
- I'm very concerned about the effects of pesticides on wildlife and the people who come into contact with them. Killing specific things like dandelions has a huge knock on effect on a multitude of other creatures. Perfectly manicured grass is a kind of desert to wildlife. Natural lawns/verges etc. are beautiful and a haven for wildlife. They are a pleasure to observe .
- For biodiversity and climatechange
- Too many species declining due to habitat loss. We need to help pollinating insects by providing more flowers. Pesticides are harmful to humans as well as insects.
- 1. Protecting biodiversity is the most important action we all need to take. We are not separate from nature and human life depends on other species. 2. Wild spaces look better than strimmed and sprayed areas. 3. Pesticides and herbicides should never be sprayed in public spaces as they are harmful to human life

- Biodiversity, climate change and aesthetics. I find that most wildflowers are actually beautiful and in their presence more bees and butterflies can be seen.
- It will lead to more pollinators and a more 'natural' looking environment to enjoy.
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity and climate change
- to be honest, the proposed maintenance plan is the lesser of 2 evils. The biodiversity crisis requires a complete change of approach and should involve rewilding of areas that people don't attend. ie naas ball etc. this should be done with perennials. a permaculture approach should be taken for areas that people do attend, once again using perennials that provide a yield. permaculture methods of horticulture are not just preventative of habitat loss. they are restorative, feeding soil and life, providing a yield, retaining water, reduces resources and labour and financially, is absolutely free to incorporate.
- I am actually horrified that pesticides are being sprayed in public places. Please let's do all we can to protect biodiversity!!! Thanks for this great initiative!!
- Pesticides are a scourge and poison the earth, our water, flora and fauna, and our health. I can't see any reason to use it at all
- Our world needs help. We need a richer healthier environment and we need to understand how important biodiversity is for our survival. Thank you for doing this. Our lives depend on change & greater respect for Mother Nature.
- Biodiversity, climate change, look after the bees
- Better for the environment, pesticides are poisonous
- More biodiversity
- Biodiversity. Ecological impact. The use of pesticides is completely unnecessary yet harmful to the soil, to pollinators etc. Thank you for this initiative. Please include even more areas in this new plan as soon as possible and help the natural world in and around our cities and towns regenerate and thrive. (P.s. sorry for spelling mistakes)
- Long term sustainability and creating joined up areas for wildlife.
- Biodiversity
- Climate change, insect friendly, biodiversity
- Biodiversity.. climate change... natural beauty
- All of the above, but I am especially concerned about the use of pesticides. These are an obvious disaster for our wildlife, not to mention the environment. I think it is commendable that authorities are now thinking long term and how we can help our environment, wildlife, and present a more natural and more beautiful planet for ourselves and our children. Keep up the really great work :).
- Biodiversity, the use of pesticides is not good for the environment or human health.
- Biodiversity and environmental awareness are hugely important. I prefer a healthy environment over manicured garden space
- 1. To encourage pollinators, which are vital to a healthy ecosystem and the survival of humankind. 2. Diverse ecosystems also sequester carbon whereas the net effect of trimmed lawns is to release carbon. 3. Wild flowers and plants are prettier than trimmed lawns and hedges.
- Biodiversity, climate change
- Biodiversity Recreational use of space Carbon footprint Pollination planning
- The environment is in urge to be taken care of and if the initiative comes from the Council it will educate people in a faster speed and hopefully we can shift the culture in which individuals appreciate beauty and tidiness in places.
- Colour of plants, friendlier feeling. Nicer to walk through and around. Good for us and the planet. Children can learn the names for the weeds and flowers. The uses of dock leaves for example
- For biodiversity reasons and for the overall health of our beautiful country and us humans in it. Wild is beautiful and wild is better. Think of the bees
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity

- Bees are crucial to our eco system and we need to create a bee friendly environment which in doing so also creates a general more eco friendly environment which can only benefit all in the long term. Wild flowers, no pesticides and longer grass (less cutting) encourage more insects and pollinators to flourish which will also benefit our food supply chain and the environment.
- With a good maintenance plan you can still look after the environment. You can have designated environment areas. Cutting the grass only six times everywhere would look too unkempt
- More importance should be given to promoting biodiversity over tidyness outside the growing season - once the reason is signed people will become more educated and support the initiative. Many municipal areas in the world have banned glyphosate (<https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/where-is-glyphosate-banned/>) and Germany is banning it completely from 2023. KCC can take the lead on promoting biodiversity.
- Biodiversity
- It is great news that KCC are considering this move. It is so important for the welfare of all and as a parent I would be more likely to take my children for a walk through the Millennium Park where they can discover lots of colourful wild flowers and bees buzzing about. I don't go near the MP for a walk because it's so drab and boring.
- Biodiversity I do have some concerns though, verges need to be kept short on some roads. If the grass gets too long it can obscure vision of traffic at junctions. Junction from pikes harbour onto Maynooth to Celbridge road for example.
- I would like to see what the the impact of the plan will be on the receiving environment so we will have a comparison for further consideration. The current question regarding policy is somewhat undermined by the lack of understanding of the possible outcome.
- We must maintain our open spaces in a way that sustains biodiversity. We must do what is best for all the pollinators. Well done Kildare Co. Council.
- Preserving biodiversity and providing space for pollinators. I also dislike carefully manicured green areas from an aesthetic point of view. Should save to council money too!
- avoid pesticides at all costs harm the bees
- Biodiversity
- More natural and biodiversity/ insect friendlier
- Because it will help our environment in the future, pollinators will be kept alive.
- Better for the environment
- Like to see more wildflowers which provide nectar for honey bees and are visually appealing
- Times are changing. There is no place for herbicides in public and civic areas. Kilcullen town have allowed verges to grow over the season and manage them as meadows. They looked fantastic last year.
- All our native wildflowers and insects could do with a helping hand, and I feel people no longer want pesticides used in the environment where they walk and children play.
- It is important to allow wildlife to flourish rather than over cutting of grasses etc. These are not areas that are used for sports etc so there is no need for them to be cut constantly.
- The natural way respects our beautiful planet
- Biodiversity.
- I think more natural verges and parks look better, maintenance wastes resources and is bad for biodiversity, pollution and the environment in general
- Under the previous plan there is little consideration for wildlife habitats, pesticide use. I would worry for public health and air quality if there is less biodiversity and if we continue using pesticides.
- Biodiversity
- There is a distinct threat to irish biodiversity and manicured pavements/green space is not a priority of mine! We need to live in harmony with the existing biodiversity and attempt to minimise our negative impact.
- Biodevesity
- Environment responsibility and biodiversity
- For biodiversity, I don't think it's very important for the proposed locations to have short grass.

- Climate change and biodiversity
- Biodiversity and climate change. The bees need food and there's no need for public green spaces to be mowed that much
- We need to be more environmentally friendly. Let's call the "weeds " wild flowers and give nature a break.
- For biodiversity.
- More environmentally friendly. Should be extended to roadside grass maintenance as well. Council should support (formally) all ireland pollinator plan. Ban on glyphosate use also required & funding resources shifted to mechanical management of "weeds" on footpaths etc.
- The new plan is a lot more environmentally friendly, saves on fuel, less air pollution & benefits the flora & the insects that live there.
- Less pesticides better for the environment. Let plants and flowers grow freely as nature intended.
- Biodiversity & zero use of dangerous herbicides
- Bee population conservation
- Biodiversity, climate protection.
- Pesticides are harmful to pollinators and to biodiversity. If the grass is cut 16x in a year many socalled 'weeds' that are important to pollinators like dandelions and clover don't get to develop.
- Survival of all species
- Its better for the environment and our health
- Improve biodiversity, assist survival of bees, reduce unnecessary toxic pollutants, reduce negative environmental impacts, etc
- Biodiversity
- Its wonderful to see what can be achieved in Dublin parks with new biodiversity plan in place in parks in just few months. Why not in Kildare.
- Look at what Dublin achieved in their parks in few months with new biodiversity plan.
- Protection of demised habitats, protection of pollinators , decrease in use of Kildare County council known carcinogenic agents. To increase the health of the soil and our residents
- Less chemicals used and allows nature manage itself and provide pollinators to the insects
- Prefer the weeds gone. Look desperate.
- Increase biodiversity
- Biodiversity. Persticides kill flies bees hover flies dragonflies beetles and many other beautiful and much needed pollinators and soil creatures that make healtjy soil and produce a healthy environment. I want to see wild flowers all summer long on road sides .they are beautiful. I dont want to beathe in pestisides and I dont want children and babies breathing in pestisides into tiny developing lungs. Pestisides atrack the nervous systems of pollinators and there is evidence of tjem attacking human nervous system.
- Biodiversity, less pollution/waste from chemicals
- Biodiversity and climate change.
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity
- We need to address climate change immediately for the future of the planet and our children. Reducing chemicals, not using pesticides. Allow nature and biodiversity to flourish.
- Biodiversity, climate change, it's the right thing to do!
- Biodiversity
- If the bees die we're going with them ....
- Love to see wild flowers allowed to grow, no need for boring grass, very important for biodiversity, delighted you're taking these steps
- For the sakes of biodiversity, species and habitat protection. It would be great not to have to look at the horrible brown mess that Roundup leaves. Why would anyone even consider using Roundup these days anyway, with all we know about the horrible stuff? It should be banned.
- Biodiversity and health
- Climate change Fostering biodiversity Supporting schools to demonstrate to our children that adults care about climate etc

- Biodiversity & Climate Change
- It would really help pollinators such as bees and butterflies. More natural approach without use of chemicals which negativity affect whole ecosystem.
- Better for the environment and bees and wildlife. We need to protect what we have. Areas should be neat and tidy but not at the cost of the natural environment.
- We need pollinators to live, we have so much to learn and I must say looking at the yellow carpet of dandelions out there today they look great, we just need to think differently, thank you for this effort
- Biodiversity is key to our future. I also don't want pesticides sprayed where our children play & we walk.
- Biodiversity and climate change are essential. Setting a good example will inspire people to follow suit.
- For biodiversity also some of the wild flowers that grow look much better, there is a beautiful purple flower growing in the park around the royston area. Maybe when cutting, wild seeds should be dropped for indigenous wild flower to grow it will look good and help bees aswell.
- Biodiversity, protecting our pollinators.
- Animal / insect welfare
- Bees and pollinators are really important and need wild areas. Use if weedkillers are bad for the environment and get into the water supply which we eventually drink which is bad for us. Changing the way the parks are maintained will help everyone
- Biodiversity, pollinators and safety for children playing outside
- The environment and the people will benefit from the avoidance of pesticides. Thank you
- I believe that the pesticide being used by the council is not only harmful to the environment but also carcinogenic and there for harmful to people too. I find it horrifying that it is being sprayed in public parks 3 times over the summer and people are then walking around and letting children play there, giving them direct exposure to these chemicals without even knowing. I think it is essential that the council stops using pesticides immediately.
- Less chemicals, more biodiverse
- Greater biodiversity, reduced use of harmful chemicals, better for overall environment, redeployment of Council resources for increased biodiversity
- Greener and better environmental. It's time to change
- Biodiversity and environment. These areas will still look great without the weed killer
- Biodiversity
- Pesticides are very harmful for humans and even moreso for children and babies. I visited the playground in Newbridge with my toddler while pregnant and they came in to spray, I was so shocked and upset by it. It definitely needs to change. Thank you.
- Not only does it help the environment but it looks lovely. The amount of dandelions on the verges this year is wonderful. I dont know if it's because the council workers are not working at this time or that these new maintenance plans have already started. There is a lot of development in the area. Nature needs all the help it can get.
- To stop poisoning the land/people with Round-Up or any chemical weed control products. I think the grass should still be cut 16 but just strim weeds.
- Biodiversity is so important. We need to help our pollinators by not using pesticides.
- Natural
- Climate change
- Get rid of the use of pesticides
- Biodiversity, benefits to man and creature alike.
- We live in a changing world and need to support biodiversity projects for all flora and forna especially bees.
- Biodiversity, pollinators & wildlife are fair more important than neat lawns. Native wild fields look nicer and are more pleasant to walk in.
- Increase biodiversity in our parks with an increase in insects and native wildflowers. Provides a more interesting and visually stimulating environment to spend time in

- Reducing the use of pesticides is a great idea. In my opinion they are not needed on open areas that the public use. Also reducing the cutting of grass will be perfect for insects needing and using that area.
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity, good for the environment. Prefer the look of a more natural/less manicured environment.
- Continue your grass cutting rota. Reduce pesticide spraying to one spray a year and use pre emergence mixed with the glyphosphate to reduce the need to spray. Look at the areas you are spraying, many may not need weedkiller or strimming at all
- Better for wildlife and environment
- It makes sense
- We all have a responsibility to take better care of the planet. Seeing more flowers, insects, butterflies etc is good for the soul and good for the planet. Pesticides should definitely not be used. Thank you.
- I think the provision of wildlife corridors in the form of long grass & pollinator friendly areas is an important aspect of tackling the biodiversity crisis, and would allow us to reach the goals set out in the National Biodiversity Plan.
- It's important given the large areas the council are responsible for that we have environments that are as friendly as possible to wildlife and bees. The less pesticides we can use the better!
- Biodiversity, climate change, looks natural
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity and climate change .... it is so important that we made big changes now
- Climate change, biodiversity, major changes are needed to help the planet
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Benefits nature , environmentally friendly , less chemicals used therefore helping wildlife and bugs flourish.
- Pollinator decline is an indicator of wider biodiversity loss and threatens food insecurity. Urgent action is needed to provide habitats in which bees and other pollinators can survive and flourish.
- More natural, looks better. Current maintenance is unnecessary and waste of money
- I think area looks far nicer when left wild. The wild grasses and flower attract not only pollinators but birds and other wild life. If cutting needs to be done, it's nice to see a lawnmower width done around the edge. This shows that the long grass/wild flowers are deliberately left to grow. Therefore they're is no need for glossy sign to be put in place saying this. Signs are only litter in themselves. So yep, I'd be all in favour of as little cutting/maintenance as possible. We need to rewild our environment, particular in towns and urban settings.
- For biodiversity, for protection of the pollinators and for climate change reasons. The use of pesticides should be prohibited on national level.
- Biodiversity is essential, check out pics in Irish Times Thurs23rd of wilding area.
- To improve biodiversity
- Biodiversity. We are in a crisis and need to try reverse habitat loss. Long grass with flowers looks much nicer than sterile lawn. All open spaces should have to give at least 10% over to allow wildflowers etc to grow
- Biodiversity, Climate Change, Pollinators and natural beauty
- Less fuel needed, less labour, less human/mechanical intrusion on green areas means nature has more habitats. Leave some areas completely untouched.
- Biodiversity is vital now to help in the fight against climate change
- I think it is very important for climate change and not to use pesticides.
- Environmental friendly
- NO IDEA WHAT MAINTENANCE PLAN IS WHAT IS IT OBVIOUSLY EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO BECOME ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND FOR OUR CITIZENS AND THEREFORE OTHERS LOCALLY AND WORLDWIDE TO VIEW LIVING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY A MUST!
- Our biodiversity is hugely important to sustain life on this planet. It is disappear rapidly. So KCC should use only environmentally friendly approach. The use of herbicides like glyphosate should be banned

outright as it is likely carcinogenic. An environmentally friendly approach by an Environment department is a no brainer. Thanks for this opportunity to participate in this consultation.

- Biodiversity and its loss
- Biodiversity, more natural appearance. Too many areas have been 'manicured' to a point where it lacks natural wildlife and looks plastic!
- I believe that we have to take action now to heal our planet and allow wildlife and nature to recover.
- I think it's necessary to keep some order in green areas otherwise it can begin to look a mess but I am very much in favour of strimming instead of pesticides. Luckily our area (Kildare/ Newbridge) has plenty of open spaces/ fields etc. for bees and pollinators but I'm in favour of trying out the new option and see if it's a better way of maintaining our county.
- I have become far more conscious of the environment and the importance of biodiversity in recent years (I have even come to love dandelions which would have been unthinkable even two years ago). We need to make sure our pollinators are well fed and well looked after. Uncut my own lawn regularly but leave big sections of it long, this method gives me the best of both worlds and our "wildflower islands" have become a source of great enjoyment and interest.
- There has been an alarming intensification of farming in the last decade. Plots of scrub or marshy fields that were never farmed are now been cleared and drained. This week, I've seen a farmer digging up land (which is a flood plain) beside the Barrow to provide maybe an extra half acre. The fields around my house in Athy are fairly barren for wildlife. Hedges hacked and verges sprayed. Household, businesses and local authorities seem to have become obsessed with excessive tidiness in gardens, streets and parks. Herbicides and pesticides are needlessly used. All of these things mean that there are fewer and fewer places for wildlife to live. It is very welcome that Kildare County are proposing to change their maintenance programme. The reasons for choosing the proposed maintenance plan are as follows: Biodiversity: Reduced mowing and use of herbicides allows plants to flower. If our public spaces are a little wilder, it'll provide a much needed habitat (an oasis) for wildlife to live in. The Barrow towpath between Athy and Carlow is a good example of a place where herbicides are not used. There is such a large variety of species of plants and animals. The hedges on the centre median between the Bundle of Sticks Roundabout and Toughers, are an excellent example of what hedges should look like. Tall and dense enough to allow nesting. The proposed maintenance plan will also normalise a less intensive approach to landscaping. Climate change: Less cutting will allow plants to store more carbon. We don't know what future weather extremes Global Warming will bring. Landscaping will play its part in water retention and providing shade. We've seen an increase in flooding in the last number of years. Thicker ground cover slows the flow of water across the landscape reducing intensity of floods. Please see the work of 'slowtheflow.net'. Recreation: The Liffey Park in Newbridge provides an excellent example of what can be achieved. A mixture of Wildflower areas, trees, paths, short grass and exercise equipment. It's proven that interaction with nature is good for mental health. The Covid-19 crisis has shown the importance of having recreational spaces available. Perhaps a less intensive approach to maintenance could allow the council time and resources to tackle invasive species around the County. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed are spreading in numerous places in the county. Early intervention is key to tackling invasive species. It saves money in the long run. Thank you.
- Because its better for the environment and our pollinators are safe
- Better for the environment and biodiversity
- Town areas look much more appealing when manicured
- We need to respect the environment. Time running out! JUST DO IT DESPITE SURVEYS ETC BECAUSE ITS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. THANK YOU.
- We need insects esp bees to pollinate everything Pesticides kill insects We need to eat food so really killing the hand that feeds us ,ie the insects , will fast track out own demise
- More environmentally friendly. Benefits all of wildlife.
- Support more wildlife, Without bees and all polinators we will not survive.
- For the good of the wildlife and landscape of the district
- The reduced use of pesticides

- Shouldnt use pesticides on weeds. Often see where it is sprayed on one weed, kills a big patch/area. Could leave strios or small areas uncut altogether, develope meadow grass and flowers.
- Biodiversity and climate change
- For our future and the futures of our planet we need to encourage pollintors and wildflowers back. It's important for our physical health. It's so much nicer to see the colour of wildflowers and hear the sounds of nature than to see an area that looks like a manacured golf course. I'm delighted that Kildare is changing its maintainence plan.
- Biodiversity Climate Change We really need to be managing our spaces in a more environmentally friendly way
- Biodiversity.Would like to hear more about how we as individuals can increase biodiversity in our immediate area.Collectively we can have a bigger impact .
- The wild wild native flowers we allow to settle and grow the more food the bees, butterflies and others will have. It is also a much more attractive sight then plain grass.
- Environment climate change and increase pollinators population
- Climate change, recreation
- I would prefer to see an increase in biodiversity over a well manicured lawn. In open green areas like parks it would be enough for a few paths cut with a few small openings dotted around for families and small groups to sit.
- Biodiversity
- No more chemicals, is unnecessary for the plants and the planet, please stop poisoning the nature and help the bees pollinate, you can make a difference
- Climate change, biodiversity
- Wasting fuel on lawn mowing, putting chemicals into our land, removing wildflowers by frequent mowing , and all by choice ! Please stop this madness.
- Biodiversity - it is lovely to see all the different wild plants, flowers and insects as the seasons change.
- Pesticides are killing other insects as well as bees, bees been the important one, there is a decrease in their numbers and we really need to make some serious changes ASAP!
- It's more environmentally friendly:climate change,etc
- I see myself as an advocate for the more environmentally friendly options for my community... I would also like to see more bee hotels around.
- We need to provide areas for pollinators. Wild flower meadows should be sown too
- Biodiversity, climate change, it would look far better and be more wildlife friendly!
- Biodiversity
- Save the bees
- For a better environment better in tune with nature. To support bees a MGM d other pollinators. For children to learn about more sustainable ways of managing green spaces. Less chemicals used when there are alternatives. Weeds are only weeds as long as people don't know there uses. There part of the biosphere, too.
- For climate change to get some for real fresh air ,but in this we have to be all of us, not only few government implement figures
- I'd like to see KCC take a more natural approach to green space maintenance and encourage meadow type areas
- Biodiversity
- Encourage greater biodiversity
- Nurturing our nature
- It is my feeling that our perception as a society of what constitutes a weed and acceptable environmentally friendly maintenance standards have to change completely. I consider the approach of the local authority to be correct in this instance and am really looking forward to seeing the results. We are all on this Island together and we should strive to keep our local environment healthy for us and the nature in it. A very good first step from Kildare County Council.
- Biodiversity

- Bee friendly
- We need to increase biodiversity and i think cutting grasses that are not used for sport and killing weeds is a waste of money. I also think yellow patches of killed weeds are an eye sore. Can tree and hedge pruning be done with biodiversity in mind.
- We need to increase biodiversity and i think cutting grasses that are not used for sport and killing weeds is a waste of money. I also think yellow patches of killed weeds are an eye sore. Can tree and hedge pruning be done with biodiversity in mind.
- Biodiversity Bringing nature back into our living spaces
- Biodiversity Climate change
- More ecofriendly
- For biodiversity. Wildlife and climate change
- For biodiversity and sustainability
- To allow bees more opportunities for pollination. There is increasing awareness of the importance of this. The council could lead by example in this regard.
- Less pesticides
- The earth is more important than the vanity of humans
- Climate change, biodiversity
- Climate change, decline in bee numbers.
- Biodiversity, health and safety of humans, pets, and all animals. My cat badly burnt on tummy by pesticides. Also sprayed and randomly burnt areas are not anyway attractive
- For biodiversity but, please look at ways try to pedestrianise on the environs where possible as uncut greenery draws the required pollinators but unfortunately they are wiped out in high numbers by high volume traffic near green amenities
- Protection and promotion of biodiversity. Reduce use of chemicals and pesticides in public areas m
- Biodiversity - I think green areas are much more interesting when left to run a bit wild.
- The use of pesticides is not sustainable and it actualtmy damaging to local wildlife! Meadows need to have wildflowers not just over grown grass. Another idea would be to have areas where the public could seed bomb with pollinator friendly flowers.
- With the grass cut more often the area looks better, people are less likely to litter and more likely to clean up after there dogs, I would like the grass cut as often but strim the weeds too instead of using weed killer
- Reduction in the use of chemical pesticides in the natural environment would encourage biodiversity and a return to a more natural state. Maintenance rather than control over the environment.
- Biodiversity
- Better for the environment, reduced toxic spraying on our land.
- For biodiversity regeneration, resilient natural habitats, to make places mor interesting for children to play in. It should be considered if a meadow should be cut 6 times still as it may be more beautiful and appealing as an even higher grown meadow.
- I'd prefer less use of pesticides. Both for climate change and biodiversity. Children are learning all about biodiversity in school .It would help if they saw a more community based approach.
- Need to cut down on spraying. Last year KCC contracted someone to spray weedkiller along a stretch of road near me and the result was the total destruction of hedgerow, fruit trees, several wildlife habitats along a 3 + kilometre stretch of local beauty spot. That's on a local level but apart from that spraying poisonous chemicals is never a good idea. Management of habitats needs care, dedication, training, etc.
- For climate change & also less chemicals used near where children play.
- Global climate change is a pressing problem as seen by the current pandemic. Councils need to lead the way in environmentally friendly practices.
- It's vital that we make immediate moves to address climate change and encourage biodiversity.
- Being a member of allenwood tidy towns inhave a keen interest in biodiversity. I am especially concerned for our wildlife and especially our insects and bees. Anything to help is a bonus!
- Climate change and biodiversity
- Biodiversity is the most important thing. I want a resurgence of insect populations

- Less use of chemicals on land, biodiversity of species, more pleasing and natural aesthetics.
- Biodiversity and the support of pollinators
- We need to encourage biodiversity
- Increase biodiversity in urban area .
- Biodiversity is far more important than some individuals idea of a 'look'
- Biodiversity Climate change and sustainability
- Biodiversity, natural beauty normalised, and climate change
- No pesticides
- Biodiversity in a location that has been dominated by many new builds in the past couple of decades.
- Biodiversity & climate change.
- I highly disagree with the use of spraying in green areas due to the damage it causes to the environment and the danger for children playing in those green areas. Making these spaces more biodiversity friendly should also be a priority
- For biodiversity and to stop spraying in green areas where children play. It's bad for the environment also
- I think it is important to assist the bees.
- Less sprays would be good
- Increasing biodiversity to support pollinators and other wildlife is essential given the current environmental situation.
- for biodiversity present maintenance plan has no regard for all the wildlife living on grass verges and in the hedgerows they always seem to be cut at wrong time and too severely and even when there is no reason whatsoever for some of the hedges to be trimmed at all but just to keep contractors in business
- For the benefit of the planet.
- Biodiversity. Wildness looks beautiful, manicured lawns looks unappealing
- biodiversity, health and wellbeing of all, jobs created.
- To increase our bio Diversity and maintain out wildlife levels
- Biodiversity, conservation, education, climate action
- Biodiversity and climate action
- Biodiversity
- Encourage bio diversity, set a good example. Be creative about it!
- Biodiversity, promotion of development of wild flowers so that other insects can flourish. Less emissions/time wasted on cutting grass/verges Allow motorway verges to be wild also
- Looking after Hopkins Garden on Main Street Monasterevin ... grass weeds and nettles currently cut every 3 weeks. No pesticide used.
- It would surely be better for the birds, bees and all the crawly insects if their homes were disturbed as little as possible
- Well managed public spaces look beautiful. People who like more biodiversity, can achieve that in their own gardens. Poorly manicured public spaces do not help the recreational facilities, only give the impression of neglect and invite littering and loitering. As a society, I do not think we are ready to appreciate wild overgrown recreation biodiversity.
- Biodiversity must be addressed asap
- Climate change, and more environmental friendly
- Reduce use of pesticides which are potentially harmful to humans. Promote Biodiversity. Tackle Climate crisis
- For the bees and biodiversity.
- The use of chemical weedkiller is detrimental to the soil and to insect and bird life. In my estate Rathcurragh in Newbridge the area around the trees is sprayed with the result that nothing grows in a wide circle around the trees and is an eyesore as well as being totally unnecessary. I have spoken to the residents association about this but I think more people need to speak up. Less frequent cutting gives a chance for some wildflowers dandelions etc to flower. This is necessary for bees and other insects to thrive. The world is already under threat from the decline of the bee population and it is time this was addressed.

- I'm a young person and I believe small steps like this could make a good positive impact on our future.
- Cutting the grass less will increase wildflower growth and hopefully help the bee population
- not using pesticides
- Grass needs to be kept well. Long grass hides litter and is unsightly. No need to use the pesticides.
- Proposed plan is better for biodiversity
- For biodiversity, for health, for beauty (tidy isn't always best, for people and for kids. I would also recommend extensive tree planting form part of your new programme. Every estate in maynooth has green spaces which are barren of life with just mowed grass.
- Biodiversity
- Environmental concern. Please also refrain from mowing the wildlife spaces at Lakelands. Disappointing to see weed killer spraying notices up at Pipershill college recently also and close to adjacent stream. It would hurt no one for this space to be left fallow for the summer months while schools are closed. Any proposals would be beneficial if other amenities not under KCC control were brought on board so that the town had a unified approach
- A more biodiversity-friendly maintenance programme in prominent public green spaces will hopefully encourage the introduction of this approach in other green spaces (eg residential estates etc).
- Biodiversity is essential and should be encouraged
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity
- Would love to see more areas managed for wildlife, including planting of native wild flowers. Please avoid use of toxic sprays. What about creating a few insect hotels wirh community involvement to encourage families to understand and take an interest in local biodiversity.
- To increase biodiversity and stop the needless use of hazardous and toxic chemicals.
- Prefer not to use chemicals on open spaces where children play. Community should be notified when spraying takes place so they can choose to avoid areas.
- Use of pesticides
- I am a beekeeper and spraying is harmful for bees and humans. It decreases biodiversity.
- As much as I like things looking neat I am well aware of the importance of pollinating and welcoming wildlife. I also see much less insects around to look at for my children compared to when I was growing up so I am on board of the proposed maintenance plan.
- The proposed plans are projects the County Council need to start looking at to reduce carbon emissions and help biodiversity. Would be great also if some areas could be planted with Native Irish Flowers too.
- We are in a biodiversity crisis, and the use of glyphosphate is rampant in this country, and entirely unnecessary. How is a burnt yellow circle around the base of a tree preferable to weeds? It's high time Kildare coco embraced a more environmentally friendly mowing regime, in keeping with the pollinator plan. While older people may prefer bowling greens, they won't have to live in a world struggling through ecosystem collapse. We need to seriously examine our priorities, neatness versus life. The way forward is clear.
- Biodiversity and recreational activities for families.
- Better for environment
- The proposed plan is a scientifically sound plan taking into account the all Ireland pollinator plan and the biodiversity and climate change crisis we are living through. It will benefit pollinators and I am fully in favour of this.
- Biodiversity
- I have young children and discovering biodiversity including variety of insects, plants, birds etc. is much more important to their enjoyment of the parks and green spaces than any manicured look. Thanks.
- Looks better
- Looks more pleasant. Cut out use of chemicals. Promote pollinators.
- Biodiversity is important
- Biodiversity

- My kids (3 and 5 yo) regularly visit the Pound Park as we live directly beside it (Leinster Cottages), picking up stones and rocks by the river. Learning that this area is sprayed with pesticides makes me extremely concerned. I struggle to fathom what the motivation for spraying would be in the first place. I'd also be concerned about the run-off into the Lyreen river and the effect on aquatic life, assuming the pesticide in use is Roundup (Glyphosate). Please adopt the proposed maintenance plan and phase out any routine use of pesticides in terms of green area maintenance.
- Do biodiversity
- Biodiversity and climate change impacts.
- biodiversity
- Less use of chemicals is a good thing
- We need more areas to support a more diverse ecosystem.
- To encourage biodiversity and stopping the use of potentially harmful chemicals.
- For biodiversity, climate change, bees, birds, for better future, to lead by example.
- Biodiversity, reduced spraying, more natural spaces to enjoy
- To promote biodiversity because it's directly linked to human and planetary health.
- All these spaces can tribute more to encouraging biodiversity. Good first step.
- Pesticides are proven to be very dangerous for all living beings including insects and it's about time we stopped using them.
- Plants and animals should be in balance to avoid certain plants / animals getting distinct, but also to prevent other animals getting too abundant

Number of responses: 463