

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the term used to describe biological diversity – in other words, the full range of natural variety that occurs in living organisms around us. This includes plants, animals, birds, fungi, bacteria, insects, invertebrates, viruses etc. It also refers to the range of different habitat types and ecosystems on the planet and how they interact and are interdependent on one another.

VISION STATEMENT

We want South Dublin County to be an attractive place in which people wish to live, work and invest. Towards achieving this vision, our aim is to create a safe network for nature and biodiversity through the County (a 'Green Infrastructure'), that will provide a healthy, functioning, and a connective link for both people and wildlife between our parks, open spaces, rivers and streams, hedgerows, gardens, and other areas of biodiversity, geological and recreational importance.

HOW WILL THIS BE ACHIEVED?

Following the consultation period, a County Biodiversity Forum will be established which will engage with and assist the Council, through its County Heritage Officer, in the preparation and implementation of the Plan.

The South Dublin County Biodiversity Action Plan will be a six-year programme, comprising a list of agreed achievable targets and actions which will be undertaken to achieve broad aims and objectives for biodiversity in the County.

It will work to inform the Council's decision-making process with regard to the role and importance of natural heritage and biodiversity in strategic plans such as the County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, the County Heritage Plan, and climate change adaptation strategies. In this way, policies for biodiversity protection and enhancement can be integrated across all levels, as recommended in the Country's second National Biodiversity Plan (2011).

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Through this consultation process, it is expected that the full range of issues affecting biodiversity in the County can be identified and that practical and achievable options to address them can be prioritised.

You are invited to forward your ideas and suggestions to us by 13th May 2016. In forming your submission, the following questions may be of use:

- What are the main biodiversity features in the County that you consider essential to protect and enhance?
- What issues or conflicts do you see that impact on flora and fauna in the County?
- What information sources, facilities, services, or supports or would you like to see developed as part of the County Biodiversity Plan?
- Would you like to contribute any biodiversity records or related information that might be useful in the preparation process for the Plan?
- Are you or your organisation involved in any biodiversity projects? If so, we would be pleased to hear about them.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Submissions on this process can be made in any of the following ways:

through SDCC's on-line Public Consultation Portal at
<http://consult.sdblincoco.ie>

by email to
heritage@sdblincoco.ie

or by post to

The Heritage Officer, Land Use Planning and Transportation Department, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Closing date for submissions is 4pm, 13th May 2016.

Comhairle Contae
Atha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

A Biodiversity Plan for South Dublin County

Consultation Brochure



WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT?

BIODIVERSITY

FOOD:
wide varieties of fruit and vegetable crops, marine and inland fisheries

RAW MATERIALS:
timber, latex and gums, natural fabrics, cotton, silk, wools, paper, wood fuels

MEDICINES:
natural medicines such as digitoxin, aspirin, antibiotics

NATURAL PROCESSES:
air and water cleansing, flood protection, nutrient recycling, pollination, climate regulation, carbon storage, safeguarding against soil erosion

TOURISM AND RECREATION:
natural landscapes and habitats attract tourists and visitors, promoting employment and economic growth

WELL-BEING AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH:
engaging with the natural world contributes significantly to our psychological health and well-being

We need to protect habitats and species not just for their sake but for our own sake