



Kinvara Village Pesticide Free Policy Goal and Policy

With 30% of Ireland's bee species now endangered, as well as insect decline across the board, it is a priority for our village to start looking at ways to address the biodiversity of our landscape both land and sea. We intend to cultivate and conserve biodiversity through how we manage our meadows/grass lands, the planting of native trees and in the planting of pollinator shrubs and flowers. Kinvara Tidy Towns has been signed up to the pollinator plan since 2019. A major goal for us in 2025 is making progress towards becoming a fully pesticide free village. This is an objective in our five-year biodiversity plan (2025 – 2030). Pesticides, in particular glyphosate (e.g. Roundup), are also receiving increasing evidence against them that they are carcinogenic, endangering human health as well as pets and wildlife. Stopping the use of pesticides protects biodiversity, ensuring our unique habitats and ecosystems can continue to support the delicate balance of flora and fauna within our village at the foothills of the Burren.

Our ask for all our schools, clubs, businesses, residents, community centre and parish church grounds is to sign up to our pesticide free policy.

Principles

- Prioritise non-pesticide methods of weed and pest control.
- Eliminate use of glyphosate on hard surfaces due to excess run-off.
- Target priority areas, and leave designated areas untreated, highlighting the positives for biodiversity in doing so.
- Increase general public's acceptance of weeds - more weeds mean more pollinators.
- Communicate with all stakeholder community groups to make sure they are on board.

Alternatives to pesticide use

In 2024, the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan released a survey titled 'Pesticide Alternatives' which identified methods used across Ireland by community groups. The most common alternatives were: Hot foam application, Steam application, Burning, Manual control, and Organic sprays. Manual control was by far the most successful, with many techniques put into action including hand weeding, mechanical brusher, strimming, hoeing, and mulching. Each method is different and will be affected by time constraints, budget, and targeted species.

Supports

Kinvara Tidy Towns have the expertise and resources now to support our community with tips on weeding, weeding prevention (weedex machine) and the loan of tools from our community tool library (special edge tools). We have communicated and worked with a number of groups, schools and three of our resident associations on a plan to help them manage their weeds and become pesticide free. We are confident we can help all groups across our community. Importantly to highlight too, that managing meadows and not spraying can save money too, so there are many benefits.

Call to action

- 1) Sign up. Showing leadership within and beyond our village.
- 2) Kinvara Tidy Towns believe our values and commitment to the environment, youth and community align with village stakeholders and that we can make a difference to protecting the biodiversity in our beautiful village. Particularly in a village where some of the top Burren flower species are found, how lucky we are.
- 3) We are also a village that is located within a Special Protected Area under the EU bird directive and Special Area of Conservation because of the location of Kinvara bay within the Galway Bay Complex.
- 4) Let us look after the beautiful village at the foothills of the Burren together 😊.

Published April 2025.