

WESTMEATH BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2024-2030 – HAVE YOUR SAY!

A new Biodiversity Action Plan is being prepared for Westmeath in partnership with the Heritage Council. The Plan will set out Westmeath County Council's statement of intent in relation to the natural heritage and biodiversity of the County. It will include a number of actions to ensure effective conservation of our natural heritage and raising awareness of biodiversity in partnership with local communities over the next six years.

The Council invite you to get involved and help shape the content of the Westmeath Biodiversity Action Plan. We want to hear your views on what aspects of biodiversity you want to see celebrated and conserved in the plan and what issues are important to you.

To stimulate interest and encourage public participation at this stage in the plan process, an Issues Paper has been prepared which sets out the key biodiversity issues relating to Westmeath. It is intended that the Issues Paper will encourage discussion and involvement from the public in the preparation of the Westmeath Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Issues Paper is available for inspection at the following location:

Online at: <https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie/en>

Submissions or observations with respect to the Issues Papers or content of the Biodiversity Action Plan may be made no later than **5.00pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024** and must include the full name and address of the person(s) making the submission or observation and where relevant, the body or organisation represented.

Submissions or observations should be in **ONE** medium only i.e. online or hard copy and made as follows:-

- **Online at:** <https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie/>
- **Or In writing to:** Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Westmeath County Council, Civic Offices, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91 FH4N.

Public information sessions on the preparation of the Westmeath Biodiversity Action Plan are scheduled as follows:

- Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone, Co. Westmeath – Tuesday 19 March 2024, 3pm-7pm.
- Moate Library, Moate Courthouse, Main Street, Moate, Co. Westmeath – Thursday 28 March 2024, 3pm-7pm.
- Mullingar Library, Áras an Chontae, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath – Tuesday 9 April 2024, 3pm-7pm.
- Castlepollard Library, Mullingar Road, Castlepollard Co. Westmeath – Thursday 11 April 2024, 3pm-7pm.

All observations or submissions received in relation to the Issues Paper will be taken into consideration in the making of the Draft Westmeath Biodiversity Plan.

This is your opportunity to have a say in the future of biodiversity in Westmeath.

We look forward to hearing from you.