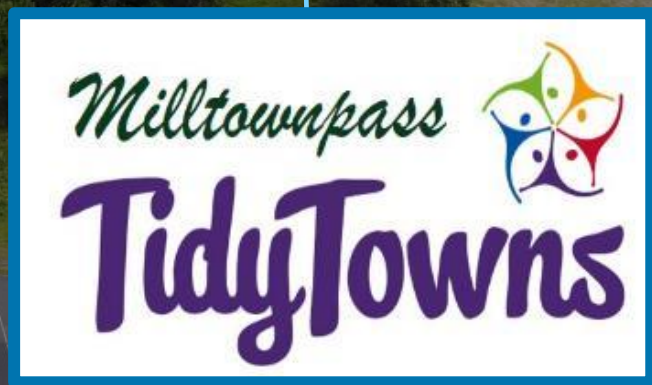
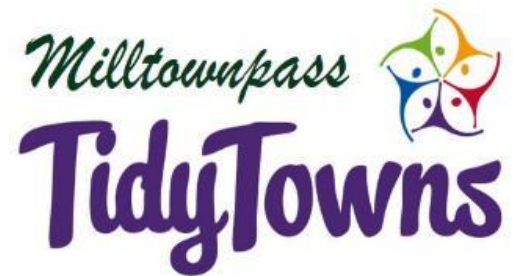


# MILLTOWNPASS

Westmeath



# MILLTOWNPASS TIDYTOWNS



Challenges, Successes &  
Practical Lessons



Ronan Lynskey  
Treasurer





# WHO WE ARE



Small rural village (~300 people)

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Volunteer-led committee (11 members)

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TidyTowns, Biodiversity & Sustainability

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A work in progress – learning as we go



# Getting involved in TidyTowns

Long History in the TidyTowns  
Competition back to 1990's

Group resurgence post COVID with new  
committee members joining





## Key Challenges We Face

Small Volunteer  
Base

Avoiding burnout  
of “the same few  
people”

Turning good  
ideas into  
deliverable  
projects

Administration,  
paperwork &  
funding  
applications

Balancing  
ambition with  
capacity

*Progress is rarely linear — and that’s normal.*



## What Has Worked Well

Focusing on fewer,  
stronger projects

Playing to our  
village's natural  
strengths

Gradually  
widening  
community  
involvement

Using judges  
feedback  
year-on-year

Making progress  
visible to locals

*Small, well-delivered projects built confidence, momentum, and community buy-in*

An aerial photograph showing a residential and commercial development. A central road runs vertically through the middle. To the left of the road, there are several residential houses and a large green field. To the right, there are commercial buildings, including one with a blue roof, and a large parking lot. The background features rolling green hills and a body of water.

# RECENT FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

# TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL PROJECT

Project Value to Village

€112k

Grant Awarded

An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

€101k

Match Funding

Milltownpass  
Tidy Towns

€5.6k

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMAIRLE CHONTAR DA B-EATHRACH

€5.6k

1

## Greenspace Development



2

## Streetscape Enhancements



3

## Village Entrance Signage & Flower Beds



# CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT



An Roinn Aeráide,  
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil  
Department of Climate,  
Energy and the Environment



**Launching Soon**  
**Community Climate Action Fund**

Building **Low Carbon Communities** in Westmeath

Funding will be made available to local community groups to support local projects which help:

- ✓ Reduce Greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Increase climate resilience
- ✓ Assist transition to a low carbon economy

Funding available for **Small, Medium and Large Projects**

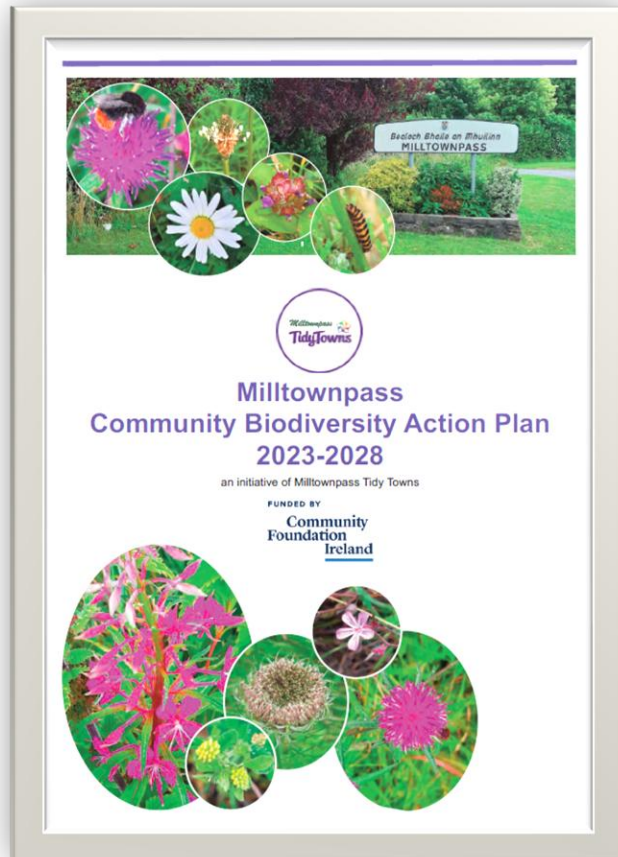
EMAIL: [climate-projects@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:climate-projects@westmeathcoco.ie) to register your interest



# Biodiversity Action Funding



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



### Welcome to our Village Insect Hotel:

- This insect hotel offers shelter and nesting spots for a variety of beneficial insects.
- These small creatures play a huge role in protecting biodiversity, supporting natural pest control, and keeping plants pollinated.
- By creating habitats like this, we can reverse the loss of pollinators in our—and your!—gardens and farms.

- Bumblebees**  
Great pollinators for wildflowers and crops, they are in small numbers and need safe, undisturbed places to live.
- Beetles**  
Many are essential ground-dwelling garden pests like worms and slugs, helping to keep our soil healthy.
- Ladybirds**  
Useful as natural predators of aphids and other garden pest insects.
- Solitary Bees**  
Over 200 of Ireland's bee species are solitary bees, including mason bees and leafcutter bees. These bees can't make honey or live in hives, but they are essential pollinators and our mason bees can do the job better than any other bee.

**Solitary Bees**  
Over 200 of Ireland's bee species are solitary bees, including mason bees and leafcutter bees. These bees can't make honey or live in hives, but they are essential pollinators and our mason bees can do the job better than any other bee.

They lay their eggs in holes in wood or mud, just like the bumble and bumble bees in this hotel!

Milltownpass Tidy Towns logo



HOSTING THE  
BOG BOTHY



**IAF**

**12TH FIELD**

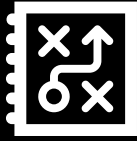


Bog Bothy workshop at Girley Bog, Co. Meath, 2025. Photo by Ste Murray.

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and a bright green safety vest, is focused on painting a large butterfly on a wall. She is using a paintbrush to apply yellow paint to the wing of the butterfly. The butterfly is painted in vibrant colors: purple for the body and wings, yellow for the tips, and a large orange and yellow section. The background wall is white, and there are other painted shapes in purple, blue, and green. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting.

# SUPPORTS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

We couldn't do this alone!



## Large number of partners who have supported us....

Public  
Participation  
Network (PPN)

Westmeath  
County Council  
Supports

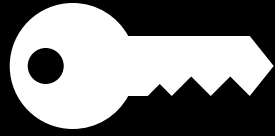
School, artists &  
local groups

National Parks &  
Wildlife Service

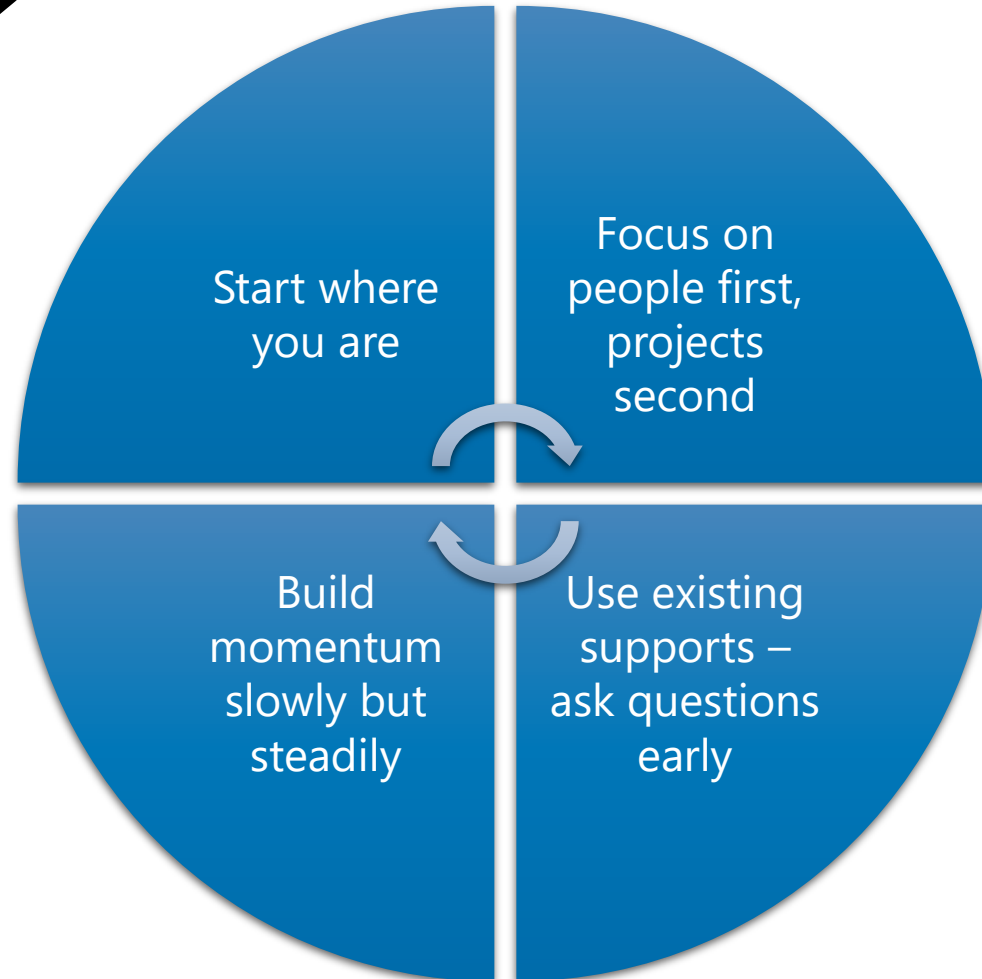
Grant schemes &  
judging feedback

Advice from  
other TidyTowns  
groups

*Partnerships have multiplied our impact*



# KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS





## LETS STAY CONNECTED

Happy to share & learn from others




**Milltownpass, Co. Westmeath**



**[milltownpasstidytowns@gmail.com](mailto:milltownpasstidytowns@gmail.com)**



**[https://www.facebook.com/  
MilltownpassTidyTowns](https://www.facebook.com/MilltownpassTidyTowns)**

*Milltownpass*   
**Tidy Towns**

**Q&A**



**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION**