

Appendix 3 - Co Wicklow PPN Survey for the County Tree Management Strategy

Responses received to Question:

If you wish to share any personal experiences good or bad on this topic please do so below

- 1 A couple of years ago, mature beeches along Quinsborough Road in Bray were heavily pruned during the nesting season. Mature deciduous trees are glorious and they really improve landscapes and air quality, more, more, more please!
- 2 Beautiful Oak tree felled by Kildare CoCo outside my house 15 years ago with no consultation and following complaint from just one resident about possibility of tree climbing children overlooking their garden - ridiculous situation!
- 3 I have been involved with tree and hedgerow preservation for many years. I have challenged council on many occasions regarding tree removal with inadequate response(Kilbride lane, Bray)
Regarding building at Kilbride lane Oct 2019; i noticed root damage to one of a group of TPO trees during pipe laying. Following a conversation with a very obliging project manager and a call to Bray County engineer, the trees were protected and no harm done.
Kilbride Hill House. Sold in 2016. Potential loss if 400 mature trees. House to house survey carried out by myself and neighbors, 75 submissions to council. Plan amended and went to An Bord Pleanala. No TPO on any of these trees! Site for sale once again.
We are currently preparing submissions regarding lands at St Valery bridge owned by Johnny Ronan who wants to develop. This area has extensive TPO.
- 4 Walking through some of our forests the clear difference to native and rapid growth evergreen is amazing, In the first theres a wide variety of life, in the 2nd its all dead under the tree cover, no butterflies, no blueberry bushes - its crazy really
- 5 1) replacing mature trees with saplings is not a adequate substitute, in terms of shade, biodiversity and aesthetic appeal. 2) Aggressive pollarding is almost as bad as removing mature trees
- 6 Large Copper Beech felled in Annamoe - no replacement
- 7 I notice that a lot of trees along the roadsides in the Manor Kilbride area are dying or dead, possibly from drought. Also many silver birch in Ballyward forest seem to have disease.
- 8 Very happy to see areas around Greystones being rewilded. Community spirit is really growing around these projects.

Kindlestown Wood is out closest natural area and it is very uninviting atche moment as many trees have been cut down by Coilte. Also now an eyesore from many popular tourist spots in Greystones.
- 9 Thanks for running this!
- 10 I have been disgusted by the amount of hedge cutting and tree felling witnessed since the end of March, with no action taken against those undertaking the work. I was appalled to see the cutting down of a whole line of mature trees bordering a roadway, obviously in preparation for a planning application which was submitted after the trees had been removed. Applicants should be penalised for such actions. I have previously tried to report out of season hedge trimming to Gardai in Co Wicklow, who have laughed at me. A special education campaign should be implemented with the gardai.
- 11 There has been some indiscriminate lots of tree cover due to pruning in urban areas. There was a two year long citizen campaign in Sheffield which was a success, because the council there wanted to cut down 1700 trees. That kind of lots is serious fruit biodiversity and population wellbeing, and this tree cutting is often justified By councils on health and safety grounds. Fighting in favour of preserving habitats is very constructive.
- 12 I remember spending an evening in a French village where the locals proudly explained how each village had its own plot of woodland that was used to fund local amenities and services.
- 13 Land owners allowed to have overgrown hedges/trees encroaching on public footpath endangering the public and traffic users ie walker being hit by car wing mirror large trucks hitting off branches with so many people walking footpath accident waiting to happen.
- 14 200 yr old tree was felled in my estate as the roots were causing some issues with a seldom used path across a green area...
Path could have been removed or redirected as was not a necessity...
I've noticed in cities in other countries, paths are often curved around a very old tree to preserve the tree .. it can be done!
- 15 There is a growing demand (no pun intended) for designated allotments in the Blessington. Many would like to see this actioned as promptly as possible
- 16 I spent three years in Kerry running a volunteer group collecting data on alien invasive species along 2000km of roads and over 300km of rivers. We covered 9 plant species on rivers and lakes and I have first hand knowledge of the very serious damage they are doing to biodiversity particularly on rivers where the spread can be very fast. Our natural heritage has for far too long been either forgotten or ignored and the longer we continue like this the more difficult and expensive it becomes to remedy the damage done. Getting funding to do this type of work was rarely worth the effort.
- 17 In the matter of Planning permission, especially Wicklow Hills Development , in Newtown Mount Kennedy the indiscriminate felling of mature trees, seemed to be just passed over.

- 18 I work in the Property Registration Authority. I can help with mapping if you require a Digital Mapping Officer. I would be happy to work with Coillte if required. lkearon@gmail.com
- 19 1) Inappropriate 'tree surgery' undertaken in some residential estates (e.g. Swanbrook, Southern Cross Route, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
- 2) Tree Design, Selection and Establishment: WCC has allowed planting of unsuitable and inappropriately located tree planting, using species and varieties that are causing problems. For example, large maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Crimson King') in large residential estate - Marlton Park, Wicklow Town.
- Above problems could be solved/avoided by ensuring WCC has appropriate in-house expertise in Landscape Architecture and Arboriculture+Urban Forestry. For example, a Landscape Architect assigned to its Planning Department could assess planning applications, requiring Landscape Design Proposals as part of proposed development, with appropriate Planting Design. In the Dublin local authorities, their Parks_+Landscape Services departments assign several professional staff to advise planners on a range of aspects in Development Management and Forwards Planning. Why is WCC relying on non-qualified staff to make decisions in areas, in which they have no professional qualifications or expertise? Why does WCC not have a dedicated Parks+Landscape Services Unit?
- 20 I have had a bad experience with Wicklow county council over tree felling and poor communication over a proposed car park in roundwood area which doesn't have a felling licence.
- 21 Out of season hedgecutting is not being taken seriously
- 22 The beautiful huge 100+ year old Scots pine in Clermont grounds, Rathnew, was removed, along with an apple orchard on lovely old old soil(I'd seen a red squirrel in it about 10 years ago). For an Aldi store.
- 23 In the past month. I've seen more than 5 mature trees felled and a large section of ancient hedgerow taken out in May. . When I and others see these occurrences, we are at a loss as to how to stop the felling, at a loss to ascertain their legality, and at a loss as to who to call. Can the council have powers to halt a felling? The council or NPWS conservation officer. And as those felling are almost invariably at weekends, there needs to be a hotline to an on duty person who has the authority to halt a felling. Could the council work more closely with NPWS as they are under staffed. The Garda- should also be urged to support bans against felling trees and wildlife. If there are statutory instruments in place to protect natural heritage, surely the Garda- are also to be called upon? The Garda are often unaware of wildlife acts and reluctant to act when it comes to trees or flowers. Even red listed trees and flowers.
- 24 There were a few tree's cut down in the Green opposite my house in Arklow. (Peters Place Green) Two such tree's posed no danger at all and were there all my life. One branch had broken off...one and they chopped the whole tree down, it just needed a bit of pruning. One tree was killed by Virgin media or council workers, I am unsure who was digging up around the roots that day, but the tree died after that. Again, it was there all my life. Tree was then removed a few years later.
- 25 Yes I reported a hedgerow having been cut last week but all I heard back was 'your email has been forwarded to the relevant department' then I heard nothing back. It would be nice to get feedback.
- 26 Seal Rescue Ireland has a fantastic Watershed Restoration Model. It can be easily implemented across Co. Wicklow.
- 27 Mature trees even on private land should be protected and penalties/fines should be used.
- 28 Please stop cutting the tress, and hedge rows where they dont need to be ..or out of season..
More wild areas please..if trees need to be cut then replant with something suitable in its place..
- 29 people seem to be felling trees to 'tidy' their gardens,they should do it at the non growing season
- 30 Currently at Mullinaveigue, Roundwood the council have bought 2 acres of forest from Coillte and are going to cut down minimum 200+ trees to provide parking for the Vartry trails, no environmental impact study carried out, no felling licence needed and no planning process needed.
- 31 We in the Vartry Angling Club have been the beneficiary of some funding for planting native trees, shrubs and bushes. We believe it is critically important to maintain and expand when possible our native species which in turn benefits the entire eco system of our area
- 32 The ban on cutting hedgerows and trees while birds are nesting should be enforced more, as many people and farmers still cut hedgerows during this time
- 33 4 years ago, one of my neighbours cut down around 10 trees, in June, they were not dangerous. They only cut them down as they had just recently bought the house. There is no help line to report these cases
- 34 The trees around Bray all seem to have been topped this year. The trees in the park on Schools Road have all had branches removed and weedkiller sprayed at their bases. Is this in the trees best interest? Will it improve the health of the trees?

- 35 We needed to top trees (keeping them alive) that were encroaching on our property. With the company that built the estate having ceased trading we found it impossible to track down a current owner and Wicklow CC was no help. It might be good if WCC took a more assertive role in taking ownership and responsibility for such pieces of "no man's land" within formerly privately owned estates.
- 36 My neighbour has grubbed out a full hedge then proceeded to fell all the trees in the hedge line - saying that WCC said that they were a danger and should be felled. This was carried out in April and May this year, while the birds were nesting. The hedgerow and tree line had been unaffected for 20 years With no trees falling. Total ignorance. We have lost many good trees in the village as WCC have said that they are rotten but there's never any proof. We have planted over 500 trees in the village over the years and won the National Tree Project from the Tree Council of Ireland. The majority of trees taken out are due to WCC instruction, even when the trees concerned are sitting in fields nowhere near roads. There needs to be more clarity.
- 37 This is a very positive initiative. Must happen soon. We are losing too many trees to development in Delgany.
- 38 Bad...5 Or 6 years ago I planted wild flower seed on a green space in my council managed estate. It was a beautiful site, the the council tractor arrived, cut and then killed off those weeds. Now we are back to sterile grass.
- 39 At green in front trees cut stumps left ?????
- 40 There was a seemingly healthy tree cut down on the upper mall in Wicklow Town a couple of months ago. I tried to find out the reason why but was unsuccessful in obtaining a satisfactory response. This should never be allowed to happen again.
- 41 Many trees were needlessly cut down in Arklow town in my opinion
- 42 The trees and natural hedgerows are full of life, and give great pleasure to many people.
Please cease using herbicides.
- 43 The removal of trees and hedgerows all along the Irish rail line into Arklow town was very upsetting and very surprising. It also appears to have been carried out without any assessment of what the impact would be on the local biodiversity
- 44 Over many years I have had discussions and correspondence with public representatives and council officials in an attempt to prevent the inappropriate tree pruning practices which take place in the Bray area. While there has been some improvement and a recognition of the issues involved, we continue to have contractors employed who are not trained and continue to cause damage to our trees
- 45 Congratulations on all the good work. More native tree planting please. Fell dangerous trees and replant as soon as possible.
- 46 most cutting and burning is done on weekends and garda will not respond to these calls. Wicklow council are one of the worst offenders of illegal hedge cutting .
- 47 I personally have witnessed the destruction of trees by the ESB and other tree cutting contractors in the bird nesting season. These jobs could have been easily carried out outside the nesting season !!
- 48 The tree stumps left at the bottom of BlackBerry Glade/ back of Abbey Park in Arklow are disgraceful looking. In fairness I do not know if these trees were cut down privately but it is a prime example where a job has been performed very badly and an eyesore.
- 49 Using the present machinery on the 21 bends out of Enniskerry shreds the trees and so some die. Can it not be done by arborists instead of the slash approach?
Some beautiful mature trees on the bends have been cut down recently for development and while I understand that development needs to happen the absolute minimum number of tree felling should be allowed not a total felling and then the promise of replanting.
The WCC did a significant amount of work on the drains on the road between Enniskerry and Glencree and it was really unsightly afterwards just banks of mud and rubble. Now it is green again with wildflowers and brambles. A sheer delight and the drains work. Thanks to WCC. Tina.
- 50 Trees clean the air and deal with damaging carbon emissions, they are visually pleasing, great habitats for wildlife and also provide fuel for burning. Trees should be incorporated into every new building as part of planning permission, they should be checked on and nurtured by owners or fined for neglect/destruction.
- 51 My neighbours have trees that are dangerous and get out of control is there any help for me on that front? One fell over in storm Ophelia.
- 52 If trees are a danger to your house, then remove them
- 53 General lack of implementation on the ground in construction sites of tree protection measures, 'tidying up' of hedgerows removing all suitable habitat for breeding birds and ground flora, ongoing sanitisation of wild areas for health and safety reasons...
- 54 We have lots of land and trees need to be planted in these areas.
- 55 I was astonished the the Catholic Church felled a number of beautiful old trees to build a parking lot! If I'd have known I'd have protested. Makes you think of the song; paved paradise and put up a parking lot!! I was very upset for many many months!!!

- 56 My neighbour has grubbed out a full hedge then proceeded to fell all the trees in the hedge line - saying that WCC said that they were a danger and should be felled. This was carried out in April and May this year, while the birds were nesting. The hedgerow and tree line had been unaffected for 20 years With no trees falling. Total ignorance. We have lost many good trees in the village as WCC have said that they are rotten but there's never any proof. We have planted over 500 trees in the village over the years and won the National Tree Project from the Tree Council of Ireland. The majority of trees taken out are due to WCC instruction, even when the trees concerned are sitting in fields nowhere near roads. There needs to be more clarity.
- 57 PLEASE, don't wait with the introduction and enforcement of procedures. County Council should have special supervision over developers of new housing estates - they are the ones that cause the biggest damage! Permits for felling of any tree should not be issued! Please take a look at this investment: <https://eastmount.ie/> at the Chapel Road (Greytsones/Delgany) whose owners write on their website: "Benefiting from stunning mountain views and set amongst mature trees", meanwhile they cut out ALL the trees in the area !!! I reckon they should be heavily punished. The potential investment plans, IF accepted, should be created with a strong consultation with the County Council, in the way that no tree suffers any construction! New plantings will not replace century-old trees! Enough of destroying our nature!
- 58 WCC needs a policy on the issuing of Section 70 notices. There should be environmental surveys undertaken first regarding bats and birds to ensure compliance with the EC(Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011
- 59 Certain area's of natural habitat in Wicklow have been damaged and destroyed and with no public consultation on actions taken by authorities!
- 60 As previously stated the trees in Riddlesford in the back cul de sac make it impossible to walk on the footpath - trees are great but need to be maintained
- 61 I studied Horticulture for 3 years in UK and wish I'd took the opportunity to further my study of trees.
- 62 Protecting the environment is the way forward.
- 63 Hate to see trees cut down or pruned at the wrong time.
- 64 -2 200 yr old trees were cut down in our housing estate when the house owner only wanted a few branches that were hanging into her garden cut.
- lots of hedge cutting happening by estate by estate members during nesting season. People are not aware of law not to cut between March and August. People in our community need to be made aware of this.
- people in the estate are also not aware of importance of planting native trees. The council have planted lots of non native trees in this estate which is so disappointing.
- 65 I have tried on numerous occasions to report illegal hedge and tree cutting, to no avail. I witnessed a group of men tearing down a hedgerow during nesting season and throwing the whole lot; nests, chicks etc. into a shredder. This is abhorrent behaviour, and will only stop when the authorities take it seriously. When I phoned the Gardai to report this particular instance they laughed down the phone at me.
- 66 Trees on a local riverbank undermined and then felled by the developer, on foot of a report from their tame, paid for, tree 'expert'. No sanctions, the council and the other local residents taken for a ride.
- 67 My family planted 1,000 native trees by hand earlier this year. The feeling was indescribable and the knowledge that these will still be bringing benefits to the world long after I am dead is a constant comfort.
- 68 The new Marine "Village" and Cove houses and apartments in Greystones have far too little green space and far too much space for cars.
- 69 Tree Preservation Orders as per 2000 Planning Act needs updating
- 70 The felling of trees on road west of glending is criminal. They were very old trees that should have been preserved.
- 71 I have experience with an environmental group in North County Wicklow that finds it very difficult to find suitable grants to support the establishment of native species hedgerows.
- 72 In our estate tree felling happened that I believe was not necessary - Churchlands, Bray. Also, I am extremely disappointed and disguised by the recent tree felling in Roundwood near the reservoir for a proposed car park. Red squirrels have recently made a come back and young kits were spotted in the area that was felled a week beforehand
- 73 The inappropriate cutting away of a large branch of an iconic tree, a Stone pine at Ravenswell, Bray to make way for more electricity wires when those could easily have been strung in another direction. The result of this damage was the loss of the characteristic shape of a mature, signature tree at the entrance to the town. It emphasises the need for utility companies to enquire in advance if they can carry out pruning and I would endorse the point above regarding WCC being the ultimate arbiter, after getting expert advice, as to whether pruning or felling can take place.
- 74 Are all trees protected or do they have to be of a certain age

75 Have had majestic beech tree over a hundred years old felled without any warning or discussion despite it clearly affecting my property on Sidminton square. I had even paid somebody to trim some overhanging branches only days before only to see it felled days later. I actually wept when this tree was taken down and no replanting has been done. I have seen so many trees felled in Sidminton Park (several unnecessarily in keeping with a strong litigation fear Mentality about falling twigs) and managed to prevent even more being felled by getting a neighbour to run out and beg them to stop from a crowded street abroad as a friend had sent me an image of the trees already felled. For the many majestic trees felled only 2 Scots pine have been replaced in their stead. I am horrified every year by the butchery of the fresh growth on the trees all around Florence rd, Galtrim rd leaving grim stumps behind yet again. Totally unnecessary. Have seen numerous mature incredible trees felled on private properties. There seems to be no protection at all for mature trees in Bray.