

Policy name: Protecting pollinators: Saving the Bees

Passed: 12/2/20

Lapse date: May 2024

Student Council notes:

Both UUSU and Ulster University currently lack an in-depth policy/action-plan to protect local pollinator species. Supporting pollinators is a vital competent to mitigating the effects of climate change, as outlined by the Ministry of Justice, Strategy for Pollinators below. “More than seventy five percent of the Earth’s flowering plants depend on bees, butterflies, hoverflies, birds, bats, and other pollinators. This amounts to more than 1,200 food crops and 180,000 different types of plants, plants which help stabilize our soils, clean our air, supply oxygen, and support wildlife. One out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of the efforts of pollinators, including many fruits, vegetables, and seeds. Bees for example contribute £651 million to the UK economy annually. Recent research also found that 85 per cent of the UK’s apple crop and 45 per cent of the strawberry crop relies on bees to grow. Alone those two crops brought in £200 million to Britain in 2012.” Bumblebee populations are in decline due to a loss of natural habitats, and while campus’ such as Coleraine and Jordanstown offer areas of species-rich grassland most of the grounds are maintained parkland. A pollinator plan which created onsite pollinator-friendly habitats would encourage nesting, nurturing and settling of Bumblebee populations. Belfast and Magee Campus’ while based in urban areas have potential to house areas of greenery which would become valuable refuges for bumblebees.

Student Council believes:

The development of a pollinator protection plan would complement the existing long-term environmental/sustainability policies of both UUSU and Ulster University. The creation of pollinator promoting grasslands and green spaces would enhance the natural beauty of Ulster University’s campus’ creating a more pleasant environment for staff and students alike.

Student Council resolves:

The Student Executive, in partnership with the Sustainability Sub-committee will co-ordinate with relevant University departments to create an in-depth campus specific pollinator protection plan for each of Ulster University’s campus.

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