

# Courtown Woodland Alliance

## WHO WE ARE

**Courtown Woodland Alliance** is a non-partisan coalition of volunteers and community stakeholders advocating for the protection of Courtown Woods and Courtown's natural Woodland spaces. We work to ensure the good stewardship of our precious woodland for the long term. Our on-the-ground advocacy and campaigning is continuously informed by current best practice and advisory input from a range of Conservation professionals.

## OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

### **VISION**

We envision Courtown Woodlands conserved in all their beauty and diversity, and the land, trees, flora, fauna and waters therein safeguarded and restored for the free enjoyment of all, now and in the future.

### **MISSION**

To safeguard Courtown's precious native woodland, promote a beautiful and healthy environment for everyone and create a legacy for future generations by conserving the area's rich biological diversity. We will do this by :

- Helping the community to appreciate Courtown's beautiful native woodlands through education, community events and communication
- Increasing community participation in and awareness of, the management of our local native Woodland
- Working with landowners and other stakeholders to ensure that all conservation, restoration and regeneration work is planned, designed and executed in line with native woodland management best practice (trail maintenance, removing invasive species, restorative planting etc).
- Assist, where possible, in practical conservation and regeneration tasks (mapping the location of rare species, clean-ups, tree and undergrowth planting etc)
- Working towards the Woods' recognition as a SPAC and securing other relevant statutory and legal protections.

### **VALUES**

In working to protect the Woodlands, we will apply the following values:

#### **-Durable conservation outcomes**

While respecting nature's processes, we support the management of the woods for their natural values today and for the long term. We believe future generations in Courtown deserve to inherit a biologically rich environment.

#### **-Evidence-based decision-making and campaigning**

We are guided by the best available conservation knowledge and science. We are committed to continuous learning, and to finding practical, resourceful and innovative solutions to Courtown's native woodland conservation challenges.

#### **-Respect for nature and people**

We respect the needs, values and culture of our local community. We seek conservation solutions that meet the needs of nature *and* people. Conservation efforts should support a prosperous and sustainable Courtown community.

#### **-Integrity first**

We work to the highest ethical standards. We are transparent and accountable to the community and our partners.

#### **-Conservation through collaboration and cooperation**

We value and respect the opinions of others so that together we can achieve conservation outcomes for Courtown Woods which benefit everyone. We work in the

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spirit of collaboration. We treat each other fairly. We believe in success through Community partnership.

## **-Nature for all**

We value and incorporate diverse traditions, heritage, knowledge and experiences in our mission. We celebrate the full participation of people from all walks of life as we work towards common goals. We strive for an Alliance in which community inclusion is the norm.

## **HOW WE WORK**

Courtown Woodland Alliance's campaigning, monitoring, protection and conservation activity is guided by the following Four Steps:

### **1.Setting priorities**

First, we identify what needs conserved and preserved in Courtown Woods - community access and enjoyment, the species and habitats we want to protect, their health and the threats to them.

### **2.Developing strategies**

Next, we identify what we need to do to reduce the threats to those species and habitats and improve their overall health.

### **3.Taking action**

We then work with landowners, other relevant partners to implement these strategies.

### **4.Measuring success**

We assess how effective our actions are, whether they are improving the health of the species and habitats we want to protect and reducing the threats to them.

This leads to a reassessment of our priorities, strategies and actions, **and we begin the process again.**