**Information about Helping Frog Migration on the Barnacuilla Road**

The Common Frog is the only species of frog found in Ireland and is listed as an internationally important species. Frogs are protected under the European Union Habitats Directive and by the Irish Wildlife Act. Common toads are a non-native species to Ireland and a population appears to have taken up residence in the south Dublin mountains. We know very little about them, but we know that they prefer live in areas with plenty of tree cover and that they like to spawn in deep ponds. Frogs and toads are both amphibians which means they can survive in the water and on land. Their body is well adapted to this dual life.

During a few warm, damp nights in spring, thousands of frogs and toads will follow traditional migration routes on their way to spawning ponds. On these nights, the humidity is higher, so they don’t dry out as quickly. Unfortunately, hundreds can be squashed and killed by traffic on intervening roads as they make for a suitable pond.

What can we do?

As the urge to breed is so strong, they cross the road unaware of the danger of being run over by a car. Drivers find it hard to see the animals because they mostly migrate at night, but we can help them!

DLR’s Biodiversity Officer along with DLR Traffic section are working with the Herpetological Society of Ireland (HSI) and its volunteers to help the frogs and toads get across the road safely. These volunteers act like a taxi service using buckets to transport the frogs and toads across the road.

We need the public help with assisting the volunteers by using alternative routes to the Barnaculla areas or slowing down and stopping when the volunteers are working on the road. DLR traffic will have some speed limit signs on the road and the volunteers will be wearing Hi Vis vests and carrying torches. Volunteers will be given full training on site.

DLR and the HSI wish to thank the public for their cooperation and please contact the Biodiversity Officer at annemurray@dlrcoco.ie and/or the HSI at info@thehshi.org for further information and to sign-up as a volunteer.

Please don’t turn up unannounced as you are not covered under Health and Safety and our assessment protocols. You may also unintentionally add to the Patrol Leaders workload on a busy night. Useful websites for information include:

<https://thehsi.org/>

<http://www.ipcc.ie/a-to-z-peatlands/frogs/>

<https://www.arguk.org/>

<http://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/>