

Feel of the Feale

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Students from primary and secondary schools across Listowel gathered in the Town Park last Friday to plant trees.

Tree planting project takes root in Listowel

STUDENTS FROM PRIMARY and secondary schools across Listowel gathered in the Town Park last Friday to plant 420 native tree saplings as part of Crann's Easy Treesie tree planting initiative.

Dozens of youngsters and teenagers joined thousands around the country in helping towards Ireland's goal of planting one million trees by 2023.

The climate change awareness event which was organised by members of Listowel Tidy Towns and Kerry County Council will help to prevent flooding and erosion along the River Feale.

Secretary of Listowel Tidy Towns Mary Hanlon says everyone was very pleased with the

turnout. "We are very grateful to everyone who came along and Mother Nature was definitely on our side," she said.

"The day went absolutely brilliantly and the children were great. It was very encouraging to see children and their teachers working together."

Mary added that as the children grow older, the trees they planted will hopefully grow with them.

Cathaoirleach of the Listowel Municipal Dis-

trict Mike Kennelly said: "These predominantly native trees will prevent erosion and mitigate flooding.

"We lost a lot of our fine mature trees in Listowel due to their age and recent storms.

"This programme of renewal, which includes our young orchards, is designed to address this issue and it is wonderful to have the local children involved in the planting.

"New trees in the park provide important shelter for wildlife and fish when spawning," he added.

Oak, birch, alder and holly were some of the tree species provided by Kerry County Council on the day and Orla Farrell, project leader with Easy Treesie, provided the extra 120 saplings.

Before the planting took place, Orla hosted a talk in the community centre where the students learned about the necessity and importance of growing and protecting trees.