

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council: Llantrisant Community Council

Group:

Introduction and Context

- A short description of the Council, its functions and context in relation to
 - how it could help biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities, for example)
 - spatial scale and place (e.g. how much land does it cover, population, precept?)
 - public service delivery (e.g. is it subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act?)

Llantrisant Community Council serves the communities of Llantrisant and surrounding areas, supporting local wellbeing, community facilities, and environmental initiatives at a local level. While the Council does not manage extensive landholdings, it plays an important role in influencing land management practices, supporting community groups, allocating small grants, and embedding biodiversity considerations into decision-making processes.

The Council operates within a semi-urban and rural landscape characterised by residential areas, road corridors, public open spaces, and proximity to areas of high ecological value including grasslands, woodlands, and post-industrial landscapes. Through partnership working, community engagement, and support for local environmental groups, the Council contributes to protect and enhance biodiversity at a local scale.

Llantrisant Community Council is subject to the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** and recognises biodiversity as a key component of long-term environmental, social, and community wellbeing. The Council maintains an excellent working relationship with local volunteer-led groups, including **Litter Free Beddau and Tynant**, supporting community action that benefits local environments and wildlife. This group actively works with many schools and creates and delivers initiatives within the community of Beddau and Tynant.

The Council also supports and engages with emerging local nature recovery initiatives. This includes working alongside **Glo i Natur CIC**, a community-focused organisation delivering biodiversity engagement and habitat management on post-industrial landscapes. Glo i Natur CIC will be undertaking work at the **Cwm Tips site in Beddau**, supporting habitat restoration, invasive species management, and community involvement in nature recovery activities.

Llantrisant Community Council sits adjacent to and within the wider landscape of **Llantrisant Common SSSI**, a site of national importance for its species-rich grassland habitats and invertebrate interest. The Council recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing ecological connectivity between designated sites and surrounding green spaces within the community.

The Council has also supported wider species recovery initiatives, including awareness of the marsh fritillary butterfly through the **Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru** Marsh Fritillary Project. As part of its community planting efforts, the Council has planted **Devil's-bit scabious** within council planters, directly supporting the larval food plant of the marsh fritillary butterfly and demonstrating how small-scale community actions can contribute to national species recovery priorities. The butterfly has increased in range, quite possibly due to council action.



Action Report 2023 - 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...		Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	The council will consider biodiversity impacts when supporting local projects and initiatives, including planning applications, planting schemes and community environmental activities. Biodiversity considerations are incorporated into discussions around community assets, public realm improvements, and support for local environmental groups. The council will also support scrub clearance initiatives, we understand the importance of grassland and open spaces as well as tree coverage, e.g.: 'A tree in the right place'.	Llantrisant Community Council
	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Llantrisant Community Council has supported the raising of awareness of biodiversity through community engagement (the environmentally focused Tynant and Beddau Community Fare – in conjunction with Litter Free....), partnership working, and visible actions within public spaces. This includes promoting local environmental initiatives, supporting volunteer-led groups, and highlighting the importance of nature recovery through council communications and community activities. The Council has helped raise awareness of priority species and habitats by supporting initiatives linked to the marsh fritillary butterfly, including the planting of devil's-bit scabious in community planters. These visible planting schemes provide an opportunity to communicate the importance of native plants and their role in supporting declining species. Through engagement with organisations such as Glo i Natur CIC and Litter Free Beddau and Tynant , the Council has supported community involvement in habitat management, litter reduction, and environmental stewardship, helping residents to better understand local biodiversity and how they can contribute to its protection.	



2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	Support awareness and protection of locally and nationally important habitats and species, including proximity to Llantrisant Common SSSI and participation in wider initiatives such as the marsh fritillary butterfly recovery project. Council-led planting of devil's-bit scabious in community planters supports a key food plant for marsh fritillary caterpillars. Supporting Glo I Natur CIC will protect many Section 7 species and habitats at the Cwm Tips site.	Llantrisant Community Council, in partnership with local conservation organisations
3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Contribute to habitat creation at a community scale through native and wildlife-friendly planting in council-managed areas and planters. Support local habitat restoration initiatives, including partnership working at post-industrial sites such as Cwm Tips, Beddau, to improve ecological connectivity within the wider landscape.	
4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Llantrisant Community Council has supported action to address invasive non-native species and prevent further spread within the community. This includes working in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to support the identification and removal of Japanese knotweed within the village, helping to reduce the risk of spread into surrounding green spaces and neighbouring land. The Council aims to support local habitat management initiatives aimed at tackling invasive species on post-industrial land. This includes supporting the work of Glo i Natur CIC in the removal of cotoneaster at the Cwm Tips site in Beddau. Cotoneaster is a highly invasive shrub that poses a threat to species-rich grassland habitats if left unmanaged. By supporting early intervention and partnership-led invasive species management, the Council contributes to nature-based solutions that protect existing habitats, reduce long-term environmental impacts, and support biodiversity resilience at a local scale.	



5	-use improve and share evidence	Llantrisant Community Council supports the use and sharing of evidence to inform local biodiversity action through partnership working and engagement with specialist organisations. The Council works alongside local groups and conservation organisations to better understand biodiversity issues affecting the area, including invasive species, priority habitats, and species recovery initiatives. Evidence gathered through partnership working with organisations such as Glo i Natur CIC will be used to help inform discussions around habitat management, invasive species control, and future community-led nature recovery opportunities. The Council also supports the sharing of local environmental information through community discussions, council communications, and engagement with local partners, helping to raise awareness of biodiversity issues and encourage informed action at a community level.	
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	Llantrisant Community Council supports the capacity of local community and environmental organisations through partnership working, promotion of activities, and enabling community involvement in nature recovery initiatives. The Council works collaboratively with volunteer-led groups to help build local stewardship of green spaces and support practical environmental action. This includes an excellent working relationship with Litter Free Beddau and Tynant, supporting community-led litter reduction and environmental awareness activities that contribute to improved local environmental quality and reduced pollution pressures on habitats. The Council will also support the work of Glo i Natur CIC, a local community interest company delivering biodiversity engagement and habitat management on post-industrial sites. This support includes facilitating	



		partnership working and supporting activities such as invasive species management and habitat restoration at sites including Cwm Tips, Beddau. Through supporting local organisations and enabling collaboration, the Council helps to increase local capacity for biodiversity action and contributes to wider nature recovery objectives beyond its direct landholdings. On all of our four allotment sites, we encourage biodiversity enhancements and aim to further this. We are contemplating new ways to engage with the allotment societies.	
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Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

What has worked well?	Partnership working and small-scale, visible biodiversity actions have worked particularly well during this reporting period. The Council's support for native planting, including the planting of devil's-bit scabious in community planters, has helped raise awareness of priority species and habitats within the community. There are positive local observations that the marsh fritillary butterfly may be extending its range in the wider area, which may be linked to increased availability of its larval food plant and improved habitat connectivity. The Council has also successfully supported practical actions that improve access to and appreciation of local green spaces. Keeping footpaths clear and open has encouraged community use of the local environment, helping residents to connect with nature while reducing informal path creation and pressure on surrounding habitats. Strong collaboration with local volunteer groups and partner organisations has enabled the Council to contribute to biodiversity outcomes beyond its direct land management responsibilities, demonstrating the value of community-led and partnership-based approaches to nature recovery.
What have the barriers been?	One of the main barriers has been varying levels of awareness and understanding of biodiversity and the Section 6 duty among councillors. As with many community councils, members come from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, and not all councillors have previously engaged with biodiversity or nature recovery as part of their role. This has, at times, slowed decision-making or limited the extent to which biodiversity considerations are fully embedded across all areas of council activity. Capacity and time constraints within a volunteer-led council have also presented challenges in maintaining consistent focus on environmental issues alongside other statutory and community priorities. However, the Council recognises these challenges and continues to work towards improving understanding, awareness, and engagement around biodiversity through discussion, partnership working, and practical local examples



What will you change?	The Council will continue to strengthen its approach to biodiversity by taking greater account of advice and recommendations from external organisations with specialist expertise. This includes exploring opportunities to work with South East Wales Rivers Trust, who have approached the Council regarding potential partnership working. The Council will also seek to strengthen and formalise relationships with existing partners, including Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (Y Gwaria Nature Reserve) , Glo i Natur CIC, and Litter Free Beddau and Tynant, to ensure that local biodiversity actions are informed by best practice and aligned with wider nature recovery priorities. To improve understanding and embed biodiversity more consistently into decision-making, the Council will encourage councillors to attend One Voice Wales biodiversity webinars and training opportunities, helping to build confidence, shared understanding, and capacity across the Council.
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	The Council will monitor progress against its Section 6 duty on a six-monthly basis, with updates reported through council meetings to ensure ongoing oversight and accountability. Responsibility for supporting monitoring and review will be led by councillors with experience and interest in biodiversity and nature recovery, including Cllr Carys Romney and Cllr Julie Barton, who will help guide discussions and ensure biodiversity considerations remain embedded within council decision-making. The Council will also consider the establishment of a dedicated biodiversity sub-group to support ongoing delivery of the Section 6 duty. This group would provide a focused forum for reviewing progress, engaging with external partners, and identifying future opportunities for biodiversity action within the community.



Back

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	- that own or occupy an office building only and - whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	- that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, - whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or - that can influence those who own or manage land.	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- Objective 2:** Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- Objective 4:** Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Objective 6:** Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

