

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:		Cilymaenllwyd Community Council	
Group:		Group 1	
Introduction and Context			
Cilymaenllwyd Community Council serves a rural population of approximately 788 residents across the villages of Efailwen, Glandy Cross, Pantycaws, Hebron, Login and Cwmiles in northwest Carmarthenshire. The Council consists of nine Councillors and employs one member of staff which is the Clerk/RFO. The Council's precept for 2025/26 is £13,000. Although the Council does not own any buildings or land, the area contains an extensive network of public rights of way through woodland, farmland and open countryside. Responding to community interest in improving access to nature and supporting wellbeing, the Council secured £57,138.96 of UK Shared Prosperity Funding in 2023 to restore approximately four miles of overgrown footpaths. This work has enhanced safe off-road walking opportunities and strengthened local engagement with the natural environment, wildlife and heritage, with sustainability and biodiversity at the forefront throughout the project in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The Council is committed to embedding biodiversity within its activities and decision-making. Over the last two years it has implemented its first Biodiversity Action Plan, helping to focus priorities, encourage partnership working, and support ongoing efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity across the community.			
Action Report 2023 - 2025			
NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...		Monitored by:
1	Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Biodiversity has been included as a standing item on all Community Council and Footpath Subgroup agendas, with updates recorded in minutes. Biodiversity considerations were integral to the Footpaths Restoration Project, with the Footpath Subgroup ensuring that all work was carried out sensitively and sustainably at every stage. A biodiversity site visit took place on	Monitored by the Footpaths Subgroup and in their meetings plus in Council meetings. Evidenced in Council and Footpaths Subgroup agendas and minutes and

		29/05/24 with Carmarthenshire County Council Biodiversity Officers, who provided guidance on woodland management and invasive species control. The Council will integrate recommendations into future work. Council members have also attended various biodiversity training. Converting street-lighting to LED in the community.	monthly SPF progress reports.
2	Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Councillors and community volunteers took part in several biodiversity training sessions during 2024, including events led by the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre, Ramblers Cymru, and the Vincent Wildlife Trust. A community “Wildlife Walk and Talk” event was held in October 2024, alongside training in wildlife recording and mapping. Information on biodiversity recording tools (such as the LERC Wales app) has been shared on social media, and signage promoting responsible behaviour in natural areas has been installed along restored woodland footpaths. Additional promotional activity and school engagement are planned.	Again, monitored by the Footpaths Subgroup and the Council. Documented in agendas and minutes; SPF progress reports; social media postings and updates; reports from organisations; recordings on the LERC Wales app.
3	Safeguard principal species and habitats	The Wenallt Footpaths Restoration work has supported the recovery of native woodland flora such as bluebells and wild garlic, with fallen wood retained on site to provide habitat. Wildlife monitoring activities have identified 13 species of bats in the woodland and 9 species of waxcap fungi at Login Chapel graveyard, designating it as a site of regional importance. A series of barbastelle bat boxes has been installed with landowner consent, and further bird box installation is planned. Regular community walks and the well-attended launch event in October 2024 have encouraged increased engagement and awareness of local habitats.	Monitored and reported on in the Footpaths subgroup monthly meetings. Updates also provided on social media and information display boards included in a two-day community open event.

4	Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	The restoration of approximately four miles of woodland footpaths has improved access to nature and strengthened environmental connectivity. Bird boxes have been installed to encourage nesting habitat. Opportunities to support the creation of wildlife-friendly areas will continue to be explored.	Monitored by the Footpaths Restoration Sub-group members, supported by the Carmarthenshire County Council Countryside Access Officer.
5	Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	During the biodiversity site visit on 29/05/24, guidance was provided on managing invasive species and preventing pollution. Japanese Knotweed has been treated twice in 2024 and will continue to be treated twice annually over the next three years following specialist advice. Community walks included demonstrations on identifying and removing Himalayan Balsam. Biodiversity guidance and links to further information is to be added to the Council website.	Monitored by members of the Footpaths Subgroup, supported by advice and guidance from Carmarthenshire County Council's Biodiversity Officers.
6	Use, improve and share evidence	The Council's Footpaths Subgroup has worked closely with Carmarthenshire County Council Biodiversity Officers to ensure access to best practice advice. Wildlife identification and recording training has helped volunteers contribute data to the LERC Wales database. Relevant biodiversity resources is being added to the Community Council website.	Monitored by members of the Footpaths Subgroup, supported by advice and guidance from Carmarthenshire County Council's Biodiversity Officers, WWBIC and Ramblers Officers.
7	Support capacity and/or other organisations	Strong partnership working has taken place with WWBIC, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Ramblers Cymru and Natur am Byth, including collaborative training, species surveying and woodland habitat monitoring. The Council has developed an online process for financial support applications. Going forward this, form will include biodiversity considerations.	Organised and monitored by members of the Footpaths Subgroup. To be implemented and monitored by the Council.

Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

What has worked well?	• Biodiversity has been successfully embedded into Council and Footpath Subgroup agendas, ensuring it is considered in decisions and project planning. • The Footpaths Restoration Project has delivered significant positive outcomes, restoring approx. 4 miles of woodland paths while supporting native flora and encouraging public engagement with nature. • Strong partnership working has taken place with organisations such as West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre, Carmarthenshire County Council Biodiversity Officers, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Ramblers Cymru and Natur am Byth. • Community training and engagement events (eg wildlife identification sessions, bat monitoring, “Wildlife Walk and Talk”) have increased awareness and confidence in identifying and recording local species. • Wildlife data has been recorded and shared through the LERC Wales database, improving understanding of local species and habitats.
What have the barriers been?	• The Council does not own land, limiting the scope for direct habitat management and requiring reliance on landowner cooperation. • Volunteer and Councillor time and capacity are limited, which can slow progress on planned activities and actions. • Some biodiversity-related activities, eg controlling invasive species, require specialist input and repeated treatment over many years. • Further work is needed to broaden community involvement and ensure knowledge and awareness across the wider population.
What will you change?	• Ensure biodiversity is a key consideration in all Council decisions, developments, and planning applications. • Embed sustainable procurement practices in all Council and community projects. • Develop a consistent process for planning, monitoring, and reviewing biodiversity activities. • Increase the visibility and accessibility of biodiversity information through the website and noticeboards. • Strengthen community, school/youth engagement in biodiversity initiatives. • Expand practical training and participation in wildlife recording and monitoring. • Integrate biodiversity considerations into the financial support application process for organisations.

How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed?	• The Biodiversity Action Plan and S6 Duty will be reviewed annually, usually at the May Council meeting. The review will include an evaluation of the current actions and update of the new action report for the following financial year. • Progress will be monitored through full Council meetings throughout the year. • The plan will be updated as needed in response to emerging best practice or guidance (eg One Voice Wales, Welsh Government, Carmarthenshire County Council, WWBIC). • The Council will continue to seek advice and support from relevant partner organisations to inform future actions. • Annual progress updates will be used to prepare the S6 Annual Report.
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Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh