

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Blaenhonddan Community Council S6 Report 2025

Introduction and Context

Blaenhonddan Community Council provides a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces including 6 parks / playgrounds, 2 playing fields, 8 allotments and 2 other parcels of land, in respect of which it reviews and adapts its management practices where appropriate
- Liaising with and supporting a number of community groups in its area who are involved in environmental matters.
- Helping to raise awareness of biodiversity and environmental matters by supporting or organising relevant events.
- Providing funding where possible for projects in the Council's area which impact on biodiversity.

The Council promotes sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible. It is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act and produces an Annual Report which addresses sustainability and biodiversity, with an annual update provided to the Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board on meeting sustainability objectives. The primary reporting responsibility rests with the Clerk to the Council, with policy decisions determined by Council and individual Members contributing to implementation as appropriate

The Council serves approximately 11,000 residents in the communities of Bryncoch, Waunceirch, Caewern, Cadoxton, Cilfrew and Aberdulais. The precept for 2025-2026 is £303,503

Action Report		
Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council published Version 4 of its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as an ongoing document to monitor its role, internal and external activities and engagement with others 	Clerk to the Council
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has used its website and Facebook page to publicise events and policy considerations 	Clerk to the Council
-safeguard principal species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council ensured that any necessary tree felling on its estate allowed for retention of trees and branches on site to promote biodiversity 	Clerk to the Council
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council supported initiatives by others in Cilfrew to deliver herb boxes, fruit trees and landscape projects 	Clerk to the Council
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council retained its status as a "Litter Picking Hub" to highlight the damage caused by litter and promote further litter picking activity within its communities Council amended its grounds maintenance arrangements in 2023 and implemented "meadow cuts" at 6 locations to create wildflower meadows as part of its existing green spaces Council participated in a pilot exercise run by One Voice Wales to monitor the effectiveness of its revised grounds maintenance regime in generating wildflower meadows Council has treated or identified areas on its estate where invasive species prevail and will investigate possible actions where treatment has not been possible 	Clerk to the Council
-use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's use of Facebook has allowed progress in engagement and publicity of the Council's initiatives and of the need to promote biodiversity 	Clerk to the Council

-support capacity and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has engaged with partners to develop its practices and projects and has made approaches to / worked with partners on specific initiatives to date, primarily with voluntary groups, schools, its contractors and One Voice Wales.. 	Clerk to the Council
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Review of S6 Duty

- The commitment shown by Members and staff has been commendable to date. Many ideas have been generated and their inclusion in a structured context through the Biodiversity Action Plan has helped to monitor progress and deliver implementation. Understanding that this is a “duty” that falls on the Community Council and that there are reporting obligations has been absorbed in the Council’s work programme. Officers manage interactions and Members engage with partners and take ownership of project delivery.
- The Biodiversity Action Plan has been adopted by Council and will be used to monitor progress. Whilst regular meetings of the Environment Committee have not occurred, Council has received regular reports and the S6 duty is monitored through the BAP. The Report and BAP inform the Council’s Annual Report submitted to its Annual Meeting in May each year, along with its statement to the Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board.