

**Garw Valley Community Council – Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Reporting – The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty – Report December 2022**

<p>Short description of PA &amp; its functions and context in relation to biodiversity (e.g. management of land, influence over land management, or indirect influence through procurement, funding projects, etc)</p>	<p>The Community Council has responsibility for/influence over land at the following sites, which have an impact on biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parc Calon Lan (Pontycymer/Blaengarw)</li> <li>• Rights of Way footpaths within the Bettws, Blaengarw, Llangeinor and Pontycymer wards</li> </ul> <p>In addition there are two lakes within the park, a river flowing through it and a waterfall.</p> <p>The Rights of Way are maintained by the Community Council’s Warden. The footpaths are maintained under an Agency Agreement between the Local Authority, Bridgend County Borough Council and the Garw Valley Community Council. The Community Council makes a claim for reimbursement of some of the costs of maintaining the footpaths from the Local Authority each year.</p> <p>In addition, the Community Council cuts small areas of grass throughout the 4 wards.</p> <p>In addition we have 4 large 3 tier planters in Bettws, Lluest, Pontycymer and Shwt, and annually plant daffodil bulbs and some bluebells in each of the 4 wards.</p> <p>We serve approximately 5,500 residents. The precept for 2021/2022 was £120,001</p>	
<p>Action carried out to:</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making &amp; procurement</p>	<p>Takes into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders.</p>	<p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in discussions and decisions on planning applications</p>

<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity &amp; its importance</p>	<p>Assists with an annual Mountain School which takes place in Parc Calon Lan. The event encourages knowledge and awareness of environmental and sustainability matters amongst local school children.</p> <p>Worked with a local group to assist and encourage the community as a whole to set up a volunteer group.</p> <p>Warden is a member of the local Green Volunteer Network, a network of people who are aiming to co-ordinate conservation volunteering activities.</p>	<p>Through feedback from volunteer Council members and residents.</p> <p>Number of children and residents taking part in activities.</p>
<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<p>Contributed to the management of protected bird species.</p> <p>Ensured no negative impacts on protected species.</p> <p>Ensured additional indigenous trees are planted.</p> <p>Managed hedgerows in the winter months when the woody growth is dormant.</p> <p>There are many bird boxes located throughout the park.</p> <p>We have a schedule of reed cutting and pond weed removal in the two lakes at Blaengarw and Pontycymer. Alternate years each lake has reed cutting and pond weed removal carried out. The cut reeds are placed along the side of the lakes to compost down over the winter and allow wildlife caught up in the reeds to return to their habitats safely. The</p>	<p>Records of any sites or species safeguarded.</p>

	work is carried out by a specialist contractor.	
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Planted flower planters and flower beds with native pollinator friendly flowers to provide food for pollinators from spring to autumn.  Several Plant! Sites within the parkland, supporting woodland with additional tree planting at the sites which is a haven for wildlife.	Area of habitat increased
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Waste paper shredded and recycled  Toner cartridges recycled  Warden works with local voluntary groups, Natural Resources Wales etc. to tackle the spread of Himalayan balsam.	The Clerk to ensure sustainable procurement of office supplies including paper
-use, improve and share evidence	Warden works with volunteer and environmental groups to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues.	Use of expert advice
-support capacity, and/or other organisations	Launched an annual community award scheme and a school awards scheme to recognise the achievements of either a resident or local organisation and this can include championing of environmental issues.	Partnership formed with local residents and schools.
Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible	The creation of flower beds and provision of floral planters has been a success, especially as they enhance the aesthetics of the community to residents in addition to helping biodiversity.	
Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan	There is expertise within the Community Council to identify best practice through the Warden.	

How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

The duty will be monitored by reporting back to the council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through regular inspections.

The Community Council will review the S6 plan in light of this reporting and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Council. At the time of this report's publication, there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed, but this will be done within the next year.