

GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

Chair: Councillor Maxine Lewis
Vice-Chair: Councillor Chris Lloyd



The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

Introduction and Context	<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"> • Parc Calon Lan (Pontycymer/Blaengarw) • Rights of Way footpaths within the Bettws, Blaengarw, Llangeinor and Pontycymer wards • The Strand green space and sitting out area, Blaengarw • The Pocket Park green space and sitting out area, Pontycymer • The sitting out area at Lluest, within the Llangeinor Ward • Green space to front of Ysgol Calon y Cymoedd, Bettws <p>In addition there are two lakes within the park, a river flowing through it and a waterfall. The Council employs a full-time Community Warden to look after these areas and employs a contractor to cut an area of Parc Calon Lan, known as the green space at Glengarw and a strip of land within the Bettws ward.</p> <p>The council's Community Warden maintains the Rights of Way footpaths within our four wards. The footpaths are maintained under an Agency Agreement between the Local Authority, Bridgend County Borough Council and the Garw Valley Community Council.</p> <p>In addition the Council has 7 large 3 tier planters in Bettws, Blaengarw, Lluest, Pontycymer and Shwt, two barrel planters in Pontycymer, 2 rail planters in Braichycymer and a sign planter in Blaengarw.</p> <p>In 2025 the Council added 10 hanging baskets to each of its 4 wards adding to the 6 it already has in the Llangeinor ward.</p> <p>The council also has an annual spring bulb planting scheme and in the past has planted daffodils and bluebells and in autumn 2025 added tulip planting in the Bettws Ward.</p> <p>In 2024 the council planted 840 indigenous trees in Parc Calon Lan and sowed 12kg of wildflower seeds.</p> <p>The council carries out tree maintenance within Parc Calon Lan, The Strand and the Pocket Park.</p> <p>The council serves 5,957 residents. The precept for 2025/26 is £130,748.</p>
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Action Report 2023 -2025		
NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...	Monitored by:
1a.embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<p>Considers 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 especially to the impact on the environment including surface drainage.</p> <p>Council documents and reports relating to the council's monthly meeting and committee meetings are distributed electronically prior to the meeting.</p>	GVCC and monitored by the Warden and Clerk
1b.raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<p>Assists with an annual Mountain School which takes place in Parc Calon Lan and works with all 5 primary schools to plant daffodils in the community.</p> <p>The Mountain School event encourages knowledge and awareness of environmental and sustainability matters amongst local school children.</p> <p>The Warden is a member of the local Green Volunteer Network, a network of people who are aiming to co-ordinate conservation volunteering activities.</p>	GVCC, Warden and the Clerk.
2.safeguard principal species and habitats	<p>Contributes to the management of protected bird species. Ensures no negative impacts on protected species by managing trees and hedge-rows in the winter months when the woody growth is dormant.</p> <p>Ensured additional indigenous trees are planted.</p>	GVCC/Warden/Clerk

	<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 work is carried out by a specialist contractor.</p> <p>The council also carries out tree maintenance necessary for public safety and the overall health of the trees.</p>	
3. restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<p>Planted flower planters and flower beds with native pollinator friendly flowers to provide food for pollinators from spring to autumn.</p> <p>Several Plant! Sites within the parkland, supporting woodland with additional tree planting at the sites which is a haven for wildlife.</p> <p>The council is in discussions to work in partnership with a local CIC, Calon y Cwm to plant a community orchard in Pontycymer. This will encourage pollinators and insects and provide for the community when the trees mature.</p> <p>The council has resolved to plant living Christmas trees next to four of their 5 existing Christmas tree pits in 2026.</p> <p>The Council's Community Warden maintains the Rights of Way. The footpaths are maintained under an</p>	GVCC/Warden/Clerk

	<p>Agency Agreement between the Local Authority, Bridgend County Borough Council and the 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 and remains committed to this scheme.</p>	
4.tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<p>The Garw Valley Community Council will continue to consider all environmental impact in its procurement decisions, whilst still obtaining value for money.</p> <p>Waste paper is shredded and recycled; cardboard is recycled.</p> <p>Toner cartridges are recycled.</p> <p>The Warden works with local voluntary groups, Natural Resources Wales etc. to tackle the spread of Himalayan balsam.</p> <p>The Clerk to ensure sustainable procurement of office supplies including paper</p>	Clerk & Warden
5.use, improve and share evidence	<p>The Warden works with volunteer and environmental groups to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues. He is also part of a group who meet at Bryngarw House where he can seek expert advice on biodiversity and environmental matters.</p> <p>The Community Council will continue to share biodiversity updates on its website and through its newsletters.</p>	GVCC/Warden/Clerk
6.support capacity, and/or other organisations	<p>The council has an annual community award scheme and a school awards scheme to recognise the achievements of either a resident or local organisation and this includes championing environmental issues.</p>	GVCC/Clerk and working in partnership with local residents and schools.

Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025	
What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will change?	<p>The provision of floral planters and baskets has been a success, especially as they enhance the aesthetics of the community to residents in addition to helping biodiversity.</p> <p>There is expertise within the Community Council to identify best practice through the Warden, but with further research consideration can be given to biodiversity when employing contractors; this will improve.</p> <p>We will work with the Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice.</p> <p>In 2025 the council opened a dialogue with the Wild Spaces organisation on their Butterfly Conservation project.</p> <p>We will continue to work with local partners such as walking groups, litter picking groups, schools etc.</p>
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	<p>The duty will be monitored by reporting back to the council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through regular inspections.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>It will continue to seek advice and support from organisations such as One Voice Wales on good practice and the effective delivery of the S6 duty.</p> <p>The next formal report of the plan will be established no later than December 2028.</p>