

**Coity Higher Community Council – Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Reporting – The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**

<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>• Heol West Plas Allotment Gardens</li> <li>• Rights of Way footpaths within the Coity, Litchard and Pendre wards</li> <li>• Coity Playing Field</li> <li>• Play Areas at Pendre Fields and Heol y Groes Litchard</li> </ul> <p>Heol West Plas Allotment Gardens is managed by the Community Council and is a community allotment garden. The land is owned and managed by the Community Council.</p> <p>The Rights of Way are maintained by a contractor working on behalf of the Community Council. The footpaths are maintained under an 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.</p> <p>Coity Playing Field is a field owned and managed by the Community Council which has been placed into the Centenary Fields in Trust scheme to retain it as a green space for future generations.</p> <p>The two play areas referred to above have been Community Asset Transferred from the local authority to the Community Council on a 35 year lease. The land is owned by the local authority, but the Community Council is responsible for its management.</p> <p>In addition, the Community Council employs a contractor to cut grass at the following green spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land adjacent to the substation, Litchard Hill</li> <li>• Parcel of land at the traffic lights on Heol West Plas leading into Coity Village</li> </ul> <p>The Community Council also maintains 3 floral planters and hanging baskets along the main spine roads through the 3 wards of Coity, Litchard and Pendre.</p> <p>We serve an electorate of approximately 5,681 residents. The precept for 2019-20 was £96,300.</p>
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Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Takes into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders.	Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in discussions and decisions on planning applications
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Makes donations to a local volunteer group to aid with their community work.  Works with the local primary school children to plant daffodils in the community each year and plant poppy seeds.	Through feedback from volunteer Council members and residents.  Number of children and residents taking part in activities.
-safeguard principal species and habitats	Contribute to the management of bird species by managing trees and hedgerows in the winter months when the woody growth is dormant.  Allowed bees to be kept at the Allotment Gardens to encourage pollination from spring to autumn.	Records of work carried out.
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Planted hanging baskets and flower planters with native pollinator friendly flowers to provide food for pollinators from spring to autumn.	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	The Clerk to ensure sustainable procurement of office supplies including paper
-use, improve and share evidence	Work with Coity Wallia Conservators and Commoners to maintain footpaths and ensure fly tipping is removed on Coity Wallia Common. The Conservators also help protect	Use their expert advice

	<p>habitats and have built ponds to improve the biodiversity on the Common.</p> <p>The Common is comprised of 1,065 hectares of priority habitats, there is particular emphasis on habitat management for the marsh fritillary, high brown fritillary, the bog bush cricket and the shrill carder bee.</p>	
-support capacity, and/or other organisations	Organise 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 provision of hanging baskets and 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	<p>There is some knowledge within the Community Council to identify best practice, but with research and consideration given to biodiversity when employing contractors this will improve.</p> <p>We will work with the Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice.</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. 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.</p>	