

Coity Higher Community Council – Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Reporting – The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty – Report Dated December 2022

<p>Short description of PA & 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"> • Heol West Plas Allotment Gardens • Rights of Way footpaths within the Coity, Litchard and Pendre wards • Coity Playing Field known as Cae’r Eglwys • Land adjacent to Joslin Terrace play area • Play Areas at Pendre Fields, Litchard Park, Joslin Terrace and Coity Castle <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. It is known as Cae’r Eglwys.</p> <p>The four play areas referred to above have been Community Asset Transferred two from the local authority, one from Llanmor Homes and one from the Dunraven Estate to the Community Council 3 of them on a 35 year lease. The Community Council is responsible for the land management at these locations.</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"> • Land adjacent to the substation, Litchard Hill • Parcel of land at the traffic lights on Heol West Plas leading into Coity Village • Other ad hoc pieces of land as required <p>The Community Council also maintains 4 floral planters and hanging baskets along the main spine roads through the 3 wards of Coity, Litchard and Pendre.</p>
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	We serve an electorate of just under 6,000 residents. The precept for 2022/23 is £113,800.	
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. We engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout all decision making.	Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in discussions and decisions on procurement and on planning applications. We use recycled materials whenever possible particularly for bin and bench purchases.
-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.	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. Allow 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. We	Area of habitat increased. Safeguard species and habitats and

	<p>also planted a bed of bluebells in Cae'r Eglwys.</p> <p>In 2022/23 the Community Council was successful in obtaining grant funding to work in partnership with Ramblers Cymru on their Paths to Wellbeing project. We applied for this funding as the Covid Pandemic highlighted the importance of our nature to the wellbeing of the nation.</p> <p>Part of the funding has been used for habitat creation through the installation of nesting boxes, bat boxes, the building of a bug hotel, wild flower seed planting and the planting of a hedgerow of saplings around the boundary of Cae'r Eglwys.</p>	improve their management.
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<p>Waste paper shredded and recycled</p> <p>Toner cartridges recycled</p>	The Clerk to ensure sustainable procurement of office supplies including paper
-use, improve and share evidence	<p>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 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> <p>Also included in the Paths to Wellbeing grant funding is the</p>	<p>Use their expert advice</p> <p>Increase awareness of the natural habitats which surround us.</p>

	production of 8 walks within the Community Council's three wards.	
-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. The completion of the Paths to Wellbeing project walks will increase awareness of the natural habitats which surround us. Creation of new habitats for birds, bats and bugs through nesting boxes, bat boxes, bug hotel and wildflower, bluebell and new hedgerow at Cae'r Eglwys and beyond.	
Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan	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.	
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. The Community Council will review the S6 plan when writing its Annual Report.	