

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty - Report 2022**

Vale of Grwyney Community Council

Introduction

The Vale of Grwyney Community Council is a small community council situated within the Brecon Beacons National Park. It represents a small rural community consisting of three villages and a scattered rural hinterland with a total population of approximately 700.

The council is a custodial trustee of Glangrwyney Village Hall, but has no tangible assets. It does not own any premises or green spaces, but does lease a small area of ground in Llanbedr which is being used to create a nature garden and community orchard. It aims to promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices wherever possible.

The Council contributes financially towards the upkeep of three churchyards and a playground located within its community. It has been instrumental in the creation of community allotments and is currently creating a “Jubilee Walk” by planting trees along strategic points in the Vale of Grwyney. Seventy bulbs will also be planted in each of the three main villages to commemorate the late Queen’s 70 year reign.

The Council actively promotes applications from community groups to fund sustainable projects which enhance the environment and benefit its residents.

The precept for 2022/23 is £10,000.

Action Plan

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Biodiversity implications are taken into account when considering planning applications and associated matters, ie footpath divisions. It is also a factor for consideration when making procurement decisions.	Commitments made in documents.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Community participation has been encouraged in the development of the nature garden and community orchard with the purpose of increasing	Feedback from council members and residents

	knowledge and to raise awareness of sustainability matters.	
Safeguard principal species and habitats	Management schedule prepared for the nature garden which aims to create suitable habitats for protected species.	Records of any sites or species safeguarded.
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<p>Installed nesting boxes in the nature garden to provide safe places for species of birds to nest</p> <p>Designed landscaping to encourage a diverse wildlife population, especially pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies.</p>	Numbers of successful nesting sites monitored
Tackle negative factors: eg reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Remove use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary, is control of invasive non-nature species such as Japanese Knotweed.	Use of expert advice
Use improve and share evidence	The Council will play its part in ensuring evidence and information is promulgated widely and may be used to best effect.	Documented evidence
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Require any community groups requesting grant funding to demonstrate how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project.	Documented evidence

Review of s6 Duty

What has worked well?

The fruit trees planted in the nature garden and community orchard in 2021 are now starting to produce fruit, and whilst yields are low at present, these are anticipated to increase significantly in the forthcoming years. The garden attracts a variety of wildlife including visiting hedgehogs. This has proved attractive to residents in addition to helping biodiversity.

- What have the barriers been?

Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.

- What will you change?

Advice will be obtained from local ecologists as considered necessary.

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

The s6 plan will be reviewed and up-dated in light of best practice or upon guidance from the Welsh Government, One Voice Wales, Powys County Council or the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. It is next scheduled for review in 2025.