

**LLANTWIT FARDRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANILLTUD FAERDREF**



LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

3RD JULY, 2023

REPORTS OF THE CHAIR (COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR A.GREEN)

CARBON FOOTPRINT

1. Wildflower Areas

- 1.1 Trial areas have been established in all Wards of the Community area. There was a late start with the Spring cut due to the change of `Gang Mower` Plant. Some areas such as Maes y Celyn and Meadow Farm are looking promising, other areas are slow, due, in the main, to the recent dry spell.
- 1.2 The Council's Manual Operative (Supervisor) has recommended the following cutting plan:-
- Spring Cut – no later than end of April, cuttings must be removed. This helps manage grass dominant areas. Cut back to 3 inches.
 - Summer Cut – complete by end of August. Cuttings to be removed.
 - Autumn Cut – end of August and late November. Remove cuttings. This cut can be performed twice during this period depending on growth.
 - Look to sow yellow rattle in November. Seeds to be purchased. A fascinating hemi-parasitic plant that's beneficial to wildflower meadows, as it discourages the growth of coarse and vigorous grasses, that may otherwise out-complete and replace the more desirable wildflowers.
- 1.3 The Council's Manual Operatives have also identified, in the areas that have been trialled, the following wildflowers:-
- Rough hawkbit – produces a large amount of nectar, well-liked by bees.
 - Bitter dock – the leaves and stems are edible when young, roots can be used to make yellow dye.
 - Creeping buttercup – this attracts hoverflies, beetles, and short tongued bees.

- Common self-heal – young leaves and stems are edible. Provides nectar for bees and wasps.
- Bugleweed – loved by bees, butterflies, hoverflies, and moths.
- Ribwort plantain – seeds are a critical food source for songbirds, leaves are eaten by rabbits. The leaves also have many medicinal uses.
- White Clover – all aerial parts of this plant are edible. Loved by honeybees.
- Devils bit scabious – A great nectar plant for bees and butterflies. Also, a vital food source for the marsh fritillary butterfly and the narrow-bordered bee hawk moth.
- Common birds foot trefoil – important food source for bees, bumblebee and some butterfly species.
- Red clover – nectar rich flowers are a favourite for many species of bee, including the common carder bee, honeybee and red-tailed bumblebee.
- Common spotted orchid – highly perfumed flowers are particularly attractive to day flying moths. Also a valuable food source to many different types of butterflies and bees.
- Oxeye daisy – the flowers and the leaves are edible and are known as one of the best tasting summer flowering plants. It also has many medicinal uses including healing bruises and treating coughs and sore eyes. The oxeye daisy is a rich source of pollen for bees.
- Common speedwell – a source of nectar for solitary bees
- Autumn hawkbit – it is believed to have many medicinal uses including treatment of kidney and liver disorders. A good source of nectar late in the season for bees and butterflies.
- Common daisy – this can be used to make a medicinal tea. Flowering for most of the growing season these attract bees for their pollen.
- Mouse ear chickweed – a good food source for insects.
- Common velvet grass – food source to butterflies and caterpillars.
- Germander speedwell – an excellent nectar source for solitary bees.
- Meadow buttercup – these are pollinated by short tongued bees.
- English bluebell – these attract woodland butterflies, bees and hoverflies.
- Oregano (Tonteg park rockery) – edible plant widely used in cooking. Thought to be irresistible to bees.
- Creeping cinquefoil – this attracts solitary bees.
- Ragwort – highly attractive to insects, bees and moths.
- Slender sowthistle – attractive to bees, insects, and rabbits.
- Marsh bedstraw – this plant is edible. It can be dried and used for animal bedding.
- Woodland strawberry – not just eaten by humans but also a food source to slugs, mice, birds and many other creatures.
- Endres cranesbill – these are attractive to bees.

1.4 As Chair of this Committee, I would like to give my personal thanks to our Operatives for the research that they have undertaken in identifying the wildflowers in the areas that are currently being trialled and that they also be commended for their passion and commitment in carrying out this work.

2. *Tree Planting*

- 2.1 Information and selection forms will shortly be issued to Members regarding the Council's Jubilee Tree Planting Scheme.
- 2.2 There are a number of Grant assisted tree planting programmes available to the Council. Further investigation of these schemes is on going.

3. *Solar Power*

- 3.1 Investigation of suitability of Council premises to be equipped with Solar Power is continuing. The condition of the main Carnegie Parish Hall roof is causing some concern and it would not be appropriate to locate panels (with a 25 year lifespan) on that roof at present. There may be scope to look at the flat roof areas of the office and the adjoining garages.
- 3.2 Ty Illtud has a stronger sound roof and is South facing. The intermittent use of power at this hall would suggest that a panel and battery solution would be appropriate for the facility. Further investigations are taking place.

