

Environment (Wales) Act 2016
Part 1 – Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty



Report

2023 – 2025



Introduction and Context

Pontypridd Town Council provide a wide range of services to it's local community which have an impact on biodiversity.

These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces including small holdings, allotments, commons and the community garden and woodland.
- Providing small grants and other support to community groups and projects.
- Hosting a programme of community events.
- Managing two community centres and Pontypridd Museum.

The precept for 2023-2024 was £790k.

The precept for 2024-2025 was £837k.

The precept for 2025-2026 is £877k.



We aim to promote sustainability and biodiversity by developing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

We serve approximately 32,000 residents.

Action Report

Actions Carried Out:	Examples:	Monitored by:
The embedding of biodiversity into decision making and procurement	• Reflected in the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's Forward Development Plan 2023- 2027, which underpins all decision-making. • Adopted a Climate Emergency Motion, committing the Council to review all procurement policies. • Adopted an Allotment and Community Growing Strategy, which established a Land Use Working Group. • Used local suppliers, e.g. Boverton Nursery, Chris Howells Timber and Landscaping, Forest Park and Garden, Woodland Walk Garden Centre, Treforest Hardware. • Created a new staff role relevant to biodiversity: Community and Outdoor Initiatives Officer, position filled in April 2025.	Through the minutes from the Environment Committee and other committee meetings.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and it's importance	• Annual involvement in Pontypridd Green Week. In 2025 we gave financial support to Pontypridd Green Week and ran a stall at the event providing children's activities including an environmental consultation, seed sowing, and recycling themed colouring sheets. • We are a litter picking hub at two of our locations and encourage the community to get involved. The two Hubs are based at, Pontypridd Museum Bridge St, Pontypridd CF37 4PE, and Meadow Street Community Garden, Treforest, CF37 1UD. Treforest Litter Pickers regularly use our site as a base for their monthly community litter picks. • Transformed an area of waste ground into a functioning community garden and woodland with a nature trail which is designed to get the community outdoors and is maintained by community volunteers. • Local schools now visit the community garden where learners get the opportunity to see nature and growing on their doorstep. • Meadow Street Community Garden is a Social Farms and Gardens Champion Site and in 2025 has engaged in their Camau Gwyrdd project by running workshops that encourage people from target groups to take their first steps towards climate action.	Through feedback from Council members and residents. Through recording volunteer hours, participating schools, and attendee numbers.
Safeguard principle species and habitats	• Identification and conservation of native species in our Meadow Street Community Garden and Woodland project - volunteers attended a biodiversity recording training session in 2023 and have been creating records since. • Engaged volunteers in seed saving activities to encourage the spread of native species	Recorded through Local Environmental Recording Centre App (LERC)

Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring and creating habitats.	• Ponty in Bloom runs yearly, placing flowers in planters and hanging baskets in the town centre. • Created wildlife areas across several venues, providing nest boxes and hibernation areas to encourage a range of species. • Development of the garden at Graig Community Centre in collaboration with Keep Wales Tidy in Summer 2025 • Used sustainable woodland stewardship practices to restore the woodland area at Meadow Street Community Garden, including creating a new hedgerow, managing coppice on varying rotations to increase the diversity of habitat, creating dead hedging, creating wildflower areas, planting new trees, and restoring the wildlife pond. • Used sustainable gardening practices at the Meadow Street Community Garden, including rainwater harvesting, no-dig gardening, permaculture, and no-mow areas, to improve the soil microbiome and overall biodiversity of the site.	Environment Committee meeting minutes Management plans
Tackle pressures on species and habitat.	• Followed our knotweed plan to identify and treat knotweed across our wards. • Supported and facilitated seasonal ‘Balsam Bashing’ events across the area annually. • Used battery-operated tools instead of petrol tools to reduce negative impact where possible. • Used hand tools and traditional methods for vegetation management where possible to reduce impact on wildlife. • Gardening without the use of pesticides and herbicides at Meadow Street Community Garden. • Establishment of a willow hedge to hopefully mitigate the harm to wildlife from any future flooding at Meadow Street site by supporting the fence and capturing debris.	Monitored by the management team and the Environment Committee.
Share knowledge, and improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.	• Made biodiversity records through the LERC app (Local Environmental Recording Centres) • Representatives have attended the Local Nature Partnership, Climate Action Network, Sustainable Food Network and Green Social Prescribing Network meetings to share and learn information. • Taken advice from Natural Resources Wales about the restoration of the woodland at Meadow Street and the treatment of invasive species. • Carried out a Community Consultation to understand residents’ priorities for Berw Road Field in Spring and Summer 2024, including tree planting and vegetation management. • Commissioned an expert management plan for Berw Road Field, which was written by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in June 2025, including recommendations for Biodiversity Gains and Climate Resilience. • We are currently working with a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist from Interlink to improve our practices regarding monitoring volunteer hours and collecting visitor and participant information	Recorded through LERC app Network meeting minutes Expert reports
Support other organisations capacity	• We run two litter picking hubs, enabling other organisations to have free use of the equipment. • Facilitated initiatives to help local schools get growing on their own grounds, such as ‘ Sow Some Sunshine’ and the ‘Ponty Potato Project’. • The Council has provided small grants to external organisations that engage in environmental projects, including the PONT Livelihoods Group, who built a keyhole garden and the Little Lounge, which used the funds towards their “village fair” - a celebration of community growing. • We are currently saving open-pollinated seed at Meadow Street Community Garden to share with other growing projects at a local seed swap due to take place in spring 2026.	All projects are monitored by the management team and Environment Committee.

Review of the Section 6 Duty

What has worked well?

Building lasting relationships with a wide range of Community Groups.

Engaging the community in Green Week, through events, as litter pickers, and as volunteers at Meadow Street Community Garden and Woodland.

What have the barriers been?

Lack of understanding.

Habit and resistance to change.

Difficulty in monitoring and evaluation.

What will we change?

Improving our Environment and Biodiversity is now a key pillar of our Forward Development Plan 2023 - 2027, which underpins all decision-making.

We are seeking expert advice to improve our monitoring and evaluation.

How and when will the Section 6 duty be monitored and the plan reviewed?

The duty will be monitored by the Council's Environment, Land Use and Planning Committee, and individual officers will report back to the Council on actions taken.

The Committee will review the plan regularly.

