

***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6***

***The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty***

***Biodiversity Action Plan and Report 2022***

**Blaenhonddan Community Council**

**Introduction and Context**

Blaenhonddan Community Council provides a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces including 6 parks / playgrounds, 2 playing fields, 8 allotments and 2 other parcels of land, in respect of which it reviews and adapts its management practices where appropriate
- Liaising with and supporting a number of community groups in its area who are involved in environmental matters.
- Helping to raise awareness of biodiversity and environmental matters by supporting or organising relevant events.
- Providing funding where possible for projects in the Council's area which impact on biodiversity.

The Council promotes sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible. It is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act and produces an Annual Report which addresses sustainability and biodiversity, with an annual update provided to the Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board on meeting sustainability objectives. The primary reporting responsibility rests with the Clerk to the Council, with policy decisions determined by Council and individual Members contributing to implementation as appropriate

The Council serves approximately 11,000 residents in the communities of Bryncoch, Waunceirch, Caewern, Cadoxton, Cilfrew and Aberdulais. The precept for 2022-2023 is £221,000.

## Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – Version 1

Objective	Timescale		
Secure commitment of Members and Publish Plan	2022/23		
Identify and deliver actions for raising awareness	2022/23 on		
Implement and/or support low level actions that promote biodiversity	2022/23 on		
Review Council activities and identify scope for positive biodiversity inputs in existing activities	2023/24		
Identify new projects for delivery as a Council and/or with partners	2023/24 on		
<b>Action Plan</b>			
Proposal	Partners	Timescale	Outputs
<b>Commitment and Plan Preparation</b>			
Organise Internal Biodiversity Workshop	One Voice Wales	October 2022	Increased awareness for 13 Members and staff
Biodiversity Action Plan Version 1	-	December 2022	Version 1 adopted at Council
Establish bespoke mechanism for policy and implementation	-	December 2022	Council appointed Environment Committee with brief to review BAP, promote engagement and progress all aspects
<b>Awareness Raising</b>			
Attend Biodiversity Event	Friends of Craig Gwladus	June 2022	Increased awareness for 2 Members and the Clerk

<b>Initial Lower-Level Actions</b>			
Cadoxton Bird Boxes Event	Friends of Craig Gwladus	October 22	Attended by 2 Members, 1 staff member, 7 public (3 adults and 4 children)
Swift Boxes at Aberdulais CC and Bryncoch CC	NPT CBC	November 22	x number boxes installed
<b>Council Activities</b>			
Review Grounds Maintenance Wildflower Meadow potential	OVW NPT CBC	Dec 22 – Feb 23	x potential sites identified
Grounds Maintenance specifications amended	-	March 23	Contractors appointed
Wildflower Meadows developed	-	Apr 2023 – Apr 2028	X wildflower meadows created
<b>Future Projects</b>			
Allotments / Community Garden	-	April 2023	Potential investigated
<b>Report</b>			
<b>Objective</b>			<b>Timescale</b>
Council to publish 3-year report on compliance with Section 6 duty			End of 2022
Environment Committee to compile Biodiversity Annual Statement and report to Council			March 2023
Council to incorporate content on environment, sustainability and biodiversity actions in Annual Report and submit statement to Public Service Board			April 2023