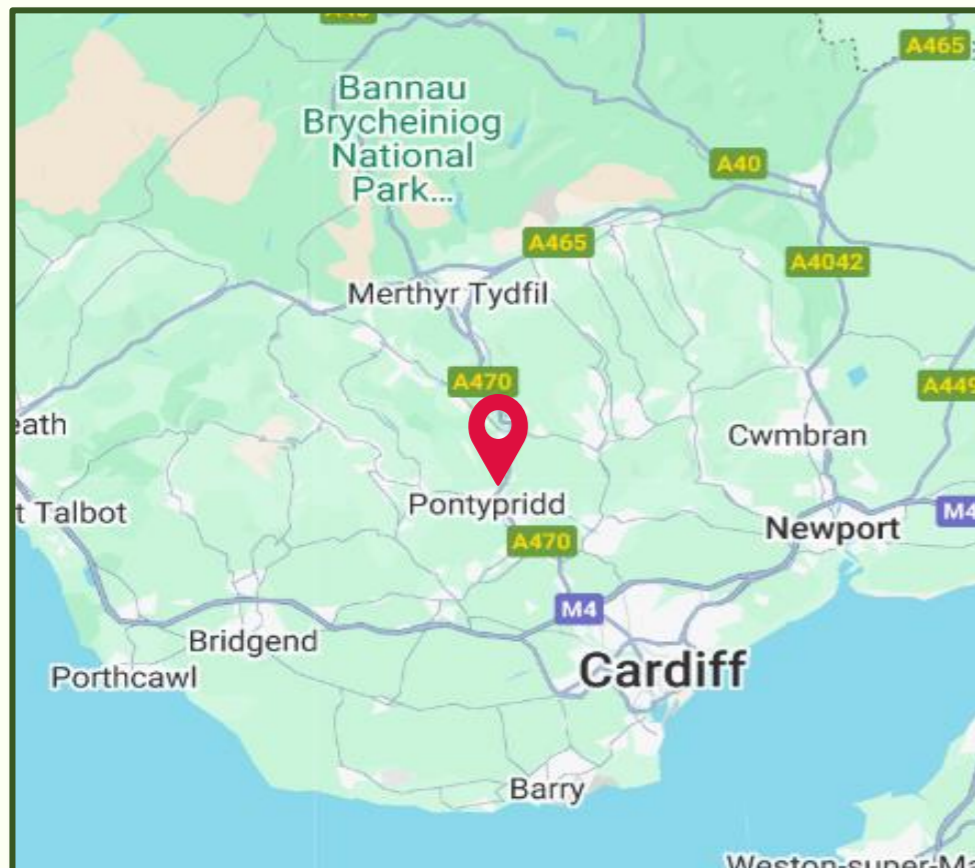


# Meadow Street Community

In 2022 we were awarded a  
£91,611 Local Places for Nature Grant



The vision of Meadow Street Community was to create a safe and welcoming place, where people from all walks of life can enjoy the benefits of nature, home-grown produce and the opportunities to share and learn new skills. Started: December 2022 Completed: February 2023



Before  
December 2021

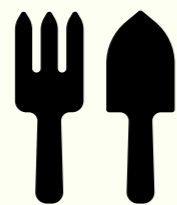


After  
February 2023



## Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Pontypridd is a market town in the Rhondda Cynon Taff county borough of South Wales. It's located at the confluence of the Rhondda and Taff rivers and was once the centre of the coal and iron industries. The town is famous for its iconic arched bridge built by William Edwards in 1756.



# Meadow Street Community

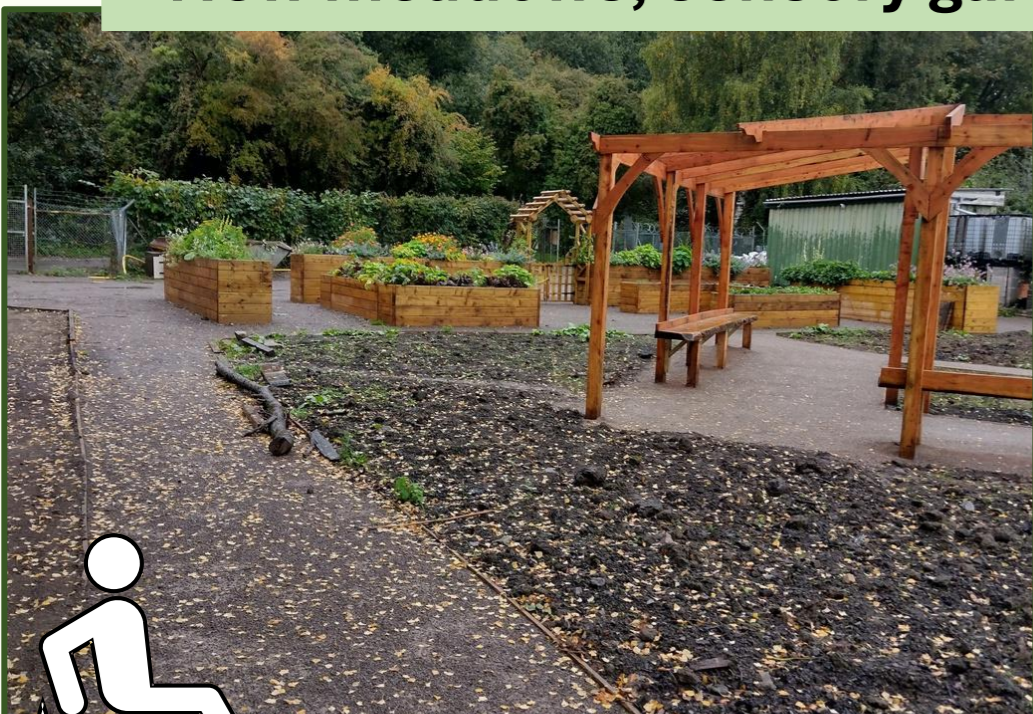
**2,023m<sup>2</sup> of accessible community growing space created**



**New meadows, sensory gardens and an orchard planted**



**Invasive species under control  
Japanese knotweed removed  
and Himalayan Balsam bashing  
events held in Summer**



**800m of Accessible paths created**

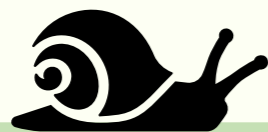


**Over 50 volunteers involved**





# Ar gyfer Bioamrywiaeth... For Biodiversity...



No dig growing and onsite composting



Learning skills to identify  
common native species



Increase orchard tree planting

Heritage Welsh Apples growing



Wildflower meadows created for foraging and pollinators

Reduce the use of pesticides



Heritage varieties of fruits and vegetables growing



Sensory garden  
and pond created



# Ar gyfer Bioamrywiaeth... For Biodiversity...



**Increase wildflower planting**



**400m<sup>2</sup> of pollinator habitat created in sensory garden and meadows**

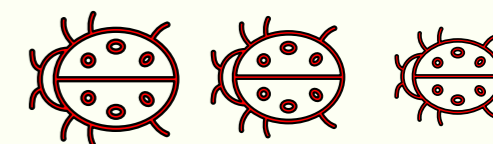


**Log piles and  
bug hotels**



**Dead hedges  
created**

**Benefits to wildlife**



**Change mowing practices**

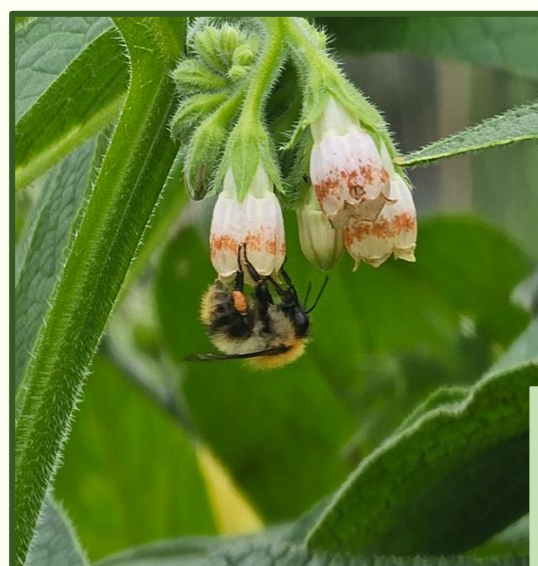
**Increase pollinators**

**6 species of native  
bees recorded**

**Pond and Hibernacula installed**



**Hedgehog highways  
and hotels installed**





# Ar gyfer Ein Cymuned... For our Community...

Increase community food growing opportunities

Awarded the Community Green Flag in 2023

“I thought tomatoes came from a tin until I came here.”



“I was bored and had no energy before coming to the garden. It has changed my life, and I always look forward to coming!”



A wide variety of groups and organisations use the site:

Men's Shed

Women's Institute

Local Schools

Innovate Trust

Coed Lleol

Local families

Ukrainian refuges

Community service,

University of South Wales

...To name just a few.





# Ar gyfer Ein Cymuned... For our Community...



**1 new Volunteer coordinator role created  
1 Local Places for Nature Placement offered.**



“This role has offered the opportunity of a lifetime to develop new skills, being part of the developing community spirit has been a joy”

**Improved food access - surplus food is shared with the local community**



**Thanks to the hard work of the volunteers, the site has seen an increase in people visiting and enjoying nature, learning about food, fresh produce, people coming together, and a growing sense of pride in our shared space.**



“I have learnt that a volunteer’s sense of being valued, and encouraging their confidence to soar, is far more important than the production of perfectly formed plants.”

**‘Growing together’ sessions educating the local community**



# Am Y Dyfodol... For The Future...

**Plant more native species to increase pollinator resource**



**Bring people together across the different generations and backgrounds, to create a sense of belonging and shared purpose, using nature and gardening as the catalyst.**



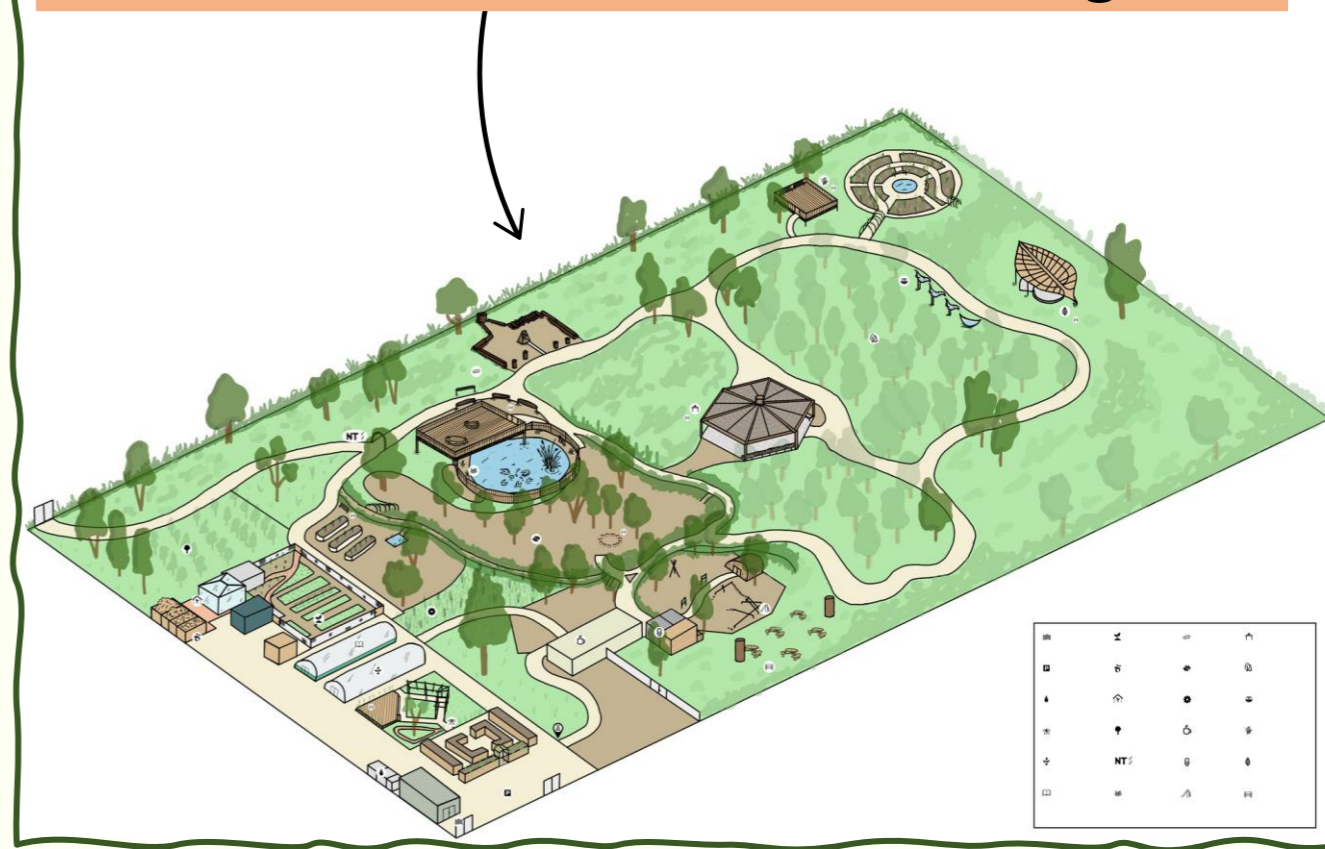
**Continue to improve the community growing area, increasing our capacity to educate the community and share surplus food.**



**Complete the implementation of the Woodland Investment Grant received in 2023**



**Map of Site including the local places for nature and Woodland investment grant**

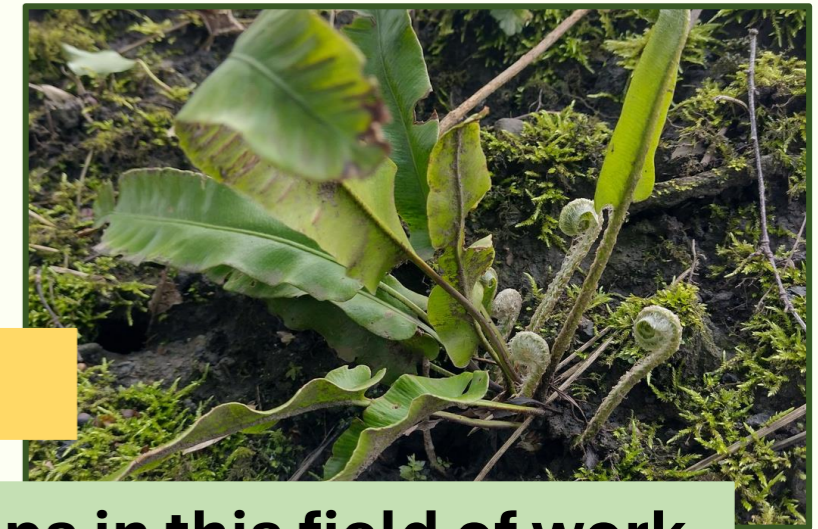


**Continue to use of sustainable growing methods to preserve natural resources, reduce waste, avoid using chemicals and embrace biodiversity.**





# Am Y Dyfodol... For The Future...



To keep helping biodiversity we need...

To invest in apprenticeships or traineeships in this field of work

Funding to support the Volunteer coordinator role and maintain the project

To be able to access to expert advice and training to create, enhance and restore Nature On Our Doorstep in Pontypridd

## Our Biodiversity Action Plan

### Action Report

Actions Carried Out:	Examples:	Monitored by:
1) Supporting the embedding of biodiversity into decision making.	Reflected in the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's Forward Development Plan 2023- 2027. 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 involving community groups, to advise the Council in the use of its land in the context of biodiversity.	Overseen by the Council's Environment Committee.
2) Raise awareness of biodiversity and safeguard species and habitats.	PTC regularly take part in Green Week, inspiring and educating the community about the small differences that can be made. We are a litter picking hub at two of our community locations and encourage the community to get involved. We also support and facilitate 'Balsam Bashing' events across the area. In the last 18 months we have transformed an area of waste ground into a functioning community garden in which the community has been heavily involved in every step of the way. The second stage of the project at Meadow Street will involve developing the large woodland area. Working with the community using no dig permaculture principles to care for soil and improve microbiome for sustainable food growing. Local schools now visit the community garden and get the opportunity to see nature and growing on their doorstep. Amended the Allotment Tenancy Agreement to encourage allotment holders to use alternatives to pesticides and herbicides wherever possible. Identification and conservation of native species in the community garden and woodland, volunteers are encouraged to attend training sessions and log species.	Through feedback from Council members and residents.

3) Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring and creating habitats.	Supported a local community group to move towards gaining ownership of a woodland where biodiversity will feature heavily. Began conversations with "Welcome to our Woods" to become part of their network. Ponty in Bloom runs yearly with hanging baskets and pollinator friendly flowers. Support 'No Mow' May. Created wildlife areas across several venues providing nesting and hibernation areas to encourage a range of species. Restored a woodland area with new saplings and created connecting corridors with living hedgerows and dead hedges.	Environment Committee. Town Clerk.
4) Tackle pressures on species and habitat.	Developed a knotweed plan to identify and tackle knotweed across our estate. Using battery operated tools and gardening methods that preserve native species.	Environment Committee.
5) Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.	Representatives have attend the Local Nature Partnerships meeting and used opportunities to take part in events and training sessions. Taken Advice from Natural Resources Wales with regards to the woodland and treatment of invasive species. Collect data on volunteers and visitors to various sites.	Management Team.
6) Have a framework of governance and support for delivery.	We are a litter picking hub and encourage organisations to use the equipment. Schools regularly take part in initiatives such as ' Sow Some Sunshine' and the 'Ponty Potato Project'. All projects are monitored by the management team and Environment Committee. The Council is playing a facilitation role to help joint working and networking. The Council has provided several small grants to external organisations that support environmental projects.	Working in partnership with other organisations  Oversight by Town Clerk

