

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

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

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council:	Cwm-Rhu Community Council
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Group:	2
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Cwm Rhu is a peri-urban Community council covering three ward areas with 1,970 residents. Our precept for 2024/2025 was £76,500.

Cwm-Rhu CC currently has 12 Councillors and employs a full-time Clerk, a Groundsman and a caretaker.

Cwm-Rhu CC manage Pwll Du village green/memorial, St Jude's park which has a football pitch and play area, as well as various small green spaces around the town. We own and manage Cwm-Rhu Community hall, two bus shelters, 3 planters and display several hanging baskets April to October.

Cwm Rhu is a small town situated about 20 miles from the coast and has a history of lead mining and slate quarrying. We have a scheduled ancient monument which is a standing stone called Maen Idris which has links to druids, myths and legends.

We hold a summer carnival every July and every October we host world's oldest apple eating contest, which attract lots of visitors.

We are fortunate to be within the Clwydian range and Dee Valley National Landscapes AONB and the town has a large population of Swifts and also rare Ffridd habitat which is part of the Penrhys SSSI.



Action Report 2023 – 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...	Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement Biodiversity committee was established at 2024 Annual Meeting. This committee has been responsible for enacting the BAP and bringing biodiversity issues to full Council. Council tendered for new contracts for the management of our green spaces to enhance biodiversity in Apr 2025 following advice from Biodiversity Committee. We retained our old contractor on a new contract for cut and collect mowing service at the park. The new contract has established 'meadow areas' of 106m² total within the park and around the perimeter. This was accomplished following advice from One Voice Wales / Local Nature Partnership biodiversity officers who met with members of the council on site. Biodiversity committee reviewed our banking services through the lens of biodiversity and climate change. Full council voted to change our banking to (Co-op, Nationwide, Triodos, etc.) as they are the most ethical and environmentally friendly option that suited our needs. The OVW Planning and biodiversity guide was consulted when the council commented on a planning application within our area for new solar panels. All biodiversity committee members have undertaken OVW training modules on biodiversity	Full Council and Clerk/RFO Full Council and Clerk/RFO Full Council and Clerk/RFO Planning committee Biodiversity committee

	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	We added a section on our website which includes information on general climate and biodiversity issues. We share National Landscape events and training/volunteering opportunities in our newsletter. Website & newsletter now includes a monthly round-up of species seen in the town. New 'It's For Them' signage has been placed in the park near the new 'meadow areas.' We received these from OVW. Street planters – A new planting plan was introduced to replace annuals with more resilient, native perennials that are pollinator friendly and more drought resilient. Advice and the plants were received from OVW. Hanging baskets were removed from the town due to the volume of water needed to keep them alive – this was deemed unsustainable during the long drought period.	Clerk Clerk Cllrs Clerk / Biodiversity committee Working group/ sub-committee Working group/ sub-committee
2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	We sought advice from the National Landscape, OVW, and Local Nature partnership on which Section 7 priority species & habitats are present in the area. Through cut and collect management changes we created nature corridors around the edge of our amenity grassland. Following community outreach events, we now have a small volunteer group who record species in the park every week. We publish this information in our newsletter and on the LERC app. We have made links with the National Landscape and now have members of our community who regularly attend their volunteering events.	Biodiversity Committee Grounds staff Clerk / Volunteers Clerk / Volunteers



3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	We created 106 m² of new wildflower areas within our park. These areas are seen full of bees and butterflies all summer. During the extended period of drought from March-September 2025 this area stayed green and full of life. (figure 1.) We have started planning new areas that can be converted to 'meadow areas' throughout the community to create even more movement corridors for wildlife that now live in our park. A new oak tree was planted within the park to celebrate 65 years since the Council's inception. We received this free from OVW. (figure 2.) We frequently refer to the Nature Recovery Guide for principles in nature recovery.  We also decided to change the cutting regime of the hedge that runs around the park. Normally this is cut every year in September. This winter it was cut in January after all the fruit was gone. This meant there was food and shelter for birds through winter. The hedge was cut differently this year too; instead of	Grounds staff Biodiv. Committee Grounds staff Full Council Biodiversity Committee



		being cut in a square the top was not cut at all. (figure 1.) We did assess whether we could install a pond. The council has agreed that we can and should install a new pond in the corner of the park, we are now seeking community support. We assessed installing green roofs on our bus stops. This would require external funding that we have not yet applied for. The council received 2 swift boxes from OVW and has installed these on the Village Hall. We are still in communication with the Wildlife Trust and the County Council on how to receive more boxes. (figure 3)	Full Council Biodiv. Committee Biodiv. Committee
4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	We wrote formally to the County Council that they stop spraying glyphosate on all footpaths and walkways within the community. In place of pesticide, we use a mechanical brush on a strimmer to remove the build-up of any sediment. This has resulted in far fewer plants growing through the tarmac. All council members have received informal training from OVW biodiversity officers on what are the most common Invasive species found in our area, what they look like, and how to remove them. On a site visit, the biodiversity officer pointed out Himalayan balsam growing along a neighbouring stream that is very invasive and pointed out greater periwinkle growing in one of the verges. Councillors now raise these issues with residents and in council meetings.	Clerk Full Council
5	-use improve and share evidence	Volunteer group now records species in the park using LERC app and shares results with the council. This information will be used to steer future management of the meadows and can be shared with residents. We publish the results from volunteer surveys in our newsletter We keep in regular contact with OVW biodiversity officers about any changes to the park and to seek advice whenever necessary. New biodiversity and climate training is always suggested to councillors and the clerk	Clerk/Volunteers Clerk Clerk



		Residents are encouraged to attend training and volunteering events with the County Council and National Landscape.	Clerk
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	Maintain good relationship with OVW, LNP, NL officers etc. The LNP has supported the council creating a new category in the village in bloom competition for the most nature friendly garden. We have followed the BAP, undertaken as many of the targets as possible, and are reporting on them here. This report will be published on our website and on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website.	Clerk Clerk



Figure 1. New wildflower area & hedge in park.



Figure 2. New oak tree planted in park as a celebration.



Figure 3. New swift box on side of village hall.



Figure 4. Greater periwinkle invasive removed from verge in community.



Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

What has worked well?	Meadow areas in park and on verges have been successful with 15 different species recorded in some areas and verges. We have established good links with the National Landscapes team with the local ranger delivering training on hedge planting and maintenance. The biodiversity committee has 5 Cllrs, our Groundsman and 3 members of the public who regularly attend and contribute. The newsletter and website now have a dedicated biodiversity page. We were awarded a wildflower seed and plug plant package from One Voice Wales, and these were used to fill the new look planters. The planters looked fantastic, and we received lots of positive feedback during the summer.
What have the barriers been?	Mowing changes – a small number of complaints from the public, information from 'It's For Them' provided and the Council will retain the plans to install signage. A lack of awareness and knowledge within the Council has slowed progress in decision making. Communication between the Community Council and the County Council has meant that pesticide spraying continued in some areas we agreed it would stop. Availability of funding has slowed progress with some grants having short windows to apply.
What will you change?	We will continue writing to the County Council to request pesticide spraying stops. We will carry out a community consultation on further changes and communicate clearly the aims of objectives of any changes.
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	We are in the S6 reporting year of 2025. A new Biodiversity Action Plan will be written in 2026, to be reviewed annually.



Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	- that own or occupy an office building only and - whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	- that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, - whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or - that can influence those who own or manage land.	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- Objective 2:** Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- Objective 4:** Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Objective 6:** Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery