

## *Community & Town Councils*

# **Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2028**

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

<b>Name of Community &amp; Town Council:</b>	<b>Cwm-Rhu Community Council</b>
<b>Council type (<a href="#">Group 1, 2 or 3 for NRAP Objectives</a>):</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction and Context</b>	
<p>Cwm Rhu is a peri-urban Community council covering three ward areas with 1,970 residents. Our precept for 2024/2025 was £76,500.</p> <p>Cwm-Rhu CC currently has 12 Councillors and employs a full-time Clerk, a Groundsman and a caretaker.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We hold a summer carnival every July and every October we host world’s oldest apple eating contest, which attract lots of visitors.</p> <p>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.</p>	

NRAP Objective	Biodiversity objectives	Action planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
1	<b>-embed biodiversity into decision making &amp; procurement</b>	A Biodiversity committee will be established at the 2026 Annual Meeting. The committee will take responsibility for delivering this action plan and produce documents for all biodiversity related issues to bring to full Council for approval.	May 2026	Clerk
		Council will tender for new contracts for the management of its green spaces to enhance biodiversity. The tender will be for a cut and collect mowing service at the park to establish meadow areas of least 100m <sup>2</sup> , in addition to standard playing field maintenance. Council will discuss the benefits of leaving the grass unmown after the end of the football season and will seek expert advice from One Voice Wales.	February 2027	Full Council/ Clerk/RFO
		A budget for biodiversity and nature projects will be included in the annual budget for 2026/2027	January 2026	Full Council
		Impacts on local and global biodiversity will be considered when choosing contractors, banking providers, insurance and products for asset purchase and maintenance.	At every meeting	Clerk
		The Council will work with the external Carnival management committee to discuss planting a heritage apple orchard to provide apples for future events.	April 2026	Clerk
		The planning committee will refer to the OVW Planning and biodiversity guide when responding to planning applications in its role as statutory consultee.	At every meeting	Chair of Planning Committee
		The Council will ensure all Councillors are aware of the Section 6 duty and the requirements, receiving training when required.	Ongoing	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		The Council will encourage members of the community to join the Biodiversity committee and become actively involved; this will ensure	When relevant	Clerk

		accountability and allow skills and knowledge sharing. Information about Biodiversity committee meetings will be advertised within the community through social media and a mailing list.		
		Council will ensure any impact on biodiversity is considered in every decision made	Ongoing	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		A new biodiversity clause will be added to the hire agreement for the playing field and Community hall to ensure that groups and businesses do not adversely impact on biodiversity.	By end of 2026	Clerk
	<b>-raise awareness of biodiversity &amp; its importance</b>	We will add a section on our website to include information on general climate and biodiversity issues.	February 2026	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		Link with National Landscapes staff to share information on events and training/volunteering opportunities.	Summer 2026	Clerk/Chair Biodiversity Committee
		Website & newsletter will be updated to include a monthly round-up of species recorded in our area.	Ongoing	Clerk
		Where changes are made signage and communication will be used to explain the benefits to biodiversity.	Ongoing	Clerk
		New 'It's For Them' signage will be placed in high footfall areas where we have changed mowing practices to reduce mowing intervals. We will look at applying for funding through Local Places for Nature and OVW for the signage needed.	April 2026	Clerk/Chair Biodiversity Committee
		Regular updates on citizen science schemes such as the New year plant hunt, Big garden bird watch and Wales nature week will be shared with the community through social media and print media.	Ongoing	Clerk/Chair Biodiversity Committee

		The Biodiversity Committee will discuss the possibility of facilitating expert led BioBlitz events for the community to record plant and animal species in our area.	Summer 2026	Biodiversity Committee
2	<b>-safeguard principal species and habitats</b>	Street planters – A new planting plan will be introduced to replace current annuals, with more resilient and native plants that are pollinator bee friendly and more drought resilient. Advice on suitable plants and possible funding will be sought from OVW.	March 2026	Biodiversity Committee
		We will seek advice from the National Landscapes team, OVW, and Local Nature Partnership on which Section 7 priority species & habitats are present in the area.	May/June 2026	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		We will introduce cut and collect areas to create meadow areas on our amenity grassland. Pathways will be mown through these areas to create an attractive nature trail. These areas will act as nature corridors.	Spring/Summer 2027	Biodiversity Committee
		We aim to create a volunteer group / mechanism for recording species in the park so people can send us sightings of what they see.	Spring 2026	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		We will request a cessation in Herbicide spraying by our local County Council and research alternative methods of removing unwanted vegetation from pavement and curbs.	Spring 2027	Full Council
		The Biodiversity committee will consider ideas such as an ‘Adopt a street’ scheme to help reduce the need for pesticides and spread of both existing and potential non-native invasive species.	By end of 2026	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee

<p>3</p>	<p><b>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</b></p>	<p>We will refer to the ‘5 pillars of Nature Recovery’ in the OVW Nature Recovery Action Guide to plan to provide healthy habitats and corridors for key species identified. <i>(The pillars being met by each action are identified by numbers 1-5)</i></p>  <p>In St Judes park and on the grass verges that we manage the Council will create new habitats through mowing changes, providing increased forage for pollinators, and habitat for insects, birds and small mammals. (1,2&amp;3)</p>	<p>By Spring 2027</p>	<p>Biodiversity Committee</p>
		<p>The Council will consult with the local community and obtain expert advice on potential locations for a bog garden/rain garden or wildlife pond. (3)</p>	<p>By end of 2026</p>	<p>Biodiversity Committee/ Full Council</p>

		<p>We will work with local volunteers and groups to plant native hedging trees and fill in gaps of existing hedge around the park.</p> <p>This restored hedgerow will increase connections for our target species and other wildlife. (4) Council will discuss an application to OVW for the hedging biodiversity package or similar funding. Our new hedgerow management plan will follow best practice advice from OVW / LNP / County Biodiversity officers etc. (1,2,4,5)</p>	Autumn 2026/Winter 2027	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		Where plants species diversity is low on unmown areas, we will seek advice from OVW and consider adding seeds and plug plants using Local Places for Nature funding through OVW or LNP. (1,2,3)	Spring/ Summer 2026	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		One large Oak tree sapling will be planted in St Jude's park as a celebratory event marking 65 years of the Council's inception. The Council will seek advice from OVW on the correct species, provenance and location, as well as potential sources of funding. (1,2,4)	Autumn 2026/Winter 2027	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		Working with volunteers, local schools and Newton Youth club we will plant over 1000 native bulbs over the next three years. In St Jude's park, on the village green, and in planters outside the community hall. Species will include: Wild daffodil, Snowdrop, and Bluebell. (1)	Every Autumn	Biodiversity Committee
		Council will seek advice and guidance to assess the viability of installing green roofs on our 2 bus stops. (1,2,4,5)	By end of 2027	Full Council
		Council will provide 20 swift boxes on public & private buildings following advice on optimal locations from OVW, RSPB, & Wildlife Trust. Local trades will be sought to install the boxes. (1,5)	Summer 2027	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
4	<b>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution,</b>	Council members will attend training to help identify the most common INNS and check our grounds if they are present (eg. Japanese knotweed,	Spring/ Summer 2026	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee

	<b>use nature-based solutions, address invasive species</b>	Himalayan balsam, Cotoneaster etc... seeking expert advice and training where needed. (1,5)		
		Any INNS identified will be recorded and the appropriate steps taken to remove it taken. (1)	Ongoing	Full Council
		Volunteer 'Balsam Bashing' events will be arranged and supervised by the Council during each Spring to remove Himalayan balsam from the rear of the Community hall. (1)	Every Spring	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		Information on the common INNS species and the potential impact of garden escapes and guerilla planting will be shared with the community.	ongoing	Clerk
		A rain garden will be created at the north side of St Jude's park which will help to provide a nature-based solution to the surface water accumulation issues on the football field. This will involve planting 20-30 plants, shrubs and trees that thrive in wetter conditions and help to hold water in the soil, therefore reducing run-off onto the football pitch. (1,2,3,4)		Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee and Park Committee
		Consider removal or alternative to hanging baskets to a more sustainable solution which is better suited to drought periods that are becoming more frequent.	April 2026	Biodiversity Committee
		A potential green roof installation on the 2 bus shelters will increase water retention, provide forage and water for pollinators, birds and insects and provide urban cooling and carbon sequestration. (1,2,3,4)	By end of 2027	Full Council
		Alternative methods of 'weed' control will be carried out at the Community hall, St Judes playing field. This will include mechanical removal by hand and battery-operated machinery. (1)	ongoing	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee and Park and Hall Committees

		The Council will share accurate information on the negative impacts of herbicides and pesticides using social media, website, newsletter and leading by example. (5)	Ongoing	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
5	<b>-use, improve, and share evidence</b>	Ensure we share our completed Section 6 Report 2025 on our website and the Wales Biodiversity partnership website.	Ongoing	Clerk
		Publish this Biodiversity Action Plan on our website.	January 2026	Clerk
		Review this plan annually, adjust and add actions where relevant and ensure an updated version is published on our website.	Every December	Clerk/ Biodiversity Committee
		Facilitate or assist in the creation of a 'Friends of' Volunteer group for St Jude's park to record species seen in the park and wider area using the LERC app.	Summer 2026	Clerk
		Publish any species records on our website, to generate more interest and participation.	By Spring 2027	Clerk
		Maintain communications with OWW Biodiversity team National Landscapes and the LNP about progress on this plan and update the community via media.	Ongoing	Clerk
		All Council members will be offered the opportunity to attend biodiversity related training courses and webinars according to our training plan and budget.	Ongoing	Clerk
		Opportunities for Volunteer groups to attend free training events with the National Landscapes/LNP will be shared as they become available.	Ongoing	Clerk
6	<b>-support capacity and/or other organisations</b>	Create and maintain good links and lines of communication with National Landscapes, LNP and OWW.	Ongoing	Clerk
		The Council will continue to support the Cwm-Rhu in Bloom committee by sponsoring a prize category for the most wildlife friendly garden.	April 2026	Clerk

		The council will offer small grants (<£200) to local organisations to improve biodiversity.	April 2027	Clerk
		Opportunities to work with local charities and organisations such as the Wildlife Trust, Rivers Trust and the Newton Food growing cooperative, will be discussed.	By April 2026	Clerk
		The Council will seek to arrange a Stakeholders meeting regarding the issues with anti-social behaviour on the Penrhys SSSI and contribute to an action plan being implemented before the school summer break.	May 2026	Clerk

## Annual review of the Biodiversity Action Plan

Date reviewed:	10/12/2026	/2027	/2028
<b>What has worked well?</b>	Newton Secondary school pupils helped us plant 2 beautiful sessile oak trees and planted native bulbs at the Community hall and we worked with St Jude's primary School pupils to create wooden plaques and decorations to commemorate the occasion. <a href="#">(Photo A)</a>		
<b>What have the barriers been?</b>	We received some opposition to the removal of the hanging baskets, and we have retained these for 2026.		
<b>What will you change?</b>	We will work closely with both local schools and the Youth club to deliver our plans and develop new ideas. We will source new hanging baskets with water retention reservoirs to reduce water wastage and use more native plants that are more drought resilient.		

**Date – Next review:**

/2027

/2028

**Date - Approved:**

/2027

/2028

## Cynghorau Cymuned a Thref

# Cynllun Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth

*Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 Rhan 1 – Adran 6 Y Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau*

Enw'r Cyngor Tref neu Gymuned:					
Math o gyngor ( <a href="#">Grŵp 1,2, neu 3 ar gyfer amcan NRAP</a> )					
<b>Cyflwyniad a'r Cyd-destun</b>					
<p><i>Disgrifiad byr o'r Cyngor, ei swyddogaethau a'r cyd-destun o ran:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>sut y gallai helpu bioamrywiaeth (trwy ei swyddogaethau rheoli tir, cyllid grant, gweithgareddau addysgol e.e.).</i></li> <li>- <i>graddfa ofodol a lle (e.e. faint o dir mae'n ei gynnwys, poblogaeth, praesept?).</i></li> <li>- <i>cyflawni gwasanaethau i'r cyhoedd (e.e. a yw gofynion Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn berthnasol iddo?).</i></li> </ul>					
Amcan NRAP	Amcan Bioamrywiaeth	Camau arfaethedig		Graddfa amser	Wedi eu monitro gan:
<b>1</b>	<b>-cynnwys bioamrywiaeth o fewn llunio penderfyniadau a chaffael</b>				

	<b>-codi ymwybyddiaeth o fioamrywiaeth a'i bwysigrwydd</b>			
<b>2</b>	<b>-diogelu prif rywogaethau a chynefinoedd</b>			
<b>3</b>	<b>-adfer &amp; chreu cynefinoedd a rhwydweithiau ecolegol cydnerth</b>			
<b>4</b>	<b>-mynd i'r afael ag elfennau negyddol: lleihau llygredd e.e. defnyddio atebion yn seiliedig ar natur, mynd i'r afael</b>			

	<b>â rhywogaethau goresgynnol</b>			
<b>5</b>	<b>-defnyddio gwella a rhannu tystiolaeth</b>			
<b>6</b>	<b>-cefnogi capasiti a/neu sefydliadau eraill</b>			

## Adolygiad blynyddol o'r Cynllun Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth

Dyddiad yr adolygiad:	/2026	/2027	/2028
<b>Beth sydd wedi gweithio'n dda?</b>			
<b>Beth fu'r rhwystrau?</b>			
<b>Beth fyddwch yn ei newid?</b>			

Dyddiad yr adolygiad nesaf:	
Cymeradwywyd gan y Cyngor ar:	





Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity.	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
	<b>Organisations:</b>			
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that own or occupy an office building only and</li> <li>whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.</li> </ul>	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds,</li> <li>whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or</li> <li>that can influence those who own or manage land.</li> </ul>	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.</li> </ul>	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



Grŵp	Disgrifiad o sefydliad mewn perthynas â bioamrywiaeth  Sefydliadau:	Camau Gweithredu Sylfaenol	Enghreifftiau	Amcanion NRAP ar gyfer Adrodd ar gamau Gweithredu (Gweler Templedi)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sy'n berchen neu'n meddiannu adeilad swyddfa yn unig</li> <li>ac nad yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig yn uniongyrchol â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir.</li> </ul>	Camau sy'n gysylltiedig a rheoli adeiladau, caffael, cynaliadwyedd, codi ymwybyddiaeth, hyfforddiant, neu mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau eraill.	Comisynau, DVLA	Amcanion NRAP: <b>1, 4, a 6</b>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sy'n berchen yn meddiannu neu'n rheoli eu adeiladau a'u tir eu hunain,</li> <li>y mae eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig a bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir, neu</li> <li>sy'n gallu dylanwadu ar y rhai sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir.</li> </ul>	Fel Grŵp 1 uchod A rheoli tir, rhaeadru meini prawf cyllido, darparu addysg a hyfforddiant	Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru, Prifysgolion, Chwaraeon Cymru	Amcanion NRAP: <b>1,4, a 6</b> <i>fel uchod +</i> Amcanion NRAP: <b>2, 3, a 5</b> <i>yn ymwneud â thir y sefydliad</i>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir y tu hwnt l'w tir eu hunain, waeth a yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir ai peidio.</li> </ul>	Fel Grwpiau 1 a 2 uchod A rheoli tir er mwyn cynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth, a hyrwyddo cydnerthedd ecosystemau.	Dŵr Cymru, Awdurdodau Lleol, CNC, Llywodraeth Cymru	Holl amcanion NRAP: <b>1,2,3,4,5 a 6</b>

Mae **Cyllun Gweithredu Adfer Natur Cymru (NRAP)** yn gosod chwe amcan ar gyfer gwrthdroi dirywiad bioamrywiaeth a dylid eu defnyddio i helpu i ddatblygu ac arwain gweithredoedd i gydymffurfio â dyletswydd adran 6:

Y **6 amcan** i gynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth yw:

- Amcan 1:** Ymgysylltu a chynorthwyo cyfranogi a dealltwriaeth er mwyn gwreiddio bioamrywiaeth ledled y penderfyniadau a wneir ar bob lefel
- Amcan 2:** Diogelu'r rhywogaethau a'r cynefinoedd pwysicaf, a gwella'r modd y'u rheolir
- Amcan 3:** Cynyddu cydnerthedd ein hamgylchedd naturiol trwy adfer cynefinoedd a ddiraddiwyd, a chreu cynefinoedd
- Amcan 4:** Mynd i'r afael â'r pwysau allweddol sydd ar rywogaethau a chynefinoedd
- Amcan 5:** Gwella ein tystiolaeth, ein dealltwriaeth a'n systemau monitro
- Amcan 6:** Sefydlu fframwaith llywodraethu a chymorth ar gyfer cyflenwi

## Photo A

