

## 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 Aims</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 Aim	Actions planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
<b>1. Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.</b>	Street planters – A new planting plan will be introduced to replace current annuals, with more resilient and native plants that are pollinator friendly and more drought resilient. Advice on suitable plants and possible funding will be sought from OVW.	Summer 2026	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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.	<b>Summer 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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.	<b>Summer 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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	<b>August 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	The Council will consult with the local community and obtain expert advice on potential locations for a bog garden/rain garden or wildlife pond.	<b>September 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	We will work with local volunteers and groups to plant native hedging tress and fill in gaps of existing hedge around the park. This restored hedgerow will increase connections for our target species and other wildlife. 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.	<b>November 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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	<b>Spring 2027</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	Council will seek advice and guidance to assess the viability of installing green roofs on our 2 bus stops.	<b>August 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee / Clerk</b>

<b>2. Safeguard species and improve their management.</b>	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. (The pillars being met by each action are identified by numbers 1-5)	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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.	<b>March 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee / clerk</b>
	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.	<b>October 2028</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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.	<b>March 2027</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	Hanging baskets will be removed and replaced with street planters to avoid excess water use, especially during time of drought that are becoming more frequent.	<b>July 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
<b>3. Tackle key pressures on species, habitats and ecosystems.</b>	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.	<b>August 2026</b>	<b>Full council / Bio Committee</b>
	Council members will attend training to help identify the most common INNS and check our grounds if they are present (eg. Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, Cotoneaster etc... seeking expert advice and training where needed. Any INNS identified will be recorded and the appropriate steps taken to remove it.	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Full council</b>
	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.	<b>July 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>

	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.	<b>January 2027</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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.	<b>August 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	The council will introduce boot cleaning stations at entrances to the park and signs informing residents of the importance of biosecurity to stop the spread of wildlife pathogens.	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee / Clerk</b>
<b>4. Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.</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.	<b>May 2026</b>	<b>Full council</b>
	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 100m2 , in addition to standard playing field maintenance.	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	A budget for biodiversity and nature projects will be included in the annual budget for 2026/2027	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Full council</b>
	Impacts on local and global biodiversity will be considered when choosing contractors, banking providers, insurance and products for asset purchase and maintenance.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	The planning committee will refer to the OVW Planning and biodiversity guide when responding to planning applications in its role as statutory consultee.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Planning committee</b>
	Council will ensure any impact on biodiversity is considered in every decision made	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Full council</b>
	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.	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Clerk</b>

	The council will offer small grants (<£200) to local organisations to improve biodiversity.	<b>April 2027</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>5. Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.</b>	The Council will work with the external Carnival management committee to discuss planting a heritage apple orchard to provide apples for future events.	<b>November 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	The Council will encourage members of the community to join the Biodiversity committee and become actively involved; this will ensure 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.	<b>May 2026</b>	<b>Full council</b>
	We will add a section on our website to include information on general climate and biodiversity issues.	<b>August 2026</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	Link with National Landscapes staff to share information on events and training/volunteering opportunities.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	Website & newsletter will be updated to include a monthly round-up of species recorded in our area.	<b>August 2026</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	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.	<b>May 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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.	<b>July 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	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.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Bio Committee / Clerk</b>
	Ensure we share our completed Section 6 Report 2025 on our website and the Wales Biodiversity partnership website.	<b>January 2026</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	The Council will continue to support the Cwm-Rhu in Bloom committee by sponsoring a prize category for the most wildlife friendly garden.	<b>July 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee / Clerk</b>
<b>6. Improve our evidence and monitoring.</b>	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.	<b>Sep 2026</b>	<b>Bio Committee / Clerk</b>

	We aim to create a volunteer group / mechanism for recording species in the park so people can send us sightings of what they see.	<b>April 2027</b>	<b>Bio Committee</b>
	The council will encourage all residents to download the LERC app and record all species seen in St Jude's park. This will feed into a national database of species and help in their conservation.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Full Council / Bio Committee</b>
	Opportunities to work with local charities and organisations such as the Wildlife Trust, Rivers Trust and the Newton Food growing cooperative, will be discussed.	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	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	<b>May 2026</b>	<b>Clerk</b>

<b>Annual review of the Biodiversity Action Plan</b>			
<b>Date reviewed:</b>	<b>/2026</b>	<b>/2027</b>	<b>/2028</b>
<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. (Photo 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.		

<b>Review approved:</b>
<b>Next review:</b>

<b>/2026</b>
<b>/2027</b>

<b>/2027</b>
<b>/2028</b>

<b>/2028</b>
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*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 nod yr NRAP</a> )	
<b>Cyflwyniad a'r Cyd-destun</b>	

Nod yr NRAP	Camau arfaethedig	Graddfa amser	Wedi eu monitro gan:
<b>1. Amddiffyn, adfer a rheoli ecosystemau yn effeithiol er mwyn meithrin eu cydnerthedd.</b>			
<b>2. Diogelu rhywogaethau a gwella eu rheolaeth.</b>			
<b>3. Mynd i'r afael â'r prif bwysau ar rywogaethau, cynefinoedd ac ecosystemau.</b>			

<b>4. Sefydlu llywodraethu effeithiol a chapasiti i gyflawni.</b>			
<b>5. Ymgorffori bioamrywiaeth drwy ymgysylltu a chodi ymwybyddiaeth i gefnogi'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau effeithiol ar bob lefel.</b>			
<b>6. Gwella ein tystiolaeth a'n gwaith monitro</b>			


## Adolygiad blynyddol o'r Cynllun Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth

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

Cymeradwywyd gan y Cyngor ar:	/2026	/2027	/2028
Yr Adolygiad nesaf:	/2027	/2028	



**Table 1: Types of organisations and possible s6 actions relative to their functions**

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity.	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP aim for Planning
	<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, Health Boards	NRAP aims: 3, 4, 5
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 aims: 3, 4, 5 as above NRAP aims: 1, 2, 6 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 aims

**NRAP Aim 3:** Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.

**NRAP Aim 4:** Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.

**NRAP Aim 5:** Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.

**NRAP Aim 1:** Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.

**NRAP Aim 2:** Safeguard species and improve their management.

**NRAP Aim 6:** Improve our evidence and monitoring.



**Tabl 1: Mathau o sefydliadau a gweithgareddau adran 6 posibl sy'n gymesur â'u swyddogaethau**

Grŵp	Disgrifiad o'r sefydliad mewn perthynas â bioamrywiaeth.  Sefydliadau:	Gweithgareddau gofynnol	Enghreifftiau	Nod yr NRAP (Cynllun Gweithredu Adfer Natur) ar gyfer Cynllunio
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sy'n meddiannu neu'n berchen ar adeilad swyddfa yn unig ac</li> <li>• nad yw eu swyddogaethau yn uniongyrchol gysylltiedig â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir.</li> </ul>	Gweithgareddau sy'n gysylltiedig â rheoli adeiladau, caffael, cynaliadwyedd, codi ymwybyddiaeth, hyfforddiant, neu mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau eraill	Comisiynau, DVLA, Byrddau Iechyd	Nodau'r NRAP: 3, 4, 5
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sy'n meddiannu, yn rheoli neu'n berchen ar eu hadeiladau a'u tiroedd eu hunain,</li> <li>• mae eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir, neu</li> <li>• a all ddylanwadu ar y rhai sy'n rheoli neu'n berchen ar dir.</li> </ul>	Yr un fath â Grŵp 1 uchod YN OGYSTAL Â rheoli tir, rhaeadru cyllid â meini prawf bioamrywiaeth, darparu addysg a hyfforddiant	Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru, Prifysgolion a Chwaraeon Cymru.	Nodau'r NRAP: 3, 4, 5 fel yr uchod  Nodau'r NRAP: 1, 2, 6 mewn perthynas â'u tiroedd eu hunain
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir y tu hwnt i'w hadeiladau, p'un a oes cysylltiad rhwng eu gwaith a bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir neu beidio.</li> </ul>	Yr un fath â Grŵpiau 1 a 2 uchod YN OGYSTAL Â rheoli tir i gynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth a hyrwyddo cydnerthedd ecosystemau.	Dŵr Cymru, Awdurdodau Lleol, CNC, Llywodraeth Cymru	Holl nodau'r NRAP

**Nod 3 yr NRAP:** Mynd i'r afael â'r prif bwysau ar rywogaethau, cynefinoedd ac ecosystemau.

**Nod 4 yr NRAP:** Sefydlu llywodraethu effeithiol a chapasiti i gyflawni.

**Nod 5 yr NRAP:** Ymgorffori bioamrywiaeth drwy ymgysylltu a chodi ymwybyddiaeth i gefnogi'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau effeithiol ar bob lefel.

**Nod 1 yr NRAP:** Amddiffyn, adfer a rheoli ecosystemau yn effeithiol er mwyn meithrin eu cydnerthedd.

**Nod 2 yr NRAP:** Diogelu rhywogaethau a gwella eu rheolaeth.

**Nod 6 yr NRAP:** Gwella ein tystiolaeth a'n gwaith monitro