

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

<p><i>Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6</i></p> <p><i>The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report</i></p> <p><i>Reviewed in August 2025</i></p>		
<p>Name of Town or Community Council: Blaengwrach Community Council</p>		
<p>Introduction and Context</p> <p>Blaengwrach Community Council provide a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorffwysfa Cemetery, Parish Road – a traditional cemetery with grassed area, trees and shrubs. It is a haven for all types of wildlife including birds, insects, squirrels, hedgehogs, and lots more. It has an area this is overgrown. • Welfare Hall Park – an open space with playing field and children’s play area, tennis court and MUGA. The perimeter of the park is lined with trees. These are homes for a variety of birds, insects and wildlife. Areas around the perimeter are left untouched to encourage bees and other small insects. • Planting Area at the entrance to the Villages – Large planter by the Witch Light that is filled with pollinator flowers. • The Council have worked with Neath Port Talbot Borough Council (NPTCBC) and South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA) to turn the A465 Cwmgwrach Roundabout into a bee-friendly area focusing on native plants and wildflowers. The area has now been granted a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. 		
<p>Action Report</p>		
<p>Action carried out to:</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<p>Reflect the Councils commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council’s Biodiversity Policy.</p> <p>Taking into account biodiversity when considering planning applications and other associated matters.</p> <p>Taking into account biodiversity when considering new</p>	<p>Reviewing the policy regularly.</p> <p>Considering planning applications at monthly meetings.</p> <p>Using local traders and reusing existing</p>

	projects/maintenance/repairs to Council assets and services.	materials or local materials where possible.
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Posting details of actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website, social media platforms.	Feedback from stakeholders and residents.
-safeguard principal species and habitats	<p>Ensure no negative impacts on protected species.</p> <p>Championing the planting of native trees, re-introducing 3 Black Popular Trees to the Cemetery in June 2024.</p> <p>The roundabout into the villages and verges turned into bee-friendly designated areas in 2025 – Areas of Nature Conservation.</p>	<p>Trees were donated by Celtic Wildflowers</p> <p>Working with NPTCBC and SWTRA</p>
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<p>Planting planter with native pollinator friendly flowers.</p> <p>Changed strimming/mowing regimes in the park and cemetery to allow wild areas to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants, also provide cover for small mammals and reptiles.</p>	Area of habitat increased
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<p>Use sustainable supplies, ensuring office supplies, cleaning products and office furniture are sustainably sourced – locally and made from recycled materials where possible.</p> <p>Reduce the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed.</p>	<p>Obtain local suppliers.</p> <p>Use pesticide only when no alternative is available.</p>
<p>-use improve and share evidence.</p> <p>Support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>Council is a member of Pethau Bychain, Clerk attends regular webinars and training opportunities.</p> <p>Clerk attended NPTCBC Nature Unearthed – Wednesday 28th February 2024.</p> <p>Worked in partnership with local gardening organisations to upkeep the planter. Grass Roots NPTCBC and SWTRA for road verges.</p>	<p>Training for Councillors and Employees.</p> <p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefits.</p>

Review of s6 duty

- What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?

In March this year the Council contacted NPTCBC and SWTRA to explore transforming the roundabout verge into a native plant and wildflower are. This has been a great success. With the following species already being identified:

- Centaury
- Common ragwort
- Cat's ear
- Lesser trefoil
- Ribwort plantain
- White clover
- Fairy flax
- Self-heal
- Wild strawberry
- Dandelions
- Meadow vetchling
- Common bird's-foot trefoil
- Common knapweed
- Creeping buttercup
- Red clover
- Daisy
- Hogweed
- Common Mouse-ear
- Meadow Buttercup
- Oxeye Daisy
- Yarrow



The Council plan to work with the community to find new areas to transform in the coming months.

- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

This will be reviewed annually in August and updated if any new projects are competed through the year.