

Y Graig, Llechyfedach

This area has fallen into neglect over many years, there used to be viewing platforms looking over the Gwendraeth Valley, a children's playground used by local children and those that attended Llechyfedach School. The footpaths have fallen into disrepair.

We would like to rejuvenate this area making it into a destination green area for local residents to enjoy.



From Amanda Evans
Graig Park (Known as Singleton Playground 404701000) has been asset transferred to Llannon CC. The boundary is shown as a black line on the plan below. If it's correct, it would seem that a small area on the other side of the chain link fence at the top of the hill is actually within this ownership parcel, so it may be ok to clear the trees which are blocking the view at the top of the hill, rather than have to build a flammable platform!

Clare Hope Clerk to Llannon Community Council has pulled out all the stops to put an application to UK Shared prosperity Fund - Sustainable Communities Programme for this site.

The plan includes an improved playground and also interactive information boards.

We think that this semi-wild area is an interesting habitat but feel that by careful management this could be expanded to the benefit of biodiversity and local residents

Recommendations following Biodiversity Consultation.

3 Distinct Areas.

Lower section

Work has already begun on this section to develop a hay meadow allowing native wild flowers to flourish.

Light raking of the two meadow sections either side of the path need to be undertaken to remove some clumps of dead vegetation. This should then remain uncut for the spring/summer months and then cut and collect the vegetation from late July this will have allowed flowering and setting of seeds. A further cut can be done early in the year - March so the grass is short allowing flowering plants to grow and be visible.

A path could be mown through this area as in all meadow sections.

Central section

This area should be considered for amenity, with the grass cut regularly every 2 weeks (the cuttings can be left on the ground). An open area for children to play ball and easy access to the play area.

Another shaped meadow area (tear drop, kidney shaped) with a meandering path through could be considered in the area leading up to the top section.

The fruit trees need a mown area of grass around the base. Grasses are highly competitive and will deprive fruit trees of the water and nutrients they need to thrive, a mulched area around their base to keep it vegetation free would be recommended.

Upper section

This section is a mixture of bracken and gorse and has not been managed.

Recommendation for bracken - Use a contractor that is experienced in bracken control in **September**. Amanda Evans can recommend suitable contractors.

Message from Amanda Evans

The 3 contractors listed below are experienced in conservation work and are approved CCC contractors. They all have a crawler tractor (on caterpillar tracks- low ground pressure) and mulching mower (for tougher vegetation- can cut trees up to 4 inches) or flail mower (which can still tackle light scrub as well as grass) and collecting box (to remove cuttings), which would be ideal for the initial cut at Graig Park (just make sure you tell them it's a bit rocky!).

Meredith Contract Services matt@mc-services.co.uk

John Davies Contracting.co.uk info@johndaviescontracting.co.uk

AJB Contracting alistair@ajbcontracting.co.uk

It is estimated that the work for this area would not take more than one day at a cost of approximately £500 -£600. The work should be carried out on a sunny day since it is very probable that there will be reptiles (lizards) and they will be more active at this time and can move to avoid machinery.

In spring the Bracken frond regrowth should be beaten down to prevent development so that it's growth is diminished and eventually controlled.

School pupils could be involved in this as it simply involves stamping or bashing the fronds.

Recommendation for Gorse - this should undergo a 4 year rotation. One quarter of the bushes should be cut down (hedge cutter /chainsaw) each year allowing multi age gorse plants. These should be cut before bird nesting season. Plants next to paths need to be cut right back to allow ease of movement through the area. (After initial 4 year rotation it is possible that the cutting of plants could be on a 2 yearly cycle)

There are bilberry plants, bluebells in the area which should be far more apparent when bracken and gorse are managed.

Paths are recommended to be clinker paths (NOT TARMACADAM) wide enough for multiple use and also possibly following contour up to viewing area for ease of walking for older residents.

Tumble Cemetery

On the road between Tumble and Llannon.

This is in a very exposed area although some hedging material has been planted and some plants are growing well mostly it is very restricted growth.

We feel that this is an area that could be more welcoming in its appearance to visitors but needs to be managed carefully so that it does not look unkempt which would be upsetting to relatives.

Encouraging a wider natural biodiversity would be the ideal goal.



Recommendations following Biodiversity Consultation.

Two areas were considered for improvement.

Grass area with specimen trees linking car park and cemetery.

This would match the criteria and qualify for a Development pack of native spring bulbs.

Relatives and friends visit the cemetery throughout the year on anniversaries and special dates, however visiting to put flowers for Palm Sunday and Easter is by far the most favoured date.

Planting spring flowering bulbs in the grass would make the area welcoming and reflect the flowers placed on graves and in the Memorial garden at this time of year.

Consider one or two statement trees but only following advice from Carms Tree Officer, site is exposed and difficult, possibly a few more of what does grow well e.g. Wayfaring tree

Central border at entrance to Cemetery

This could be planted as a Perennial / herbaceous border which would give visual impact throughout the year. Some flowering bulbs could be incorporated but the large crop of daffodils would need to be lifted and replanted in clumps in the grass inside the border wall.

A list of recommended native plants for this 'roundabout' will be supplied by Rachel Carter

Ground Maintenance

The grass around the graves will be managed as Amenity - Cut regularly every 2 weeks (and the cuttings left on the ground). In the area around the graves there is quite a bit of moss in the grass, it is believed that there is a relationship between Wax cap fungi and moss, if they are present then the area should be promoted as locally important.

Grass around all borders should be amenity cut.

Large swathes of grass could be managed as Nectar cut - grass should be cut every 4-5 weeks with a cutting height of 50mm which allows short herbaceous plants such as Bird's foot trefoil to flower and set seed. These flowers supply Nectar and support a range of insects which increase biodiversity all the way up the food chain.

The area of grass around the base of trees should be cut regularly to reduce competition for water and nutrients.

Top area of grass above the graveyard Nectar cut with amenity paths wandering through.

Tyisha Tumble Village.

There is a long green area which extends behind High Street, Tumble. This can be accessed by residents through several entrances.

It is not very well used although the most accessible local green area for a large number of residents.



We believe that this area would be a suitable area for selective mowing, cutting paths through but allowing grasses and wild flowers to flourish.

Using hay from the Meadow in Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park would be possible in late summer /autumn however we would like advice on the techniques that will need to be used to achieve an interesting area that residents would choose to visit, with a more diverse biodiversity.



Further along Tyisha Road there is a small Cemetery that again could be managed in a similar way to Tyisha Park although this will need a more managed appearance but again with the aim of increasing biodiversity.

From Amanda Evans "I checked on our Asset management system, and Tyisha Park (Known as Land r/o High Street, Tumble SL00700) belongs mostly to CCC (area within the black line on plan below), but there's a note on the system which says that the actual maintenance is carried out by Llannon CC and paid for by CCC Street Scene. There may be potential for an asset transfer"



Photos from Isabel Macho, taken on previous visit where meadow mowing had been practised.



As can be seen the common Marsh Spotted Orchid grows naturally in the area



Recommendations following Biodiversity Consultation.

This spring summer season Tyisha Park will be managed as meadow, large swathes of the grass will not be cut until late summer when plants will have flowered and set seed. At that time the grass will be cut and collected so that nutrients do not enrich the soil.

There will be walkway paths cut through the swathes so that visitors will be encouraged to walk through. Nectar cut - used for recreational use, cut every 4-5 weeks and cuttings removed.

1 metre border cut around tarmac paths discuss whether Amenity (every 2 weeks) or Nectar (every 4-5 weeks). The path that skirts the boundary of the stream needs attention to remove encroaching vegetation. Bamboo grows in one section (Garden escapee needs to be controlled /contained to prevent encroaching into other areas)

Very wet section towards bottom end of Park where there are reeds growing and some soil enrichment shown by dock plants. Could remove dead stems now so that it looks managed then develop into a bog area, scraping away some soil to make a dip to plant with native bog plants.

Rachel Carter suggests that this site would qualify for 'Local Place for Nature - Heritage Fund'. **As most of Tyisha Park is not owned by LICC this will need to be looked into.**

The grant is up to a value of £100,000 and would allow for improved access, wider pathways (not tarmac) benches, possible sensory garden or community growing area.

Rachel has very generously offered to write up some ideas regarding this Park with suggestions on ways to develop it into a better amenity for the community. The grant could be applied for during this year to be in place for development in 2024. Rachel will prepare a report based on ideas discussed at the Tyisha site. The ownership is not necessarily a problem in getting a grant for the improvements under a Local Places for Nature scheme. There would just need to be a written agreement from CCC that they grant permission for the improvements and will allow you to manage the site for the next 5 years minimum (which Llannon CC already do).

Ebenezer Cemetery.

The area around and between the graves have to be maintained as an Amenity cut (every 2 weeks) with the cuttings left on the ground.

A metre wide grass border should be cut regularly all around the border of the walls.

In a similar way as to the Tumble cemetery planting of spring flowers in the grass area would give a more welcoming appearance. Encouraging primroses along the hedge line.

A 'tear drop' meadow area could be managed in the section away from the graves and extending down the slope towards the lower gate. Cut and remove late summer/autumn neat for spring flowering bulbs in spring.

There is no need for introduction of seeds or hay for the meadow areas, there are plenty of evidence of native wild flowers in these areas already. In future years plug planting of native flowers could enhance areas, (Celtic Wildflowers can supply these).