

Gweithdy Bioamrywiaeth Pwyllgor Amgylchedd Environmental Committee Biodiversity Workshop

Section 6 Biodiversity Plan

Llannon Community Council has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Environment Act 2016:

Every public body must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

To comply, a council should:

..embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes, and projects, as well as their day to day activities.

Biodiversity meeting held on 5/4/23 visited 4 sites which had been identified as very different areas which could contribute to the requirement to promote and increase Biodiversity within the ward.

Llannon Community Council staff Ffion Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Liam Andrews Grounds and Assets Maintenance Lead were present, as were Cllrs Ruth Davies, Phil Owen and Emyr Evans.

We were particularly fortunate to have present three specialists in biodiversity and conservation.

Amanda Evans (Conservation Project officer – Caeau Mynydd Mawr),

Isabel Macho (Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Officer) and

Rachel Carter ('Local Places for Nature' officer for One Voice Wales)

The areas that were visited were

- Y Graig,
- Tyisha Park and Ebenezer Cemetery
- Tumble Cemetery

Details of areas and detailed recommendations is in 'Increasing Biodiversity 4 Sites' document.

Environmental Committee recommendations.

1. Mowing regime can benefit biodiversity and pollinators. The document 'Information of Grassland Cutting Options' outlines the methodology.

Our recommendations are:

- The Grounds Maintenance Team should undergo a training session to raise awareness and understanding of how selective mowing practices can improve the environment for residents and biodiversity.
- Leaflets and /or FAQ pamphlets should be available for Grounds Staff to give out to residents to explain the reasons that selective mowing practice has been adopted by Llannon Community Council.
- Grounds Maintenance Staff under the management of Liam Andrews should determine the mowing practises most suitable for each area taking into account what was discussed in the Biodiversity site meeting on the 5/4/23. Wandering paths should be incorporated to allow people to wander through the area.

- A review of the success of mowing practices in each area should be carried out periodically and adjustments made as and when required e.g. as in position of cut paths for access.
- Other green areas under the control of LICC should also be evaluated as to the best mowing practices to undertake to benefit biodiversity whilst taking into account the use made of the area.

2. Community Involvement. Without community support and understanding changes in mowing practises will raise concerns and complaints.

Our recommendations are:

- Bilingual posters (It's for them stakeholder toolkit) need to be displayed prominently in each area where mowing practices will be changed. These need to be in place early so that residents are aware **before** the effect of reduced mowing becomes obvious.
- Posters and leaflets need to be put on LICC website and shared to local Facebook Groups to raise awareness and reasons for changes in practices.
- As previously stated, these leaflets should also be available for Grounds Staff to distribute as necessary.
- Posters and leaflets need to be distributed to local schools so that they can be used as teaching aids for increasing biodiversity in the local area.
- Putting links to relevant television programmes e.g. Wild isles, YouTube 'It's for them' so that residents can get more information would also be desirable.

3. Y Graig.

Mowing practises in this area are detailed in 'Increasing Biodiversity 4 Sites', has been started last year and should be continued.

The extensive work needed to improve paths, control bracken and gorse, improve viewing site and a new children's play area will be largely dependent on the success of a grant application.

If the grant application is not successful we are strongly of the opinion that all opportunities for future grants should be sought since this area would be a great amenity for local residents.

If unsuccessful then some work of controlling gorse encroaching onto paths should still be tackled this year with due regard to nesting birds.

4. Cemeteries.

Detail of mowing and maintenance 'Increasing Biodiversity 4 Sites' document

Planting of spring flowering bulbs (Native) to enhance grass areas and planning of perennial border to enhance entrance with year round interest.

5. Tyisha Park

Amanda Evans information regarding CCC ownership of Tyisha was initially thought to put into doubt an application for Heritage Fund Grant. However Rachel Carter informs us that 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 Llanon CC already do).

Details of mowing practices for this park are detailed in the full 'Increasing Biodiversity 4 Sites' document

6. The Committee believes that by accepting and implementing these recommendations we are starting to make progress in achieving the objectives laid out in The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales as noted on the following page:

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

7. Reporting on Section 6.

Initial report has been completed by Ffion Lewis (Deputy Clerk) as it needed to be started before the Biodiversity meeting held on the 5/4/23.

The report could be revisited in the next Environmental Committee meeting to include greater information and specific details.