

Llanon Community Council

Site visit – 5.4.23 Rachel Carter, Isabel Macho and Amanda Evans.

Parc Tyisha (Land r/o High Street, Tumble SL00700)

Observations

Weather was overcast and very wet.

Parc Tyisha is accessed in 3 main places there are 2 gates on Tyisha road and 2 further access points from High St. The park is in shared ownership between Carmarthenshire CC (inside black outline) and Llanon CC but the whole area is currently managed by Llanon CC. (figure 1).



Figure 1 - Satellite image showing the shared ownership of Tyisha park.

There is a network of tarmac paths across the site. These paths are in a poor state at some points and accessibility may be an issue for the less mobile. Grass appears to be cut regularly. Some areas may have been left to grow in particular at the top (Area A) and a wetter area (Area B).

There is a rich heritage connected with the location and some evidence of improvement and previous LPfN additions to enhance biodiversity.

There is a wych gate/arbours type structure at the entrance off Tyisha road which needs repair or replacement. The site is well connected to the village of Tumble and is adjacent to residential streets. A few people were present walking dogs at the time of the visit. Drainage ditches have been created along the Northern edge of the park at its boundary with the rear of the houses on High street.

The majority of the site is grassland with varying topography, some tree cover, and a watercourse runs along the Southern boundary (Nant glas).

There is a clump of a Bamboo species growing alongside the water course but no other signs of INNS such as *Impatiens glandulifera*, (*Himalayan balsam*) or *Fallopia japonica* (*Japanese knotweed*) were observed that day but may be present.

The sward was generally lacking in biodiversity however there were some areas of interest around the drainage channels and further investigation may be useful. Another area of interest marked Area B had some wetland species and possibly sign of previous management.

A more detailed survey at a more optimum time (May/June) may better inform any future plans.

Adjacent to the site is a burial ground off Tir Becca, enclosed by a stone wall on 3 sides and a hedge line on the SW boundary. The site is accessed via an old iron gateway. The burial ground is no longer used. The sward was richer in biodiversity here and is currently managed by Llanon CC.

Possible actions

This site could benefit from biodiversity improvements to improve diversity, connectivity, condition, and ecosystem resilience. These improvements would help Llanon CC fulfil their requirements under Section 6 of the Environment Act (2016) as well as create a valuable local place for nature, important wildlife corridors and protect and promote the heritage of the site.

The site is 'on the doorstep', close to public services such as shops, churches, community centres and schools. The site has vehicular access from High St. The area is also within the Marsh fritillary project area and less than 1Km from Mynydd mawr woodland park. There is a designated site within 2Km (Gweunydd Glan-y-glasnant SSSI) managed for hay meadows and wetland.

The site falls within the Llanon 1 LSOA (WO1000697), it ranks 890/1909 for overall deprivation. The full profile can be seen below and here: [WIMD - Llannon 1 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/wimd-llannon-1)

WIMD 2019 Overall Rank	890
Income	820
Employment	910
Health	680
Education	546
Access to Services	1695
Housing	593
Community Safety	730
Physical Environment	1148
Rural Urban (RU) Type	C1
Urban	Urban

Figure 2 - WIMD profile for Parc Tyisha

The site would meet the urban deprivation criteria for funding through the Local Places for nature scheme. Llanon CC could apply for capital funding for £10,000 to £100,000 to promote enhance and restore vital biodiversity in the park and create a 'Local Place for Nature' to benefit the residents of the area and create opportunities for local people and community groups to get involved with nature.

On the day it was advised that the Parc Tyisha site be left unmown on a cut and collect system. Cutting once in late March and not cut again until September. This meadow management could be achieved using the equipment purchased through the LPfN funded Cwmaman, Llanon, Llanedi enhanced grasslands project. It is advised that path edges are kept regularly mown to create a clear meadow walkway trail.

The site would benefit from an ecological survey this summer and then plans could be developed for the site and an application for funding considered.

I have detailed some ideas for the site that could be funded by LPfN in *figure 3*.

Please also see other projects and ideas contained in the case studies section of the LPfN presentation to C&TCs here: <https://we.tl/t-VTNQv6NCed>

Useful links:

Lots of useful information can be found in the post conference resource pack which can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-7XTgl4n288>

It would be useful if the site could be surveyed, or the local record centre checked for any important species or habitat. Your local record centre is: [Welcome to West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre - West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre \(wwbic.org.uk\)](http://www.wwbic.org.uk)

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Carmarthenshire \(biodiversitywales.org.uk\)](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk)

[Caeau Mynydd Mawr Marsh Fritillary Project - Landscape-scale conservation in south east Carmarthenshire \(gov.wales\)](http://gov.wales)

The focus of any funded project through the Local Places for nature scheme must be increasing biodiversity and access to nature for the public in particular allowing a wider range of people to access nature. Please see further detailed guidance here: [Local Places for Nature | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](http://www.the-national-lottery.com)

The Heritage fund also apply an urban deprivation criteria according to the WIMD data. A score of below 955 is required in either the overall or Physical environment category and involvement with disadvantaged groups from the community or neighbouring communities.

You can view the WIMD data here: : [WIMD - Explore \(gov.wales\)](http://gov.wales)

For more information, help and advice please contact me:

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Parc Tyisha






Legend

-  New accessible pathways
-  New hedge lines planted.
-  Existing non-accessible paths retained.
-  Existing trees
-  A new community growing space and/or Heritage orchard
-  Wetland area/marshy grassland area retained and enhanced.
-  New habitats created.
-  An education area with trunk seating and habitat projects. (Local schools/groups)



Figure 3 - Possible biodiversity enhancements at Parc Tyisha through LPfN funding.

The plan in figure 3 is designed to give the CC some ideas about what could be achieved in a LPfN funded project. The plans overlap with the area owned by Carmarthenshire CC so written permission would need to be obtained as part of the application process.

-  New accessible pathways
New accessible paths could be laid to create a circular walk through the new nature spaces connecting the Tyisha Rd entrances, the river walk and new nature spaces to the High St. entrance. These paths could be designed from materials such as hardcore or other porous materials and will accommodate wheelchair and mobility aids and open up the space for a wider range of people to be involved in the heritage of the park.
-  Existing non-accessible paths retained.
A double width hedge line of native broadleaf species would create a b-line across the 2 boundaries as well as acting as a buffer between the roads and the nature space. The existing hard surface paths could be retained and maintained by cutting the grass regularly either side.
-  A new community growing space and/or Heritage orchard
This flatter area would be ideal for some community growing spaces subject to engagement with local groups. A heritage orchard planted with locally procured Welsh heritage species. Events could focus on tree planting, orchard maintenance and harvests. Local groups could enjoy apple festivals in the Autumn as well as displays of blossom in the spring. Installing some community growing beds could allow food to be grown and nurtured by the community for food share.
-  Wetland area/marshy grassland area retained and enhanced. New habitats created.
This area could be enhanced with appropriate native plants that would thrive in the boggy wet conditions. Scrapes could be created to encourage reptiles and amphibians as well as providing valuable drinking sources for small mammals such as hedgehogs and mice.
-  An education area with trunk seating and habitat projects. (Local schools/groups)
This flatter area below the statue and above the new orchard would also be bisected by the new accessible path and could serve as a nature classroom. Seating areas could be created from tree trunks and local groups could utilise this space for outdoor events and education.

All remaining grassland areas could be managed as meadow with path edges cut regularly. This would create a mosaic of beautiful wildflower displays on the sloping areas and in the eastern section owned by CCC. Specially selected plug plants like *Succisa pratensis* (Devil's bit scabious) and bulbs could enhance these spaces.

The reduction in mowing over time could reduce the volume of cuttings needing to be dumped on site and as the meadow areas become more diverse these cuttings could be used to seed other sites.



Figure 5 - Areas of the park with dumped grass cuttings.

Signage could be installed at all entrance points and interpretation boards could be used to explain the purpose of the two new areas and include plant ID and information about the species present.

The LPfN Officer at One Voice Wales would be able to assist Llanon CC throughout the planning process, the completion of the grant application and provide help, advice and support through to delivery of the project.

Tyisha burial ground.

This could form a part of the Parc Tyisha project. Some simple enhancements here could improve the site for biodiversity and create a more connected habitat with the surrounding area.



These areas could be managed as wildflower meadow, with the remaining grass mowed regularly to maintain the graves.



A new double width hedgerow creating a nature highway, new habitat for birds, invertebrates and small mammals and connecting with the adjacent habitats.



Figure 6 - Possible enhancements to the burial ground