

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1

Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Reporting on Section 6

Llannon Community Council

2024



Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This document is also available in Welsh

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2024

Llannon Community Council

Introduction and Context

Llannon Community Council covers and administers an area of some 7479 acres (38.36 km square) and has a population of over 5000. The main centres of population are the villages of Tumble, Llannon, Cwmmawr and Cross Hands.

The precept for 2023 – 2024 was £ 392,434.13.

The Council owns and manages land beyond their own grounds, our functions are therefore connected with biodiversity and land management.

Since we are an organisation in Group 3 we are responsible for

- Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training and are in partnership with other organisations
- PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training
- PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.

The main functions undertaken by the Council include:

- Management and operations of Tumble Hall
- Management and operations of Y Cwtsh (Foodbank & Warm Space)
- Maintaining open spaces
- Considering planning matters
- Provision of public seating, noticeboards, bins and bus shelters
- Provision of CCTV
- Working in conjunction with County Highways on traffic calming measures & highway improvements
- Working with the police to safeguard the community.
- Providing financial assistance for voluntary organisations and charities including annual sponsorship of the Tumble Eisteddfod.
- Provision of footway lighting
- Provision of defibrillators
- Provision of Christmas trees and lights
- Appointing representatives to local and outside bodies

The Assets Committee is responsible for the overall management and maintenance requirements of the following council assets:

- Tumble Hall
- Upper Tumble Public Cemetery
- Ebenezer Cemetery
- Tyisha Park

- Parc Y Mynydd Mawr – Land & Car Park
- Tumble Playground
- Y Cwtsh & Changing Rooms
- Y Graig & Cylch Meithrin Llechyfedach Building
- Cross Hands Park & Changing Rooms
- Cross Hands Bowls Green & Pavilion
- Cross Hands Playground
- Tirwaun Park and playground
- Llannon Playground
- Maes-y-Ffynnon Playground
- Cross Hands Memorial
- Tumble Memorial
- Noticeboards
- CCTV
- Street Lighting
- Bins
- Benches
- Bus Shelters
- Defibrillators
- Council Vans
- Maintenance Machinery and Equipment
- Tractor that is shared with Cwmamman Town Council & Llanedi Community Council

Llannon Community Council works for and on behalf of the citizens of Llannon ward. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life and environment for all residents. We are accountable to local people and have a duty to represent the interests of the different parts of the community equally.

The Section 6 duty is about taking steps to protect nature in our towns, public places and wider landscape, both through practical action on the ground, and in the way all public functions are carried out. To help achieve this, and to comply with the duty, we intend to embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into our day-to-day activities, policies, plans, programmes and projects. It is about changing the way we think about acting for biodiversity. It is the small, every day, local scale actions that can make a difference and can contribute to helping biodiversity.

We have a responsibility to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Well Being of Future Generations Act, by improving biodiversity, supporting physical and mental well-being and ensuring that our green spaces and recreational areas are well maintained for use by the whole community.

The Environmental Committee and the Assets Committee have the responsibility to visit green open spaces which are owned or managed by Llannon Community Council, on a quarterly basis. A short site report on the area, with recommendations and feedback should be produced to monitor and inform longer term decision making.

Key Policies and documents.

- Llannon Community Council Standing Orders: <http://www.ccllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/STANDING-ORDERS-2023.pdf>

- Llannon Community Council Assets Committee Terms of Reference:
<http://www.ccllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/TOR-ASSETS-COMMITTEE-30.05.2023.pdf>
- Llannon Community Council Environmental Committee Terms of Reference.
<http://www.ccllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/TOR-ENVIRONMENT-COMMITTEE-30.05.2023.pdf>
- Llannon Community Council’s Annual Well-Being Plan -
- Llannon Community Council’s Annual Report -
- Llannon Community Council’s Community Engagement Strategy:
<http://www.ccllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT-POLICY-REVIEWED-MAY-2023.pdf>
- One Voice Wales and Friends of the Earth have produced the “Climate Change and Nature Action Guide for Town and Community Councils in Wales:
<http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/OVWeb/UserFiles/Files/Front%20Page/Tackling%20Climate%20Chaos.pdf>

Nature Recovery Action Plan Wales – the Biodiversity Strategy for Wales

The national Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) was first published in 2015 and consists of Part I (The Strategy for Nature) and Part II (The Action Plan). It is an all-Wales plan for everybody involved in biodiversity action in Wales.

A number of objectives have been identified to address the issues that are driving the decline in biodiversity, and to support recovery:

- Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels;
- Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management. Including the requirement on Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which are of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales;
- Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation;
- Tackle key pressures on species and habitats;
- Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring; and,
- Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

The Nature Recovery Action Plan links to and complements The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

Section 6 Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty

Nature is in decline - by securing the public sector's commitment to the natural environment, we can inspire people across Wales to care for and enhance our precious nature to benefit us all.

Under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 public authorities that exercise their functions in relation to Wales have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.

Whilst our protected sites and species are important the s6 duty is about taking steps to protect nature in our towns, cities, public places and wider landscape, both through practical action on the ground, and in the way all public functions are carried out.

To help achieve this, and to comply with the duty, public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their day to day activities, policies, plans, programmes and projects.

It is about changing the way we think about acting for biodiversity. It is not just the large, landscape scale initiatives that are important, but also the smaller, every day, local scale actions that can make a difference and can contribute to helping biodiversity.

To comply with the duty public authorities must prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience.

A report on what the public authority has done to comply with the duty must be published by the end of 2019 and then every three years after this date.

Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues

- Four very unique sites have been selected for development and monitoring during 2023 - 2024. These have different habitats and land management requirements. The aim is to monitor how the biodiversity in these different areas changes under different grass cutting regimes and other techniques and use this to inform management of other sites in future years.
- Action on Biodiversity is gradually being incorporated and considered as an integral part of all Council activities.
- Due to changing grass mowing regime, there will be some cost savings due to reduced frequency of grass cutting, allowing management and further development of biodiversity on other sites.
- External advice from several Carmarthenshire Council Conservation Officers has enabled us to have clear guidance on how to progress in improving Green spaces for recreational use by residents and at the same time increasing biodiversity.
- The Environment Committee and Assets Committee will work closely with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to ensure delivery and implementation of this Biodiversity Plan.

- Greater involvement of residents, community groups and schools is essential to progress with the community understanding the importance of biodiversity. Youth Council and Community Council surgeries together with LICC information stand at local events can all play a part in increasing awareness of nature conservation within the ward.
Ideas for action – How you can help link <https://bit.ly/2EENrZ6>
- Dog fouling continues to be an ongoing problem in all green spaces (and unfortunately on pavements and roads). Llannon Community Council Environmental Committee has produced signs to display in green space, parks and noticeboards to raise awareness of the issue. This is a persistent problem and we are trying to reach those few dog owners that do not take responsibility and show little social responsibility for their community. Examples of awareness posters in the parks and green spaces under the control of LICC.
- LICC Environmental Committee has started on a project to plant spring flowering bulbs in Mynydd Mawr Park. Our aim is to roll this out in several of the green spaces, adding early spring colour and interest in a natural setting.
- Two butterfly gardens had been installed in Tyisha Park and Tumble Cemetery. The butterfly garden in Tyisha Park is maintained by Keep Mynydd Mawr Tidy Volunteer Group.

The intention is to lift and replant the herbaceous perennial plants together with the shrubs (Broom) in September from the butterfly garden, located in Tumble Cemetery and to remove the wooden structure which has degraded.

Action Report

NRAP Objective 1:

Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

Action		Monitored by:
Embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2023 Annual Report. • Biodiversity implications are taken into account when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters. The Community Council can comment on planning applications submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council. 	<p>Commitments made in documents.</p> <p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated when commenting on planning applications.</p>

	<p>CCC is responsible for determining planning applications Planning applications can only be decided on matters relevant to planning, these are known as material considerations. The most common of these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effect on traffic, access, road safety and parking ○ Scale, appearance and impact on surrounding area and adjoining neighbours ○ Loss of light ○ Overlooking and loss of privacy ○ Effect on nature conservation and loss of trees ○ Impact on Listed Buildings and/or Conservation Areas ○ Something contrary to Council policy ○ Noise and disturbance resulting from development ○ Whether the use would be appropriate for the area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A large section of the ward is within the Caeau Mynydd Mawr Special Area of Conservation (SAC) The Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) provides specific guidance in relation to the consideration of proposals for potential developments impacting upon the Caeau Mynydd Mawr Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the need to establish a management strategy to ameliorate for the loss of and secure the ongoing and future management of habitat used by the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC Marsh Fritillary butterfly metapopulation. ● Developing adaption & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change. <p>Mitigation – reducing the effect of climate change – involves reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, either by reducing sources of these gases (for example, the burning of fossil fuels for heat or transport) reducing the need for travel and providing for sustainable travel. Enhancing the “sinks” that accumulate and store these gases (such as green areas, woodland and soil), contributing to a pleasant environment which encourages people to walk and cycle within the community.</p> <p>Adaptation - adapting to life in a changing climate this involves adjusting to actual or expected future climate. The goal is to reduce our risks from the harmful effects of climate change (such as more</p>	<p>Commitment to reduction of fossil fuel use. investigating the possibility of electrical vehicles / equipment when renewing</p> <p>Develop accessible green areas for residents.</p>
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	<p>intense extreme weather events, such as very high or very low temperatures, stronger gales and drought.</p> <p>Commitment to reducing the Carbon Footprint of LICC and also encourage residents to work within their home environments to try and reduce their personal carbon footprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llannon Ward is in Community Area 5 of the Carmarthenshire Well Being Profile. CCC Survey Responses for Community Area 5 When asked what three things are most valued about their local environment, responses were: Access to nature and green spaces 79% Clean air 46% Wildlife, Landscape & views 35% The highest value asset for this community was the access to nature and green spaces. As a Community Council we have a duty to improve well-being in our local area and to promote the 7 goals of the Well Being of Future Generations Act. In particular during the next 3 years to • maintain and enhance a biodiverse natural environment, • work with other organisations to promote the non-material benefits people obtain from natural spaces in improving physical and mental well-being, • to promote and protect culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and encourage participation in the arts, sports and recreation. • The Carmarthenshire Ten Towns initiative aims to support the economic recovery and growth of rural towns across the County. The initiative was established as a direct response to CCC Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward Plan, which sets out a number of key recommendations to support the regeneration of rural Carmarthenshire. <p>A key part of the programme is the development of Economic growth plans to drive forward an agenda for change for each of the respective towns and their wider hinterland:</p> <p>Cross Hands is one of the rural towns chosen for this initiative. As part of the initiative the Discover app has been developed to promote businesses and local attractions in the area.</p> <p>Encouraging tourists to the area to explore. Tourism providers Nature recovery –Ideas for Action.</p>	<p>Management of green areas to increase biodiversity.</p> <p>Llannon Community Council's Well-being Plan.</p> <p>Develop maps of Parks / Green Spaces to encourage visitors to explore the ward.</p>
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	<p>https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/123220/5/5-tourism-providers-english-nature-recovery-ideas-for-action.pdf?v=202305301042440000</p> <p>https://www.discovercarmarthenshire.com/places/cross-hands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Committee has initiated a local walking group to explore some of the footpaths around the ward, encouraging residents to walk footpaths they knew of old and also new residents to discover new areas. These walks will be promoted on LICC Facebook Page. • West Wales Walking is organising weekly walks in the local Country Park to encourage local residents to visit and enjoy natural green spaces. Offering support for residents that do not enjoy walking on their own but wish to exercise and socialise in green spaces. • Early Years Team Cwm Gwendraeth arrange weekly well-being mother, baby and toddler walks in the Country Park. Early Years Team also have a weekly baby/toddler play event in 'The Magic Village' Twts Tylwyth Teg'. During 2023 summer holidays Fun days are being organised in several parks along the Gwendraeth valley, two of which are in Llannon Ward, Mynydd Mawr park in Tumble and Cross Hands Park. • Safe routes in the Community Sustrans Route 47, the Swiss Valley Path transects Llannon Ward from Cross Hands, through Tumble and on down the Gwendraeth valley to Sandy Water Park Llanelli. This route which is part of the National Cycle Network is well used by cyclists and walkers. This can be used by schoolchildren to reach Maes-y-Gwendraeth Secondary School, in order to avoid busy roads. A cycle rack has been installed in Tumble Hall car park together with a bike repair station to help sustainable travel for residents and visitors. Cycle parking is located in Maes yr Eithin for people that cycle to the retail park. <p>Llannon Community Council has successfully applied for a Safer Routes in the Community grant (2023) to improve cycle and walking routes within Tumble village (2023) The aim is to encourage more escorted children to walk, bicycle or use scooters to travel to and from Tumble primary school and reduce local car journeys.</p>	<p>Monitor the usage of the Discover app.</p> <p>Monitor number of participants on the walks.</p> <p>Monitor number of participants on the walks.</p> <p>Monitor number of participants in activities</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence from schools, parents and pupils.</p>
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	<p>Safer route grant (2022) has facilitated pavement improvement in Llannon village to increase safety and encourage less car journeys to and from Llannon Primary School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric car charging points Cross Hands EV Hub charging point. This electric car charging point located at SA14 6RJ is part of the Swarco E.Connect network. There are 5 devices and 14 connectors available at this charging location. Tumble Hall car park Heol y Neuadd SA14 6HR Clenergy There is one device and two connectors available at this site. 	
<p>Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised awareness raising and training sessions for members of staff, in order to understand the significance of the need to increase biodiversity and to recognise opportunities for action to aid in management to boost biodiversity. 5/4/2023 Site visit, training session and very detailed question and answer session attended by Councillors on the Environmental Committee, Deputy Clerk and LICC Grounds and Assets Maintenance Lead, together with Rachel Carter, One Voice Wales Local Places for Nature Officer, Isabel Macho Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Officer and Amanda Evans Caeau Mynydd Mawr Officer. • Biodiversity lecture by Liam Olds of Colliery Spoil initiative was held in Tumble Hall and hosted by Cyfeillion y Coetir January 2023. This shared information on the incredible biodiversity in Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park. A yearlong survey was undertaken in 2022 funded by Carmarthenshire Outdoor Recreation Service. PDF Document Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park Invertebrate Survey Report https://bit.ly/3PXTmuJ • LICC has posted details on our website and social media platforms of the actions we are implementing to increase biodiversity in the ward. • Information regarding change in mowing practices to increase biodiversity. http://www.cclannon.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2023/04/Llannon-Community-Council-Grass-mowing-guidelines.pdf <p>Bilingual Information packs and leaflets distributed to local schools, bilingual information posters displayed in</p>	<p>Feedback from Council members and residents.</p> <p>Good attendance of local residents together with people from outside the area.</p> <p>Comments and feedback from schools, residents direct to Councillors or Council staff</p>

	<p>green areas and also bilingual leaflets to distribute to residents regarding grass cutting and biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information regarding increasing biodiversity on LICC noticeboards. Bilingual Posters. Encourage the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces. <p>Cyfeillion y Coetir, volunteer group in Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park. Cyfeillion Facebook page informing local residents of the habitats and biodiversity found in the Country Park.</p> <p>Llannon Community Council awarded an initial grant to Cyfeillion y Coetir a Not For Profit Organisation in order to purchase Public Liability Insurance and equipment.</p> <p>Link Communities Nature Recovery Ideas For Action https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1232198/2-communities-english-nature-recovery-ideas-for-action.pdf?v=202305301040590000</p> <p>Keep Mynydd Mawr Tidy volunteer group working within the local community to protect the environment striving for a clean green local environment to protect biodiversity and also enhances the well-being of local residents. Two monthly volunteer group activity in rotation visiting each village community to collect litter. Llannon Community Council have awarded grants to support this work.</p> <p>Keep Wales Tidy Strategy 2022-2030 Beautiful Wales. Promises to eradicate litter and waste, set standards for environmental excellence, restore green spaces and empower youth on environmental issues. Further information on the strategic plan Home - Keep Wales Tidy</p>	<p>Monitor number of people taking part in activities.</p> <p>Monitor number of people taking part in activities.</p>
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NRAP Objective 2:
Safeguarding species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Action		Monitored by
Safeguard principal species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists of living organisms and types of habitat in Wales, produced by the Welsh Government which they consider to be of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales. Link to lists: https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Environment-Wales-Act#collapse138 	Record of all sites or species safeguarded and protected

	<p>Detailed information regarding priority species in Carmarthenshire https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/priority-species-in-carmarthenshire/</p> <p>Information regarding priority habitats in Carmarthenshire. https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/priority-habitats-in-carmarthenshire/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of biodiversity within Llannon Ward has been surveyed and is noted in Wildlife in your Ward - Llannon. https://binged.it/3DesfUH <p>This profile includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special species recorded in the ward ▪ Information on how to help and take part in protecting the local wildlife ▪ How to record species in the area ▪ Special sites of interest in the area, such as conservation areas ▪ Local sites and walks to explore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important habitat sites within Llannon Ward. There are many diverse habitats in Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, although not under LICC management (CCC Country Park) it lies within the ward and abuts many green areas which are managed by LICC. • Brief description of habitats – Bilingual PDF document Bywyd Gwylt a Chadwraeth and Map of Habitats MMWP. https://bit.ly/3PZOwxi • Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan Habitat information Sheet - Brownfield, Urban and Public Open Space. https://bit.ly/43qPLII • Green spaces under the management of LICC are to be managed to protect and buffer habitats so as to link areas of biodiversity and develop resilient ecological networks. One ecological important site is that of the old open cast area behind Tumble village, within MMWP. 	<p>within the ward.</p> <p>All Councillors and Council staff to be aware of significance of biodiversity and need to protect and enhance.</p>
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	<p>Mynydd Mawr Area is also included in the Lowland Grassland Priority areas in Wales – South Wales Valleys marshy Grassland. Once more due to this being the habitat for the Marsh Fritillary and the plant species present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any major land management / development will require full ecological surveys as prescribed by Carmarthenshire County Council. 	
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NRAP Objective 3:
Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.

Action		Monitored by
<p>Create and contribute to Resilient Ecological Networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of Y Graig Park have been identified as sites with indicative plants of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary. Land management work on this site will reflect this and work will be done to enhance the habitat with the aim of connecting to other areas of Marsh Fritillary habitat in Cross Hands. As other areas of suitable habitat is identified they will also be incorporated into land management to enhance environment for growth of Devil's bit scabious, larval food plant of the Marsh Fritillary. Creating Habitats - Llannon Community Council have received free packs of trees suitable for planting hedges. These have been planted in several Parks and as a boundary between Tumble Cemetery and the main road. The plants are now starting to establish and should develop into an attractive and effective wildlife corridor and habitat. Linking to already established hedgerows bordering the site. Hedgerows (gov.wales) Orchard trees have been planted in Mynydd Mawr Park, Tumble in Y Graig, Llechyfedach and also in Cross Hands Park. These small trees need to be nurtured, competition with grass around their base needs to be reduced and they should undergo summer and winter pruning. The flowers will be important for early pollinators. Restoring Meadow Grasslands 	<p>Further site visits by Environmental Committee and Conservation Officers.</p> <p>Area of habitat increased.</p> <p>Grounds Staff to prune and monitor health of trees.</p>

	<p>Llannon Community Council grass mowing guidelines PDF document details how mowing practices will be adapted to fit how the area is used.</p> <p>Amenity areas must be cut on a weekly basis e.g. play areas. Some areas will be cut less frequently to increase biodiversity, nectar cut. Meadow areas will be allowed to grow for the summer season. Nectar and meadow areas will increase the number of flowering plants which in turn benefits pollinators and all other organisms.</p> <p>Llannon Community Council share with 2 other Community Councils a cut and collect machine to undertake an autumn/winter biodiversity cut. This management by removing grass cuttings from the area will reduce soil nutrients in successive years so that grass growth will be reduced and different species of native wildflowers will increase in number. It will take several years for a true wildflower meadow to develop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the management and diversity of areas of habitat - Four unique LICC sites have been selected for particular attention this year 2023 -2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tyisha Park - Ebenezer Cemetery - Upper Tumble Public Cemetery - Y Graig <p>These 4 areas have very different requirements and require different land management.</p> <p>Details of how these were chosen: Increasing Biodiversity 4 Sites PDF document http://www.ccllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Increasing-biodiversity-4-sites-April-2023.pdf</p> <p>Pwyllgor Amgylchedd Biodiversity Recommendations http://www.ccllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Pwyllgor-Amgylchedd-Biodiversity-Recomendations.pdf</p> <p>Site Visit Report by Rachel Carter, One Voice Wales Local Places for Nature Officer, Isabel Macho Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Officer and Amanda Evans Caeau Mynydd Mawr Officer): http://www.ccllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Site-visit-report-Llanon-CC-542023-Rachel-Carter.pdf</p>	<p>Allowing native plants to flower and set seeds, improving habitat and biodiversity.</p>
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NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Action		Monitored by
Address key pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small area of Japanese Knotweed present in Tyisha Park. Non-chemical weakening of plants by bending of growing stems. Seek advice from NRW regarding herbicide use after flowering to control and reduce growth. https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/japanese-knotweed/?lang=en • Survey of all sites needs to be undertaken to check for presence of Himalayan Balsam, some areas have been identified along Gwendraeth Fawr in Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park. Information on identification and how to control in PDF document Himalayan Balsam. • Ensuring office supplies such as paper, cleaning products and office furniture are sustainably sourced (e.g. locally and/or made from recycled material). • LLCC meetings are paperless and are held on Zoom. • Composting bins for our green waste. In time this will be used in our planters and hanging baskets. • When new Power tools and Equipment are required, we look to purchase more environmentally friendly equipment. 	Areas of invasive species tackled. Herbicide to be used only at most beneficial time to control plant, (after flowering).
Use biodiverse and native nature based solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llannon Community Council employ a local pest control company. Pesticides have to be used in some circumstances, however company gives advice on how to reduce and prevent pest infestation so that there is a reduction in the use of pesticides. Ground Staff's use of herbicides has been reduced to only be used when absolutely necessary. • Llannon Community Council has many green spaces within the ward, some under their control and management, others managed on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council. It is our primary aim to make these green spaces attractive destinations for 	Feedback from Community Groups and schools.

	<p>all members of the local communities and for visitors to the area.</p> <p>New children’s play areas have been installed in recent years in Llannon, Tumble and Cross Hands play area. These have proved to be exceptionally popular with local residents and visitors.</p> <p>Local football and rugby teams (Junior and Adult), Tumble RFC and Tumble United AFC make full use of the playing fields in Mynydd Mawr Park for training and games and have recently held County tournaments in the Park which were sponsored by LICC, LICC also maintains the soccer pitches for the local club.</p> <p>All of the above improvements to our local green spaces are specifically undertaken with the aim of improving health and well-being of the community.</p>	
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NRAP Objective 5:
Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Action		Monitored by
<p>Improve use of evidence in decision making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit with Biodiversity Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council to ensure use of best practice, to identify local issues and increase understanding of habitats and biodiversity to inform future decisions and developments. https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Home (Carmarthenshire) • A large area of the ward falls within Caeau Mynydd Mawr Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Amanda Evans Conservation Project Officer https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/marsh-fritillary-project/ • Applying for grants to further develop green areas for the benefit of residents and wildlife. Details of suggested improvements for Tyisha Park Site Visit Report LICC Rachel Carter (One Voice Wales Local Places for Nature Officer). Y Graig. Unfortunately LICC were unsuccessful in our application for UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Sustainable Communities Programme), However when a suitable funding programme becomes available a bid 	<p>Use of expert advice.</p> <p>Site visits</p>

<p>Share evidence accessibly.</p>	<p>will be submitted to improve and develop this area in Llechyfedach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other useful sources of information and links. <p>Take action for Wildlife https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions</p> <p>Carmarthenshire biodiversity web pages: https://bit.ly/3jb2Krl</p> <p>Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan: https://bit.ly/2QqmfQe</p> <p>Wales Biodiversity Partnership: https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Home</p> <p>Aderyn LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database (What's in my Area – Postcode) https://www.aderyn.lercwales.org.uk/home</p> <p><u>Llanelli Naturalists</u> http://www.llanellinaturalists.org.uk/</p> <p>Bumble Bee Conservation https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/</p> <p>Carmarthenshire Bird Club https://carmarthenshirebird.club/</p> <p>Butterfly Conservation https://butterfly-conservation.org/ https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/Wild%20Spaces%20Booklet.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Committee and the Assets Committee have the responsibility to visit green open spaces which are owned or managed by Llannon Community Council, on a quarterly basis. A short site report on the area, with recommendations and feedback should be produced to monitor and inform longer term decision making. • The Biodiversity Section 6 together with all additional documents will be published on Llannon Community Council website for all residents to access. • It is our intention to produce a newsletter including information regarding biodiversity and actions to increase biodiversity together with other Council information for distribution to households within the ward. 	<p>Minutes of Environmental Committee meetings.</p> <p>Feedback from residents.</p>
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NRAP Objective 6:

Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

Action		Monitored by
<p>Ensure governance for biodiversity</p> <p>Provide capacity for biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environment Committee of Llannon Community Council has responsibility to reduce the impact of the Councils operations on the natural environment. It is also tasked with the responsibility to protect enhance and improve biodiversity and habitats within the ward. • A site visit on the 5th of April 2023 of Carmarthenshire Conservation Officers, external ecological expertise Rachel Carter One Voice Wales Local Places for Nature Officer, Isabel Macho Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Officer Amanda Evans Caeau Mynydd Mawr Conservation Officer • Partnership with local environmental organisations to provide extra volunteers to improve local wildlife areas. Further contacts need to be formed with local community groups such as local Scout and Brownie group, Duke of Edinburgh award Ideas for action – How you can help link https://bit.ly/2EENrZ6 • Encourage organisations receiving grants from Llannon Community Council to consider how their actions can help support biodiversity, promote sustainability or circular economy and consider their carbon footprint and effect on global warming. • Business – Nature recovery –Ideas for Action https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/123219/6/1-business-english-nature-recovery-ideas-for-action.pdf?v=202305301041370000 	<p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit.</p> <p>Further site visits to assess effect on biodiversity</p> <p>Link with community organisations.</p>

Review of Section 6 duty

- **What has worked well?**

Grass mowing Guidelines have been produced under the guidance of CCC Biodiversity Officer.

These guidelines have been implemented in several sites. Site visits and reports have been reported back to Environmental Committee and also to LICC Grounds and Assets Maintenance Lead during May 2023. In all areas many native wild flowers could be seen although grass growth is vigorous especially in areas of Tyisha Park and Tumble Cemetery, as cut and collect machinery will be used to undertake an autumn/winter biodiversity cut, nutrients will reduce and growth of grass species will reduce.

- Tumble Cemetery May 2023: <http://www.cllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Tumble-Cemetery-May2023.pdf>
- Tyisha Park May 2023: <http://www.cllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Tyisha-Park-May-2023.pdf>
- Y Graig May 2023: <http://www.cllannon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Y-Graig-May-2023.pdf>

- **What have the barriers been?**

Initially the main barrier was the scale of the task facing us. Once the Environmental Committee decided on priorities and arranged site visits with Conservation officers, advice regarding changes in grass mowing practices was received and changes have been implemented.

The Council believes that we have a clearer vision as to what needs to be done to increase biodiversity and that it can be achieved with no detriment to residents enjoyment of green spaces. Indeed we are certain that the changes will increase local use and recreational value of our green spaces.

One setback has been a miscommunication between Community Council and County Council regarding management of Tyisha Park.

Llannon Community Council had applied for funding to redevelop Y Graig (UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Sustainable Communities Programme), this bid was unsuccessful. Since the Precept has been kept at minimum level increase this year this means some planned work will not be feasible. The management of bracken areas within the park will require an external contractor to carry out the work this cost could only be afforded if the grant was awarded.

Financial constraints will limit LICC's ability to tackle some improvements for the benefit of biodiversity but all improvements that can be undertaken at affordable cost will be implemented.

- **Future Developments**

Greater community Involvement.

Working with local schools to develop and introduce large bug hotels built from pallets into green spaces, e.g Park Tyisha and Y Graig.

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/cy>

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bug-mansion>

Schools Nature Recovery Ideas for Action:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1232202/4-schools-english-nature-recovery-ideas-for-action.pdf?v=202305301042030000>

Working with local Men's Shed group to produce bat and bird boxes involving local schools and organisations in building and identifying suitable sites.

Ideas for action – How you can help link: <https://bit.ly/2EENrZ6>

Further collaboration with CCC conservation officers is essential to carry out surveys of sites to identify if there are any priority habitats and other priority species within the ward. Priority species already recorded Marsh Fritillary, Dormouse, Bullfinch, Blackbird, Mistle and Song Thrush, Redwing and Fieldfare together with the Round leaved Sundew as noted in "Wildlife in Llannon Ward".

Carmarthenshire Bat Group have produced a Carmarthenshire Bat Atlas, 14 of the 17 species of bat have been confirmed in Carmarthenshire. There are no specific recorded details of which bat species are present in the ward, however spectrograms have identified soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle bats in Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park: <https://www.wwbic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Carmarthenshire-Bat-Atlas-2021.pdf>

WWBIC holds a lot of biological records for Llannon ward however more information is always needed. Individuals can help in recording.

More information can be found here: <https://www.wwbic.org.uk/wildlife-recording/>

Individuals - Nature Recovery Ideas for Action:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1232200/3-individuals-english-nature-recovery-ideas-for-action.pdf?v=202305301041230000>

Need to increase suitable habitats within green spaces such as hedgerows, marshy areas woodland etc.

Implement changes to grass mowing regime in other green spaces to increase biodiversity.

Development of Tumble Cemetery to introduce pollinator friendly perennial plants to improve attractiveness of site and year round interest.

- Cross Hands is one of the major 'Growth Zones' for the Carmarthenshire economy and the location for strategic investment and growth in housing, employment and commercial land uses. Uniquely among the ten rural towns of the Ten Towns Initiative Cross hands is a long-term focus for regional scale investment in infrastructure and several growth zones including Cross Hands West, Food Zone and Cross Hands East Strategic Site, the latter targeted at the key sectors including life sciences, advanced manufacturing, environmental, creative, and agri-food technologies.

The Sustainable Economic Growth Plan for Cross Hands is concerned with economic recovery following the pandemic as well as the longer-term prosperity and growth of the town and surrounding area over the next five years and beyond. There are two main pillars for the recovery of the Carmarthenshire economy which are focused on **local level actions** and **growing the competitiveness of the whole economy** including support for Business, People and Place.

There are also four cross-cutting recovery themes:

- Ultra-reliable digital connectivity and a digital culture – underpinning recovery and growth across the whole economy;
- Skills – retrain, re-skill, up-skill and ensuring that people have the right skills to do the jobs created;
- Green economy – low carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and sustainable homes; and
- Fair and equal economy and support for the Welsh language and culture.

LICC hopes to play an important role in this exciting development for the benefit of all residents. For more information: <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/.../cross-hands/>

- Circular economy - there are ideas for action that LICC wish to establish.
 - Work with local schools on a school uniform recycle
 - Toy library could be set up in y Cwtch - Community hub, where an unofficial book library has been set up.
 - Clothes amnesty – rather than deposit clothes in a clothes bin, they can be handed into the Hall where they will be sorted and can be recycled by holding a 'swishing event' <http://swishing.com/>
 - Repair Café Wales - request a pop up event where local residents can get their broken household items repaired for free by volunteers held in a LICC Community hub.
- Electric Bikes. 'Back on your bike' is a community based cycling scheme that enables adults to ride, regardless of their age, ability or cycling experience. Actif will work in partnership with organisations to provide cycling opportunities and promote a healthier lifestyle. Llannon Community Council have expressed an interest in being included in this scheme which will include the loan of an electric or pedal bike for 10 weeks for a resident of the ward. LICC will need to invest in electric bikes charging points in strategic places within the ward.
- Terracycle is a company that specialises in collecting and recycling traditionally hard to recycle products such as pens, coffee capsules, cigarette butts and crisp packets. They offer the opportunity for people and groups to sign up to act as collection hubs for different materials for which they then donate money to a chosen charity or charities: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/about>

[terracycle?utm_campaign=admittance&utm_medium=menu&utm_source=www.terracycle.com](https://www.terracycle.com/?utm_campaign=admittance&utm_medium=menu&utm_source=www.terracycle.com)

- **How and when will the Section 6 duty be monitored and the Section 6 plan reviewed?**

The Section 6 Plan will be monitored by the Environmental Committee, Assets Committee and individual officers reporting back on a bi-annual basis to the council. The reports will be produced following site visits and inspections and will comment on the success or otherwise of actions implemented by the Council.

The S6 plan is a working document and will be updated with further reports and assessment of actions undertaken as and when these are submitted through Committees.

A full review will be undertaken no later than April 2026.