

**Ponthir Community
Council**



**Cyngor Cymuned
Ponthir**

Biodiversity and Environmental Development Action Plan 2025 - 2027

Introduction

Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, sets out the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty under which, all local authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in in the exercise of its functions, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'. For Ponthir Community Council working with Torfaen County Borough Council, Ponthir Primary School, Ponthir Village Hall and Ponthir Sports and Community Club, means that, in all the Councils internal policies, activities and when working with these organisations, the Council seeks opportunities to maintain and enhance wildlife that are supported in the area and to manage the habitats (e.g. grasslands and trees) so that they are in as natural and resilient a condition as possible.

The duty also supports the Community Council's wider responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in order that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant cohesive communities.

The Community Council has a positive record of contributing to the local environment and promoting sustainability. Village planters, funded by the Council, have been a feature of Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa for many years. The following 2025-27 action plan provides details of activities that the Community Council will support in the period 2025-27 to support biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty in Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa.



What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life found on earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, their abundance and genetic diversity.



It is our fascinating wildlife and iconic species and habitats, and it is not just important for its intrinsic value, but also for the positive impact it has on all aspects of our lives.

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity.

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at Ponthir Community Council.

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management in association with local stakeholders.

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.

Working with Key Stakeholders in Ponthir and surrounding areas.

Ponthir Primary School

- Workplace recycling implemented.
- Planted fruit trees in school grounds.
- Sown wildflower seeds in a section of our school meadowland.
- Grass not cut in a section of our meadowland until late summer to encourage bees and insects to thrive.
- Japanese cherry tree planted with the help of Ponthir CC.

- Stuart Bailey memorial cup for eco student of the year.

Torfaen County Borough Council

TCBC has enhanced the area of grassland at the entrance to Candwr Park through a mix of cut and collect management and areas of seeding with native wildflowers. Over time, this approach will increase native wildflowers and provide benefits for a range of wildlife, particularly pollinating insects, birds and small mammals.

Ponthir Village Hall

Until late 2024, most of the green area at the hall was laid out as grass. The objectives of the trustees were to utilise the green space to increase biodiversity in the village, and to encourage the community to grow their own healthy produce.

Initiatives to improve and protect biodiversity

To create a community garden to grow healthy produce. To enclose the grass area at the front of the hall to create a safe open space for people to use. This will be mainly grass but the borders next to the road consist of trees and will be left wild.

Fruit trees have been planted behind the hall to create free for use produce and encourage bees and other insects.

The area next to the road will be left wild and when funding is available will be seeded with wildflowers.

Part of the area may also be used as a natural compost area.

Finally, there is an area left mainly as a grass, and includes trees and a bench so people can enjoy the environment.





Ponthir Sports and Community Club

Information to be provided by the club at a later date.