

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Reporting on Section 6 –Town and Community Councils [\(Group 1\)](#)

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Town or Community Council: Ponthir Community Council

Introduction and Context

- This report is published in response to the enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The duty requires public authorities to “maintain and enhance biodiversity (so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions) and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.”
- This is Ponthir Community Council’s second report since 2022.
 - Ponthir Community Council is a semi-rural Community Council comprising the villages of Lower Llanfrechfa and Ponthir and the surrounding farmland.
- Situated in the county borough of Torfaen it is defined to the South and West by the Afon Llwyd and the East by Candwr Brook. Its Northern boundary is the road of Edgehill, the road and properties sitting outside of the council area.
- The population is approx. 1399 in 800 properties raising a precept of £28371p.a.
- The council does not own any land and has no facilities, limiting any involvement with biodiversity to promoting initiatives, education and offering grants to organisations within its community.

Action Report

| Action carried out to: | Monitored by: |
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| -embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement | <p>The impact on biodiversity is now.</p> <p>Full council</p> <p>considered as part of the review of all. planning applications and in particular the awarding of CC contracts.</p> |

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| <p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p> | <p>Work with influential groups e.g.,</p> <p>Llanfrechfa Walled Garden, Ponthir School, Ponthir Sports and Community Club, the Village Hall and groups. operating within the community to promote biodiversity / ecological. sustainability</p> <p>Promote initiatives via the Council's. Facebook site, website, Community Noticeboards and the Caerleon Times.</p> <p>Continue with and reinforce existing. initiatives and awareness campaigns</p> <p>Full council</p> |
| <p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive. species</p> | <p>Ensure trees and hedgerows are. protected in planning applications, with restoration of any hedges / trees removed or damaged during construction</p> <p>Encourage local landowners to ensure. hedgerows are managed in the winter. months when the woody growth is dormant and avoid work during the bird nesting season (March to August).</p> <p>Encourage organisations to erect bat and bird boxes or to build a bug hotel. (Provide boxes for local organisations to erect)</p> <p>Continue to work with Ponthir Sports and Community Council in developing nature havens in the land not dedicated to sports. This shall include the planting of trees as a natural enhancement to the drainage and the continued establishment of wildlife ponds</p> <p>Monitor the Afon Llwyd, Candwr Brook and its tributaries for signs of pollution. Report any debris within the waterways and encourage Torfaen County Borough Council to maintain the free flow of water when required</p> <p>Full council and individual councillors</p> |
| <p>-use improve and share evidence</p> | <p>Continue the use of pollinator-friendly!</p> <p>Full council</p> |

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| | shrubs, annuals, and perennial plants in our planters. |
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| | Encourage the community to take responsibility for watering these planters buying in a greater level of support |
| -support capacity and/or other organisations | Pair up local organisations looking for Full council areas to plant flowers with other areas with unused land. Planter pots donated to community garden as recycling. Grants available to help with this if needed. Trees purchased for school to celebrate their 50 th birthday. |

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| Review of s6 duty |
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- What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?

Ponthir Community Council continues to roll out initiatives in the village. Successful partnerships have been established over the past three years with key players within the community.

Torfaen County Borough Council work closely with us, identifying key initiatives and responding to concerns as highlighted by residents.

Ponthir Community Council is represented on both the Village Hall board of trustees and Ponthir Sports and Social Club committee, ensuring that the requirements of the whole community are met in future decision making. This is a big improvement as for many years no involvement took place. We have an annual biodiversity prize for the local school and have purchased trees for them to enhance habitat for bees and butterflies.

How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

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s6 duty will be monitored quarterly by the full council as an agenda item at the monthly Community Council Meeting.

The s6 plan will be reviewed and updated as required but as a minimum will be reviewed as required.

The s6 plan for 2025/27 will be agreed at the June 2025 Council Meeting.

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