

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Report 2023**

VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

Valley Community Council provide a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces including
 - Parc Mwd, a large recreational park, combining more formal areas with natural areas to promote wildlife. The park lies within close proximity to Valley wetlands, a wonderful nature reserve and the river which runs along the park contains natural seawater. The park is popular with dog-walkers, offers three football pitches, two of which are leased to the Valley Junior Football Club and the Valley Senior Football Club and has a boules pitch. The pavilion, provides facilities for changing and showering, a small meeting room and kitchen.
 - Valley Community Council works in association with Valley Community Group, who as part of an inter-generational project, have leased an area of land which is now home to a natural play area within Parc Mwd..
 - Valley Play-park – this is an area of land leased by Valley Community Council from Isle of Anglesey County Council to provide a play-area with play equipment and picnic area. It is located next to the Valley Community Primary School.
 - Ynys Wen Cemetery – the Community Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery grounds at the community cemetery. This includes war memorial
 - Parc Branwen green amenity space within a housing estate.
- Maintenance and upkeep of all public footpaths in the community council area as well as the bus-shelters and community clock.
- Funding – we provide financial contributions towards annual events organised by the Valley Community Group, e.g. the village Christmas tree.
- We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

We serve approximately 2400 residents. The precept for 2022-2023 is £37443.65

Action Report		
Action carried out to		Monitored by
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured a commitment to biodiversity and natural areas by protecting the wild orchids growing in Parc Mwd, ensuring grass cutting by-passes the area until the growing season is over. • Taken into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders. 	The clerk. Record in minutes.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged all community councillors to consider attending training sessions 	Records of attendance
Safeguard principal species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured no negative impacts on protected species. • Contributed to the management of Parc Mwd ensuring that certain areas are allowed to grow wild to provide natural habitats. • Responded to requests to cut down trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders. Priority is given to preservation of existing tree but when a tree has to be removed, require it to be replaced with the same species of tree, preferably a mature specimen. 	Parc Mwd Committee Full Council Record in minutes.
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's green spaces are now mature and the Council has continued to ensure that they remain resilient with the emphasis on providing a mix of formal green spaces with the natural spaces that encourage wildlife and wild fruit. This will be through a commitment to maintain them through a careful budgeting and procurement of services. 	Clerk Full Council
Tackle negative factors, for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions address invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use pesticides only where necessary and ensuring that maintenance contractors are adequately trained in this area. This was ensured through effective procurement. 	Clerk and Full Council

Use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Council website provides information on the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty. • Ensure that matters associated with this topic are adequately minuted. 	To be undertaken 2020/21 Clerk
Support capacity and/or other organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible provide guidance to any other local groups who may require guidance. 	All members.
Review of S6 duty		
<p>What has worked well?</p> <p>We have adopted a process for trying to ensure that work is given to local contractors thus reducing carbon footprint.</p> <p>We have adopted a rolling programme for replacement of all benches to be of recyclable materials.</p> <p>When considering new projects, we have considered our duty.</p> <p>We have protected the wild orchid area and ensured hedgerows are cut at appropriate times.</p> <p>We have continued to encourage local residents to collect wild blackberries in the park and to pick wild fruits from the fruit trees that were planted some years ago as part of an initiative to support healthy eating and active lifestyles.</p> <p>We have produced a good practice guide for professional dog walkers in the park.</p> <p>We have provided a bin in the children’s play area to encourage children to keep their community tidy.</p> <p>We have ensured that any purchases made comply with our requirement to consider use of recyclable materials.</p>		
<p>What have the barriers been?</p> <p>Lack of knowledge and expertise around the implications of the duty to consider biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems and a possible lack of capacity to engage with the wider community.</p>		
<p>What will you change</p> <p>We shall encourage all members to attend training in biodiversity and resilience now that these courses should, once again become available on line.</p> <p>Over the next year, ensure that the Community Council website continues to promote its policy when making decisions on behalf of the community it serves.</p>		

