

Biodiversity Report 2022

Under section 6 of the Environment Wales Act, Aberporth Community Council has a requirement to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

Our duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity follows the Nature recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP) guidance, by producing a plan that supports the guidance given within the NRAP plan. The key elements of the plan include;

Embed diversity into delivery, and raise awareness of its importance

Safeguard special sites and species

Restore and create habitats

Tackle key pressures, such as pollution and invasive non-native species

Use and collect biodiversity evidence.

In April 2022 as part of its governance review Aberporth Community Council identified a legal responsibility to produce a Biodiversity plan. The actions of the Council in relation to this plan are outlined below:

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| 2022 Proposed action | Actions carried out |
| To review all activities, Policies, Processes and Sub-Committees to ensure that biodiversity is considered within all activities of  the Council. | Council have reviewed all policies, processes and procedures within its work to ensure that biodiversity is considered within all decision making and discussions. • In our role as a statutory consultee within planning matters, full Council is mindful of potential impact to the biodiversity of the area. |
| To work towards the Council  being plastic free. | The Council where possible ensured that environmentally friendly products were used in its activities. |
| To work towards the Council  being paper free, or where  paper is required, to ensure that it is bought from sustainable sources. | The Council where ever possible ensures that it distributes documents electronically. |
| Village clean up days. To  encourage participation in the clean-up and a pride in the  villages. | The villages continue to be maintained by active volunteers who help to instil a pride in our village, beaches  and green spaces |
| To review childrens play facilities and areas, and look to enhance and encourage the provision of spaces for environmentally friendly play. | The Community Enhancement and Wellbeing committee have stared work in producing a joint play strategy with Aberporth Village Hall Management committee and Parcllyn Playing Field Committee. A review of existing play opportunities is currently being undertaken. |
| Review the use of weed killer by Community Council to ensure the most effective but least environmentally damaging compounds to be used. | The footpath and Maintenance Committee have reviewed the trashing and cutting schedules. Approved contractors will be directed to be using the least environmentally damaging sprays and products. |
| Ensure maintenance schedules and contracts consider biodiversity in relevant areas. | The footpath and Maintenance Committee have reviewed the trashing and cutting schedules. Approved contractors will be directed to preserve biodiversity re hedge cutting activities; grass cutting and use of pesticides. |
| To work to reduce dog fouling in the area | Worked alongside Ceredigion County Council to promotes its dog fouling awareness project.  Provided signage to encourage people to clean up after their animals. |
| To look at ways to engage with the community in how we can all contribute to enhancing biodiversity within the villages | Due to the community council being busy this year with the jubilee celebrations and Summer of Fun activities the proposed Bee Friendly award and awareness day did not materialise; this proposal will now be a priority for 2023-24. |
| To look at opportunities with Tidy Wales to access funding and community projects | An opportunity for funding in Parcllyn has unfortunately been placed on hold until the purchase of the play area and playing field has been completed. |
| To work with the horticultural  society on ways in which we can include biodiversity within the society annual show. | Due to the village hall being replaced the horticultural show was not held. This idea will be carried forward. |
| Publish the actions taken so far, and the plan for 2023-2024. | This report to be published on community council website following agreement at full Council meeting.  2023-24 Biodiversity Plan to be published on the website following agreement at full Council meeting. |

Key outcomes

Aberporth Community Council is committed to build on the foundations of the first year of its Biodiversity Plan. The Council are working towards further actions which will see a wider range of activities to protect, enhance and create the habitats required to ensure biodiversity within the community.

Review points

As a coastal and rural area with farms and green spaces there is already a good

emphasis on biodiversity within the Ward of Aberporth. There is now a plan for 2023-24 to move forward a number of initiatives to engage with the community and develop awareness and activities for biodiversity. The community council also commits to engage with other organisations and its officers to improve its own understanding of biodiversity.