

Nelson Community Council

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016
Part 1 - Section 6**

**The Biodiversity
and
Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2019/20**

Introduction	
<p>Nelson Community Council is mid valley and on the periphery of the western boundary of the Caerphilly County Borough.</p> <p>The Community Council represents and serves two electoral wards of Llanfabon and Llwyncelyn with a population of approximately 4600 residents.</p> <p>The precept for 2019/20 is approximately £30,000.</p> <p>There are currently nine Community Councillors representing the communities within Nelson: three for Llanfabon and six for Llwyncelyn.</p> <p>Nelson Community Council holds a lease on its Administration Offices (the Institute building 39 Commercial Street Nelson).</p> <p>Within the geographical areas served by the Community Council, residents undoubtedly benefit from The Wern Park, Cycleways and is in close proximity to Penallta Park, Llancaech Fawr and Gelligaer Common.</p>	
Services and Activities	
<p>The Community Council is responsible for the services it provides, serving its' communities and acting to improve the quality of life in its localities. This is achieved through exercising a range of statutory powers and duties that will have an impact on biodiversity. These include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing grants for projects within the Community Council's area that impact on biodiversity through cascading funding criteria. • Providing planters for local schools. • Supporting education activities through local allotments • Facilitating collaboration with partnerships that tackle challenges impacting upon the local environment such as litter and fly-tipping, deliberate grass fires, antisocial behaviours of illegal off-road bikes and quads. • Creating opportunities that seek to reduce the communities carbon footprint. • Actively participating in Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) made up of representatives from the police, local council, fire and rescue service, health service and probation, as well as other non-statutory partners. The purpose of CSPs is to make the community safer, reduce crime and fear of crime, reduce anti-social behaviour and work with residents and businesses on the issues of greatest concern creating a better environment to live work and visit. 	
ACTION	NELSON CC APPROACH
<p>Action carried out to embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchases and labour are sourced locally where possible • Where practical, the purchase of products are made from recycled materials

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to include criteria to cascade this requirement • Increased the use of communications technology e.g electronic provision of Community Council correspondence • Procurement to ensure biodiversity is embedded into the Council's policies • Biodiversity is to be taken into account when considering planning applications • Formal and comprehensive objections have been made after consulting the community in relation to speculative applications from developers on local and neighbouring green field sites • Work with CCBC regarding survey on local trees and maintenance of a list of tree preservation orders from CCBC • Help residents and councillors understand the impacts of developments on conservation areas and listed buildings through training and awareness • Aim to safeguard and improve Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
<p>Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors work with schools to encourage and enhance biodiversity of the area by providing support regarding biodiversity • Encourage and support litter picking activities that will encourage the "Reduce; Re-use; Recycle" ethos • Promote activities on the Council web site and social media and highlight the positive value of the biodiversity of the area such as the many diverse species and the risks they and their habitats face • Work with CCBC to promote biodiversity awareness among

	<p>Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners and CCBC to obtain the skills necessary to set up community-based biodiversity and conservation initiatives
Safeguard principal species and habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners, CCBC; local communities and individuals to ensure that the biodiversity of the local areas is sustained by supporting conservation activities throughout the communities • Work with partners, Natural Resource Wales and CCBC to raise awareness about the public's' rights relating to common land, and forestry land highlighting acceptable and unacceptable activities • Continue to work with the CCBC, Police and South Wales Fire Service encouraging increased policing to reduce rural crime and damage to the environment. Support the preservation of habitats and commoners' rights which could otherwise be eroded by encroachment, illegal activities and antisocial behaviours.
Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planters will be planted with native pollinator friendly flowers • The Community Council working jointly with a local school obtained a grant from Keep Wales Tidy for a 'Place for Nature' for a small area to be planted up and dedicated to encouraging pollinators with local wildflower plants • To continue to support local allotments with grants that encourage biodiversity
Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Council supports the CCBC declaration of a Climate Emergency and will do whatever it

species	<p>can to promote this initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport is responsible for 80 per cent of harmful roadside emissions. Typical measures to reduce emissions from local sources include traffic management and encouraging the uptake of cleaner vehicles. Therefore, the Community Council has supported the installation electric vehicle charge points in the communities as part of the CCBC Electric Vehicle Strategy • Councillors car share when attending training and/or meetings where appropriate • Councillors attend training sessions as close to the area as possible, reducing unnecessary travel or remote attendance if possible. • The Community Council supports the transport initiative of the provision of a Metro system that connects Nelson with other parts of the borough and beyond • The Community Council has already made representations to CCBC regarding parking and speed restrictions within the Nelson area. The Community Council will continue to support and deliver further speed watch activities through a programme of education, publicity and training to increase the skills and knowledge of local road users on the communities' roads and lanes reducing harmful pollution and making the areas safer to live, work and visit. • The Community Council continues to work with Gwent Police,
Use, improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Councillors will support and assist in creating a long term strategy and delivery for protecting, preserving and enhancing the local environment.

<p>Support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant making policy will require any organisations receiving a grant from the Community Council to demonstrate, where appropriate, how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project • The Community Council is a formal consultee with Caerphilly County Borough Council for planning applications and related documents • Ensuring the safety and well-being of residents by promoting community safety and participating in the local Neighbourhood Watch activities
<p>Review of S6 Duty</p>	
<p>What has worked well?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative working has worked well resulting in the Keep Wales Tidy funding obtained for a local school plus supporting local allotments and providing support for maintenance of a local church grounds.
<p>What have the barriers been?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers have been the limited budgets available
<p>What will you change?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater emphasis on biodiversity for grant applications
<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will work on identifying additional opportunities to embed biodiversity and ecosystems into Council activities. • The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2019/20 will be reviewed in 2023.