

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

**CEULANAMAESMAWR**  
**Community Council**  
***Action Plan***

## Environment Act (Wales) 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

### CEULANAMAESMAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

#### Introduction and Context

Section 6 is concerned with how the steps taken to aid biodiversity are being achieved through public authority functions. Authorities are required to consider biodiversity and the ecosystem at an early stage in their ideas and business plans, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as in their day-to-day activities.

There are various options available to each public authority, depending on its size and function, but each action, however small, which contributes in some way to maintaining biodiversity, assists in complying with the duty.

The Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan outlines six objectives for reversing biodiversity loss, which should be used to help develop and inform actions to comply with the Section 6 duty.

#### **The 6 objectives for maintaining and improving biodiversity are as follows:**

***Objective 1:*** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

***Objective 2:*** Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

***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

## CEULANAMAESMAWR

Public authorities are divided into three groups based on the authority's land management responsibilities and its links with biodiversity. Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council is in **Group 2** – which includes authorities with functions including land management, and can also influence landowners or land managers.

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council provides its local Community with a variety of services which impact biodiversity. These include:

- *Responsibility for some green spaces, including two playgrounds and a public cemetery.*
- *Finance – we offer grants for projects in the Council area. This can impact biodiversity via financial criteria.*

Two councillors have been designated to lead on biodiversity. They will play an active part in the One Voice Wales Nature Hub (Pethau Bychain) and ensure that the Council gives due attention to Section 6 when exercising its duties and responsibilities. The Section 6 duty will be monitored via councillor reports to the Council on the success of any steps taken, other information made available to the Council, or otherwise through scheduled inspections, and in the annual report.

- **We serve approximately 780 residents.**
- **The precept for 2025-26 was £17,000.**

| <b>ACTION REPORT</b>                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>Action</b>                                                                                     | <b>Delivery method</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Monitored by</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Including biodiversity considerations in our decision-making, financial and procurement processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Looking at biodiversity when considering planning applications and other related matters, such as footpath diversion orders and matters relating to services in the area.</li> <li>➤ Looking at biodiversity when considering the purchase of equipment and services.</li> <li>➤ Looking at biodiversity when considering applications for financial support from local groups and organizations. Our application form now contains a specific question dealing with the benefits to biodiversity of any allocated.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Minutes of the Planning Subcommittee and any other minutes.</li> <li>➤ Revising our procurement policy noting the consideration in the background and explanatory notes for any expenditure.</li> <li>➤ Finance Subcommittee reflecting the total expenditure that will ensure positive benefits to biodiversity. In 2024 and 2025, funding was provided for the purchase of equipment to monitor water quality in both rivers in the locality and also to purchase a set of large-scale maps as part of the wider Flood Mitigation Plan for the catchment.</li> </ul> |
| Raising awareness of biodiversity and its significance                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Updates at every monthly meeting from one of the two councillors allocated the role of Section 6 Duty leader.</li> <li>➤ Publishing the Section 6 Plan on our website and on social media platforms, together with details of the steps taken to help biodiversity</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Biodiversity/Section 6 is an agenda item at every meeting.</li> <li>➤ The launch of our new website in spring 2023 and our new Facebook page.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Amending our grass-cutting policy and the current contract to delay mowing until June at the earliest, and only cutting paths leading to benches rather than the whole area. The next</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An increase in the area and size of habitats. An increase in the number of species and in the number of nesting and hibernating sites provided. Our</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|                                         | <p>contract to include regulations on the use of pesticides, e.g. on invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Consider creating new habitats in the green spaces we manage including the public cemetery, e.g. buffer strips for wildflowers and providing nesting and wintering areas to encourage a range of species. Planting “the right tree in the right place”. Placing nesting boxes and shelter in safe and appropriate locations.</li> <li>➤ Working with other bodies and agencies to enrich existing ecosystems, e.g. look into the provision of wildflower plug plants by the Highways Agency to enrich grass verges.</li> <li>➤ Installing new wooden planters for flowers and herbs in suitable locations in the community.</li> </ul> | <p>grass-cutting and hedge trimming contract was amended in spring 2025 to include a more biodiversity-friendly schedule. The benefits were seen clearly at the end of spring with an increase in the number and abundance of flower species in the public cemetery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As part of the Playground renovation plan, we intend to work with Coed Cymru and Keep Wales Tidy to create a new hedge habitat of appropriate species and also a small orchard. The new look playground will also contain new planter containing sensory plants that are also pollinator-friendly. We are working with local schoolchildren who are very keen and knowledgeable about this aspect and we hope to get them to plant the gardens and also create bug hotels in the playground.</li> </ul> |
| Protecting primary species and habitats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Using the prescribed lists of priority species and habitats to identify those that exist in our community and to protect them for future generations. For example, working with specialists, landowners, graziers and the public to identify any key species of flora a fauna on Braichgarw common and in the wider community.</li> <li>➤ As a Council, submitting details of some of our notable and ancient trees for inclusion on the</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Using specialist advice.</li> <li>➤ Submitting information for official county and national records to Environmental Records Centres.</li> <li>➤ During summer 2025, we attended Llais y Goedwig / Woodland Trust training on the Ancient Tree Inventory. This included how to recognize and record ancient and notable trees in the national database. It is hoped, through</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|                                                                                                                            | Woodland Trust list, and encouraging residents to do the same.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | consultation with landowners and the public, that we can start recording these assets in our community very soon. It should also be noted that in May 2025 a member of our community successfully applied for a TPO on 5 trees located on private land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Support the capacity of other organizations and encourage the whole community to volunteer to maintain nature/green spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Working with local groups and organizations to benefit biodiversity objectives – The Floodies on water-related matters, Litter picking group and pride in the community, the Community Gardening Group, the Playing Fields Working Group, and the Talybont Show Committee.</li> <li>➤ Using our column in <i>Papur Pawb</i> to raise awareness, provide information and encourage action through interesting and topical articles.</li> <li>➤ Encouraging the community to take small steps to contribute to the Section 6 objectives.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An increase in awareness of biodiversity matters and positive actions.</li> <li>➤ Number of people taking part in activities.</li> <li>➤ The community council is represented in the Talybont Flood Group and also on the Leri Catchment Co-design Group led by Tir Canol.</li> <li>➤ Article on the front page of <i>Papur Pawb</i> introducing our commitment to Section 6, the main topic being Registering our Notable and Ancient Trees.</li> <li>➤ Since 2023, sponsoring a new class in the Talybont Siow – the Most Wildlife-friendly Garden, with a £20 prize.</li> <li>➤ In 2023 we funded a water quality testing kit for the Talybont Floodies as part of their wider Flood Mitigation Plan for the catchment.</li> </ul> |

## Section 6 Report for the Annual General Meeting – May 2024

*We continued to comply with the requirements of the Environment Act throughout the year. This is a standing item on the agenda of our monthly meetings and is also considered when discussing planning applications. By now, our application form for financial aid for organisations and clubs includes a question on positive impacts on biodiversity.*

*In spring 2024, a list of steps taken under Section 6 was sent to One Voice Wales, which led to one of our projects being included in good practice guidance being prepared for community and town councils. Our article on Promoting Biodiversity appeared on the front page of Papur Pawb last summer, which led to good feedback and interesting discussions.*

*Our two biodiversity officers discussed various matters with the public on the Local Nature stand in the Tal-y-bont Show last year, where hundreds of free packets of native wildflower seeds were distributed. We also sponsored the show's competition for the best garden for wildlife.*

*As well as the wider committee's assistance to the Floodies, the biodiversity officers have been offering practical help with the weekly testing of the river water.*

*Currently, we are working on a Plan to Promote Biodiversity for Cae Bach and hope to get practical help from the community and the children to ensure that it is educational and fun.*

## Section 6 Report for the Annual General Meeting – May 2025

*CAM has appointed two individuals as lead councillors for matters relating to Section 6 of the Environment Act 2016. Our Biodiversity Action Plan is updated and presented to One Voice Wales annually.*

- Section 6 is an agenda item at every meeting, and the effect on matters pertaining to Section 6 are considered with regard to every request for planning permission received.*
- When setting the budget at the start of the year, it was agreed once again this year to sponsor a class in the Tal-y-bont Show for the Best Garden for Wildlife, giving a prize of £20. Once again, those requesting financial aid in the annual grants round were asked whether the money would benefit biodiversity or the wider environment. Tal-y-bont Floodies noted that any financial aid would be used to buy large-scale maps to help develop the Flood Management Plan, and were awarded £100.*
- Our policy for the upkeep of the cemetery and playing fields was amended in line with Section 6 requirements two years ago. This spring, the cemetery has seen an increase in the number of species and wildflower cover. The new maintenance contract prepared for tender during the year now contains cutting/mowing dates and guidance to ensure conformity with Section 6.*
- This year, the main focus of both lead councillors has been flood management and water-related matters. They have attended numerous meetings and group sessions, including the Leri Catchment Co-design Group, which has been working with local landowners and agencies to try to reduce flood risks by noting possible appropriate measures in a wider scheme. They also attended a site meeting with local specialists in natural flood management and NRW on future measures to manage and slow the flow of rainwater from Allt-y-crib into the village.*
- The lead councillors have also been part of a group carrying out water quality tests on the water in the Leri. The project ended during the year, but the results have shown low pollution from Braichgarw down to Felin Ganol, and a healthy population of indicator insect species that signify clean water. Fish-eating birds have also been seen on one section of the river, indicating the presence of fish. The general health of the River Leri is very encouraging.*

