

Biodiversity Report for Year Ending March 2020

Reference: Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty



1. Bluebells in Big Covert Woodland

Introduction and Context:

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth which includes all species of plants, animals and the natural systems that support them.

Llanferres Community Council now has a duty to have regard for the conservation of Biodiversity when undertaking its functions.

Llanferres Community Council has a range of activities and services within the community which have a positive impact on biodiversity. These include:

- The upkeep of Maeshafn playing field and community orchards in Maeshafn and Maes Ysgawen park, the Huelog common land, Maeshafn village green, Maeshafn defibrillator station and Maes Ysgawen park
- Providing planters within the community and in the park to grow flowers
- Maintaining a flower planting programme
- Creating habitats for birds, bees, bats, bugs, insects, and hedgehogs
- Giving grants to help towards the cost for the upkeep and maintenance of Llanferres Playing field, Llanferres St Berres churchyard and Llanferres News and Views local community magazine
- Working with Llanferres Playing Field and Recreation Association (LPFRA) to build and locate bird and bat boxes around the local area

The Council promotes sustainability and biodiversity by:

- Asking the publishers of News and Views to focus some of their editorial on Biodiversity
- Using local materials and craftsmen whenever possible when undertaking work in the Community
- Ensuring every project considers Biodiversity and Sustainability in the early stages of development

Llanferres Community Council serves approx. 840 residents and many tourists to the area
The precept for 2019-2020 is £11,502

Actions Carried Out**1. *Embed Biodiversity into decision making at Community Council Meetings by:***

- Stated the Council's commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the annual report
- Considered biodiversity when reviewing planning applications
- Ensured biodiversity was considered when identifying and planning new projects
- Arrange for all Councillors to attend awareness training courses to understand the requirements for biodiversity and sustainability

Monitored by full Council when on Agenda at meetings

2. *Raised awareness of biodiversity and its importance by:*

- Encouraged articles in News & Views magazine to raise public awareness of the environment
- Posted details of actions taken by the Council to help biodiversity on the website
- Used notice boards and information boards in bus shelters and defibrillator station to display descriptions of local flora, fauna, and wildlife
- Encouraged the community to continue volunteering to maintain all green spaces with a respect for nature
- Invited families to harvest and eat the many varieties of fruit grown in Maes Ysgawen and Maeshafn orchards
- Offered an area in Maes Ysgawen park to Bro Famau County primary school to create a garden for the children to use

Monitored by full Council as and when required

3. *Safeguarded principal species and habitats by:*

- Left areas within Llanferres playing field wild to encourage growth of more wildflowers and attract more insects e.g. butterflies, bees, and other pollinators
- Managed all hedgerows in the winter months when the wood lay dormant and avoided working in the bird nesting season from March to September

Monitored by White Oak Properties (Council's main green spaces contractor)

4. *Maintained existing and created new habitats by:*

- Trimmed hedgerows during dormant growth season
- Planted new hedges using mixed planting known to encourage wildlife and nesting birds
- Planted other green spaces with berry producing shrubs to provide winter food for birds
- Planted heritage variety fruit trees in community orchards and made crop available to the community
- Built a Bug Hotel in Llanferres playing field
- Building and placing bird and bat boxes around Llanferres area
- Built a habitat for insects and hedgehogs in Maes Ysgawen park from fallen branches

Monitored by Community Volunteers



2. Maeshafn Community Orchard

5. Tackle Negative Factors by:

- Built composting area in community orchards
- Promoted the use of said compost for mulching trees in the orchards
- Supported owners of land in The Big Covert woodland to actively promote biodiversity and sustainability within the forest i.e. manage their woodland with a sensible replanting policy using native species
- Identified new biodiversity projects in the community budget for and provide funding as appropriate

Monitored by North Wales Wildlife Trust with Councillors living in Maeshafn and Council’s Sub Committee for the Big Covert

6. Listen to others to improve and share results by:

- Continue asking for advice, listening to, and engaging with North Wales Wildlife Trust
- Support Aberduna nature reserve whenever possible
- Continue engaging with Denbighshire Countryside Services
- Work with the Biodiversity officer in Denbighshire County Council to increase knowledge and understanding of local issues and adopt best practice whenever practicable

Monitored by the Chair of the Council

7. Support and reward community efforts by:

- Continued involvement in the Green Flag Community Award scheme for our open area in Llanferres for 15 consecutive years and winning 2 Awards
- Include Maeshafn playing field in the Green Flag Community Award scheme
- Encourage organisations receiving grants from Llanferres Community Council actively contribute to supporting biodiversity within their activities
- Work with North Wales Wildlife Trust to encourage additional volunteers from the community

Monitored by Cllr Bob Barton and Chair of the Council



3. Flowers to attract bees & wildlife



4. Flowers to attract bees & wildlife



5. Wild garlic along pathway in the Fairy Glen

Review of S6 Duty

What Has Worked Well

- Planting community orchard in conjunction with North Wales Wildlife Trust, using native fruit trees
- Restoring the composting area in Maeshafn playing field, undertaken by North Wales Wildlife trust
- Planting bulbs and seasonal bedding plants in the planters located in Maeshafn and Llanferres villages
- Transforming disused telephone boxes into local information centres to provide information and leaflets on the local area
- Planting additional daffodil bulbs at the entrance to Llanferres church and Maes Ysgawen park
- Planting mixed hedges and berry producing shrubs in Maes Ysgawen park
- Working with LFPRA to maintain a wildlife area in Llanferres playing field
- Working with LFPRA to produced bird and bat boxes

What Have the Barriers Been

- Raising of funds
- Lack of volunteers
- Lack of understanding of Biodiversity

What Changes are Planned

- Arrange for all councillors to receive relevant training so they understand Biodiversity
- Identify potential biodiversity projects around the area
- Prioritise projects by cost, resources needed and how easy it would be to complete
- Include funding for biodiversity projects when setting precept

How Will it be Monitored and When will it be Reviewed

- Biodiversity to be included on monthly agenda for council meetings
- Councillors to report on progress of individual projects and identify actions needed to complete work within a 'reasonable' time scale
- Projects to be reviewed on an annual basis with progress recorded in the annual Community Council report



6. Bug house to attract wasps & insects