



Biodiversity Report

Year Ending March 2022

Contact Details:

Llanferres Community Council, Maesawelon, Village Road, Maeshafn, CH7 5LU

Tel: 01352 810735

E-mail: clerk.llanferres@gmail.com

Website: www.llanferrescommunitycouncil.org



Context

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6, the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.

Introduction

Llanferres Community Council has a duty to have regard for conservation and biodiversity when undertaking its functions. Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth which includes all species of plants, animals and the eco systems that support them.

The Council undertakes a wide range of activities and services within the community which have a positive impact on biodiversity. These include:

- The maintenance and improvement of Maes Ysgawen park, Maeshafn playing field and their respective community orchards, the Huelog common land, Llanferres war memorial area, Maeshafn village green and Maeshafn defibrillator kiosk.
- Extending areas in the parks for wildflowers to flourish.
- Maintaining the butterfly garden in Maeshafn orchard.
- Providing planters within the community to grow flowers.
- Creating habitats for birds, bees, bugs, insects and hedgehogs.
- Giving grants towards the cost of maintaining St Berres churchyard.
- Supporting News and Views, local community magazine.
- Supporting Llanferres Playing Field and Recreation association in their activities to improve Llanferres playing field and Tafarn y Gelyn pond.
- Working with North Wales Wildlife Trust to build and locate bird and bat boxes in the local area.

The Council promotes sustainability and biodiversity by:

- Ensuring every project it undertakes considers biodiversity and sustainability in the early stages of development.
- Encouraging residents to have due regard for biodiversity in what they do.
- 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.

Llanferres Community Council serves approx. 649 electors and many tourists to the area. The precept for 2021-22 is £15,150.

Actions taken

1. Biodiversity has been embedded into the Councils decision making process through:
 - Due discussion and monitoring at Council meetings when appropriate.
 - Considering biodiversity when reviewing planning applications.
 - Ensured biodiversity is considered when identifying and planning new projects.
 - Arranging for Councillors to attend awareness training courses to understand the requirements for biodiversity and sustainability.
 - Stating the Council's commitment to biodiversity in its annual report

2. The Council has 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.

3. Principal species and habitats have been safeguarded by:
 - Leaving areas within Maeshafn playing field, its orchard area and Maes Ysgawen park and the whole of the Huelog uncultivated to encourage wildflowers to flourish and attract more insects, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.
 - Managing all the hedgerows in the winter months when they are dormant to avoid disturbing birds nesting from March to September.
 - Cutting wildflower areas once a year.

4. Existing habitats have been maintained and new ones created by:
 - Trimming hedgerows during dormant growing season.
 - Planting new mixed hedges using species known to attract wildlife and nesting birds.
 - Planting other green spaces with berry producing shrubs to provide winter food for birds.
 - Planting heritage variety fruit trees in Llanferres and Maeshafn community orchards and madding the crops available to the community.
 - Building a bug hotel in Llanferres playing field.
 - Building and placing bird and bat boxes around Maeshafn and Llanferres area.
 - Built a habitat for insects and hedgehogs in Maes Ysgawen park from fallen branches.
 - Creating a compost heap in Maeshafn orchard area.
 - Building a butterfly garden in Maeshafn orchard area in association with Keep Wales Tidy.

5. Negative influences have been reduced by:
 - Building composting areas in community orchards.
 - Promoting the use of said compost for mulching trees in the orchards and other areas.
 - Identifying new biodiversity projects in the community and securing funding for same as appropriate.

6. Knowledge and education has been improved through:
 - Continuing asking for advice, listening to, and engaging with North Wales Wildlife Trust.
 - Supporting Aberduna nature reserve whenever possible.
 - Engaging with Denbighshire Countryside Services.
 - Working with the Biodiversity officer in Denbighshire County Council to increase understanding of local issues and adopting best practice whenever practicable.

7. Community efforts have been supported and rewarded by:
 - Continuing to meet the standards required to win successive annual Green Flag Community Awards for Maes Ysgawen park and Maeshafn playing field and orchard area.
 - Actively encouraging organisations receiving grants from Llanferres Community Council to contribute to and support biodiversity within their activities.
 - Working with North Wales Wildlife Trust, Denbighshire Countryside services and Denbighshire County Council.
 - Recruiting and encourage volunteers from the community to contribute to the activities.

Monitoring

The above actions are monitored by:

- Councillors during the course of their meetings and other activities within the community.
- The Council's main green space maintenance contractor.
- Community volunteers.
- North Wales Wildlife Trust, Denbighshire Countryside Services and Denbighshire Biodiversity officer.

Review of S6 Duty

What has worked well

- Increasing the number of native fruit trees in Maeshafn community orchard in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy.
- Extending the composting area in Maeshafn playing field.
- Planting native bluebell bulbs in designated areas within Maeshafn Playing field and Maes Ysgawen park.
- Planting additional wild daffodil bulbs in Maes Ysgawen park and Maeshafn playing field.
- Renewing the mixed boundary hedge around Maeshafn playing field.
- Creating a butterfly garden in Maeshafn orchard area.

- Creating an area in Maeshafn playing field and planting shrubs to attract more insects, bees and other wildlife.
- Facilitating better access to Maeshafn playing field and its seating areas for wheelchair, mobility scooter and pushchair users.
- Planting additional trees in Maeshafn playing field, orchard area and Maes Ysgawen park to improve biodiversity.
- Building and installing bird and bat boxes in the local parks and woodland in conjunction with North Wales Wildlife Trust.
- Promoting the redevelopment of Tafarn y Gelyn pond.

What have the barriers been

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

What changes are planned

- Arrange workshops for local children, residents and councillors to engage with North Wales Wildlife Trust whenever possible to increase understanding and knowledge of biodiversity.
- Identify potential for additional biodiversity projects around the area.
- Prioritise projects based on cost, resources needed and ease of delivery.
- Continue sourcing funding for biodiversity projects via grants and through the precept.

Monitoring and review

Actions will be monitored and reviewed by the following means as appropriate:

- Biodiversity will be included on the agenda for council meetings.
- Councillors will report on progress of individual projects and identify actions needed to complete work within a 'reasonable' time scale.
- Projects will be reviewed annually and progress recorded in the annual report.
- The Clerk in research for funding and record keeping.
-

Evidence

The work undertaken by Llanferres Community Council since the last Biodiversity report is evidenced with the following photographs:



Volunteers creating the butterfly garden



Native fruit trees in Maeshafn orchard



Areas left to encourage spread of wildflowers and create new habitats



Building and installing bird and bat boxes



Bug Hotel



Flower planters around the villages



Pond dipping at Tafarn y Gelyn