

Llandwrog Community Council's Environmental Policy and Biodiversity Promotion

1 Introduction

The Council is committed to working towards the Future Wellbeing goals of the Generations Act 2015, which places emphasis on protecting the environment, using resources sustainably and safeguarding the health and prosperity of future generations.

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 all Town and Community Councils (as well as County Councils) have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience

2.Shipping: Council Policy

- recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses its resources efficiently and proportionately,
- aims to become a low-carbon organisation through better management of its resources, water and energy,
- integrating environmental and sustainable principles into the Council's operational procedures
- promotes best practice and seeks to improve the performance of the environment wherever practicable,
- wishes to maintain healthily functioning ecosystems and encourage a biodiverse natural environment in the community.

3.0 Practical Measures

3.1 Administration.

- Use as little materials as possible and eliminate or change wasteful practices.
- Use recycled materials.
- Recycle all materials as reasonably reasonable as possible.
- Circulating documents to reduce copying.

3.2 Waste of contractual work.

- Recycling waste from rights of way maintenance and cemetery land.
- Recycle the contents of graveyard trash bins.
- Try to compost green waste.

3.3 Influence on others.

- To make an applicant ask for an environmental policy as a condition of donation when it is higher than say £500.00
- Giving an undertaker the requirement for environmental policy as a specific qualification when being considered for contractual work.
- Responding to wasteful actions by others.

3.4 Promote sustainability.

- In drawing up the council's spending plans.

- When council members are appointed to represent them on bodies and organisations.

3.5 Energy, Water and Waste Management

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Use energy and environmental monitoring systems to identify potential energy and water savings. An example would involve the use of smart meters.
- Identify and implement cost-effective energy and water conservation measures.
- Carry out regular site checks to identify waste, water and energy savings. Examples could include checking toilet blocks for leaking tapes or buildings for windows that don't close effectively.
- Reduce the amount of waste generated by Council activities by implementing waste reduction systems. Examples could include the use of digital methods to distribute meeting papers and double-sided printing when printing cannot be avoided.
- Use all available recycling routes to reduce waste going to landfill.

3.6 Environmental procurement

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Buy products and services, which cause the least harm to the Environment.
- Use local labour and materials wherever possible to minimise the environmental impact of travel miles
- Reduce its use of single-use plastics, such as drinking straws, plastic cups, laminated lids etc.

3.7 Built Environment

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Improving properties owned or maintained by the council to increase thermal efficiency. Examples would be improving roof insulation or installing secondary glazing.
- Repairs and upgrades fixtures and fittings to improve water and energy efficiency and reduce waste. Examples could be modifying systems using less water, repairing drip taps or installing thermostats on radiators.
- Use recycled or reclaimed building materials where it is reasonable to do so. Examples could include the use of reclaimed bricks or beams in the construction of projects.
- Use materials and working methods that minimize the impact of improvements to Council properties. Examples could include choosing paints with fewer harmful effects on the environment, ensuring that the construction works that does not pollute watercourses, disposing of construction waste in a responsible way.

4 Managing Green Spaces and Promoting Biodiversity

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Implement garden and land management procedures that support and enhance local biodiversity.
- Use locally grown plants that are native to Wales.
- Provide a variety of pollinating plants in planting plans.
- Replace any mature tree that needs felling with at least 2 young trees somewhere in the community.
- Prohibiting the release of balloons or launching Chinese lanterns from Council lands.
- Supporting the community to maintain allotments

- Support change in grass cutting arrangements. Focus on meadow grass, promote the proper placement of pollinators which is one aspect of biodiversity.
- Recognising that longer grass captures more carbon and by not cutting grass it improves soil health, while being good for biodiversity at the same time.
- Grass management, for example, by not cutting grass around the base of trees in order to encourage wildflowers and grasslands that attract pollinators, as well as providing shelter for mammals and reptiles of a small range of species
- Creating wildlife areas in cemeteries To provide nesting and wintering spots to encourage
- Installing nest boxes in our grounds where applicable
- Consideration of biodiversity with consideration of planning applications and related issues. Providing adaptation responses and mitigating the effects of climate change
- To provide guidance and promote the principles of promoting biodiversity to the community where it is appropriate that they can go out and make their own decisions
- Encourage the whole community to volunteer to maintain nature/green spaces
- Consider biodiversity when considering financial donations

*The Council amended this Biodiversity Policy and Statement at the Council meeting on **16 December 2019***

Review Date = every 3 years

Revised Date or Version Revision

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty

Biodiversity Management and Enhancement under Section 6

Plan 2022-2025

Following the adoption of the Biodiversity Promotion Scheme and to comply with Section 6 of the Environment for Wales Act 2016 the Council must manage and improve the opportunities to promote biodiversity.

Section 6 of the Environment Act 2016 states that the Council's biodiversity promotion plan must be updated every 3 years

In accordance with this Act, the public organisations in Wales (such as local authorities, governing bodies, and other departments) must create and review biodiversity plans to help protect and restore biodiversity locally and nationally. These plans will be regularly revised every three years and include measures for improving biodiversity and taking action to reduce the negative impact on the natural environment.

To be consistent with the Act, any actions must be ensured that they are in line with the wider biodiversity guidelines and objectives set at a national level, and the plans must be maintained and monitored to ensure that the measures are effective.

In addition, the biodiversity promotion plan must include reports and assessments of progress towards achieving the biodiversity objectives, ensuring that they must be updated and reviewed every three years.

Promoting the Biodiversity of the Community of Llandwrog

2023/24

Creating haystacks at the Fron Football Pitch and planting around 215 native trees/hedges including fruiting species that are good for wildlife such as: Hay, Hawthorn, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn, Honeysuckle. (Hazel, Elder, Crab apple, wild cherry, hawthorn, honey suckle). The bells were planted on the edges of the field and a plug-in session with volunteers at the Centre was organised by the Kehoe Company.

A group of volunteers at Y Fron run the site



2024/25

Establish a Green Forum (Biodiversity Working Group)

A Green Forum was established by the Council to engage with the community to Promote Biodiversity in the community

Purpose of the Working Group –

The Working Group intends to first meet with the County Council's biodiversity officer – Hywyn to hear more about their strategy for the community of Llandwrog, to see if there are opportunities to work together and not to work against any of their objectives. Second, to hold engagement events to brainstorm. The working group will then reconvene to sort and prioritise these ideas before reporting back to the full council. The full council may decide whether the working group needs to continue beyond the period outlined below.

Definition of Biodiversity - Biodiversity refers to the diversity of life forms and species within an ecosystem, regional, national and wider. It encompasses the different species of plants, animals, microorganisms, and the ecosystems they form.

Partners

This scheme creates an opportunity to engage and collaborate with many organisations, organisations and groups within the area, e.g. Coleg Glynllifon, Natural Resources Wales, Allotments, Ty'n Llan, Canolfan Y Fron, Yr Orsaf, Yr Ysgolion and others. As well as departments of the County Council and national groups specialising in nature conservation to access resources, expertise etc

A meeting was held in each Village of the community – Fron, Careml, Groeslon and Llandwrog – Some ideas discussed were

Summary of Community Biodiversity Consultation 2024

Consultation meetings were held in the villages of Llandwrog, Groeslon and Fron during the months of May to July 2024 to gather ideas from residents on how to promote biodiversity in the community. The meetings were attended by a total of 26 residents.

A number of common themes emerged across the villages. There was a strong consensus on the importance of identifying and recording the natural resources that already exist in the community, as well as involving schools, community groups and volunteers in environmental activities.

Among the main ideas discussed were:

- Establish a community wild seed bank to promote native species and support pollinators.
- Creating and developing wildflower meadows and nature spaces in different parts of the community.
- Planting new trees and ensuring that lost trees are replaced.
- Supporting wildlife by installing nesting boxes and building owl boxes.
- Organise community activities to maintain public footpaths and litter picking.
- Develop local knowledge and skills by providing training on the management of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed.
- Undertake educational activities and nature walks to raise awareness of local species, including birds and bats.

There was also support for the development of existing community projects such as vegetable gardens, allotments, orchards and the villages' natural heritage interpretation projects.

Following the consultation, the Green Forum concluded that the most practical priorities would be:

1. Establish a community wild seed bank.
2. Provide training on mapping and management of invasive species.
3. Supporting projects to conserve and encourage wildlife, including the construction of owl boxes.

The responses demonstrate a high level of community support for action on biodiversity issues and provide a solid basis for the development of future environmental projects.

What was achieved in 2025/26?

A Community Orchard was established in Carmel through Gwynedd Council's Local Nature grant. A group of volunteers maintain the site. The Council has committed permanent funding of £500 to maintain the site together and Public Liability insurance.



Planters in Groeslon Village – the Council has sponsored planters in Groeslon Village by working with a group of volunteers



Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2028

Duty Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Presentation

Llandwrog Community Council recognises its duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions, and in doing so promote ecosystem resilience.

This plan sets out the actions planned to be taken during the period 2026/27 to 2028/29 to contribute to local and national biodiversity objectives.

To support the discharge of its duties under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Llandwrog Community Council has committed to including an annual provision of £800 in its budget. This funding will contribute to activities and projects that promote biodiversity, enhance natural habitats, support local volunteer groups, and develop environmental initiatives within the community.

The Council will also continue to seek to take advantage of external funding opportunities and grants that support biodiversity and the natural environment as they become known. Where appropriate, the Council will submit applications for funding to enable additional projects such as tree planting, creating new habitats, developing community orchards, and supporting voluntary initiatives that contribute to improving biodiversity in the area.

Objectives

The Council will work to:

- Protecting and enhancing natural habitats.
- Increase opportunities for wildlife to thrive.
- Promoting tree planting and community orchards.
- Encourage community participation in environmental activities.
- Raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and climate change.

Proposed Activities 2025/26 – 2027/28

1. Supporting Voluntary Groups and the Green Forum

The Council will continue to support local voluntary groups working to improve the natural environment. This will include supporting activities and projects identified at the Green Forum meetings, including planting projects, habitat enhancement and educational activities.

2.Shipping: Developing the Community Orchard in Carmel

The Council will continue to develop the community orchard in Carmel by:

- Install nest boxes for birds and other species.
- Plant additional fruit trees where appropriate.
- Monitor and maintain the site to ensure it provides benefits to nature and the community.

3. Community Engagement

The Council will work with residents, schools, local groups and other stakeholders to:

- Gather ideas for improving biodiversity.
- Identify suitable sites for wildlife areas.
- Explore opportunities to create new community orchards.
- To promote community participation in nature projects.

4. Support litter picking and tidying activities

The Council will:

- Support voluntary groups that run litter picks.
- Promote community clean-up events.
- Encourage more local people to take part in activities that improve the appearance and health of the local environment.

5. Identification and Development of Nature Sites

The Council will:

- Review land and open spaces within the community to identify suitable sites for biodiversity enhancement.
- Explore opportunities to establish new community orchards.
- Create pollinator and wildlife friendly areas where appropriate.
- Taking advantage of funding and grant opportunities, including Gwynedd Council's Local Nature programme and other relevant schemes.

Monitoring and Review

The Council will monitor progress against the activities set out in this plan and a progress report will be prepared as part of the statutory reporting arrangements under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in responding to the biodiversity needs of the community.

Adopted by the Council 15 May 2026