



## **Trimsaran Community Council**

November 2025

### **Biodiversity Forward Plan**

#### **Background**

All local councils in Wales have a duty to prepare and publish a Biodiversity Forward plan, setting out its proposals to comply with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, section 6, duty in the exercise of the Council's functions, and in doing so, to promote the resilience of ecosystems.

#### **What is biodiversity?**

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living organisms (including humans), their genetic variation and the ecosystems on which they depend. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and in the sea. Biodiversity represents quality of life.

The Biodiversity Forward Plan looks at how the Council manages and improves natural resources to ensure that biodiversity and sustainability are considered in all areas, becoming a natural part of the decision-making process.

#### **Action**

The actions in this plan, will be reported on every three years in accordance with statutory requirements, and reviewed and updated at the end of each 3-year period.

The biodiversity duty seeks to improve the environment for all to benefit, and with the aim that results in biodiversity enhancement and conservation, and a more sustainable way of living, to protect our resources and ensure that future generations have the same or better quality of life.

Actions resulting from this plan to meet the Council's obligations under section 6, of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 will need to be funded from existing budgets, with grant sources sought.

#### **About Trimsaran Community Council**

Trimsaran Community Council is a local council in the county of Carmarthenshire. A predominantly rural area, the area has a lot of green spaces where nature can flourish. There are also rivers in the area, which provide a habitat for many species including protected wildlife.

The Community Council has direct responsibility for a community field in the Village in addition to a grassed area at Argoed.

### **Decision Making and Procurement**

Working to protect our natural resources and wildlife is a key objective for Council and will be reflected in the council decision-making process. Contracts that are due to be renewed during this time e.g. grounds maintenance, will adhere to the provisions of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and take opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the area.

Council will also seek other opportunities, through its other activities to promote biodiversity and engage the community in this action, where possible.

### **Raising Awareness**

The Community Council will seek to raise awareness of the importance of this work by sharing updates with the public. Over this three-year period, Council will seek to liaise with other organisations in the area that have land to encourage them to take small steps to promote and maintain biodiversity.

### **Safeguarding Principal Species and Habitats**

As a Community Council with relatively little direct responsibility for land, some efforts have been made to safeguard wildlife in the Village. The Community Council will consider how this can be extended to other areas where it currently maintains the grass or foliage. Areas will be identified where growth can go unhindered. This will be communicated to the public to explain the reduction of maintenance and to educate the community about the importance of safeguarding wildlife.

### **Restoring and Creating Habitats**

By seeking to reduce the amount of maintenance work carried out in grassed areas, new safe spaces for habitats will be created. All land will be assessed for potential to plant more trees or foliage that would support critical species. The Community Council will also seek to engage with the local schools and voluntary organisations e.g., scouts, guides etc to invite them to create habitats for birds and other wildlife on land for which the Community Council has responsibility.

### **Tackling Negative Factors**

The Community Council will engage with local and national organisations e.g., Carmarthenshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales to tackle identified problems e.g., pollution of rivers, flooding, fly tipping. Council will also be involved with local voluntary organisations to support their work to improve the natural environment. Communication is the key to engaging the public in positive behaviour to look after their community. Work with young people is especially important, and will be carried out as detailed above, and in other ways as opportunities arise. By informing the public and promoting positive action, the Community Council hopes to contribute to the slow change in behaviours and attitudes that can cause problems.

### **Use, Share and Improve Evidence**

The collection of evidence in a scientific rather than anecdotal manner is beyond the current capability of the Community Council. However, during the next period of this plan, the Community Council will seek, in partnership with other organisations such as Natural Resources Wales to establish mechanisms to collect evidence to demonstrate the positive (or otherwise) impact of the work carried out.

At the end of the next reporting period (December 2025), it is hoped that some initial evidence will have been acquired that will be a baseline from which to measure improvement.

### **Support Capacity and / or Other Organisations**

Any local organisations that are looking for support or would like to involve the Community Council in their efforts to promote biodiversity should contact the Clerk for more information.

### **Key Outcomes**

The key outcomes for the next three years include, but are not limited to:

- • Revision of Council contracts to include clauses to promote biodiversity.
- • Reduce cutting of grassed areas, foliage to give an opportunity for wildlife to create habitats.
- • Promote the work in the community through work with schools and organisations.
- • Engage with key partners to work together to make changes and gather evidence.

### **Review Points 2028**

Points for review in 2028 will be:

- • Success of revised contracts to deliver the requirements.
- • Amount of space created to allow wildlife to flourish in a safe environment.
- • How can the community be further educated and voluntary actions, on homes and on farmland be encouraged?
- • Review working arrangements with key partners to assess the need for improvement.

### **How and when will s6 duty be monitored and plan renewed**

This is a live plan that will evolve during the three years. It will be monitored by the Community Council on an annual basis with regular updates during the year. The next formal report and renewal of the plan will be published no later than December 2025.

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### **Review of s6 duty - What has worked well**

Creation of a wildflower bank at the leisure centre funded by Dŵr Cymru with the assistance of the local school children planting the seeds

Change grass cutting patterns to allow biodiversity – No mow May.

Planted 20 whips of native trees

### **What will you change?**

Work with the Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice. More interaction and public information. Continue to seek suitable solutions to support council initiatives.

### **How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?**

The s6 duty will be monitored through the council's usual management and statutory reporting protocols.

The s6 plan will be reviewed considering this report and any other evidence or information that is made available to the council



