



Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Reporting on Section 6 – Community and Town Councils

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The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Name of Town or Community Council: Abermule with Llandyssil Community Council

Introduction and Context

Abermule with Llandyssil Community Council is within the Dolforwyn Ward

The Community Council represents and serves many rural communities in Mid-West Wales: Abermule ward and Llandyssil ward has a population of 1281 as of 23rd January 2023. Abermule (829) Llandyssil (356), Aberbechan (49) Llanmerewig (47)

The precept for 2022/23 is £36,000

There are currently 11 Councillors representing the communities within Abermule (7) and Llandyssil (4).

Abermule with Llandyssil currently owns Dragon Field in Llandyssil and manages the following areas and buildings, Millfield Amenities Land Trust, Llanmerewig burial ground and the school playground in Abermule.

The topography of the community is defined by the valley of the River Severn, the road and rail routes that follow its course, and the hills and tributary valleys leading away from it. Settlement in this community is defined by the routes that lead to the A483 and Newtown.

Abermule has seen a significant amount of development in recent years. Abermule is classified as a key settlement in the Local Development Plan, benefiting from some of community services and infrastructure and having the capacity to accommodate additional development with improvements to infrastructure.

Llandyssil is classified as a small village. The remainder of the population lives in scattered farms and dwellings and in the small rural settlements of Green Lane, Llanmerewig and Aberbechan.

Within the geographical areas served by the Community Council, residents undoubtedly benefit from many natural resources being located within rural settlements. There are several Nature Reserves, Dolforwyn Woods Nature Reserve and Llanmerewig Glebe Nature Reserve all owned and managed by MWT as well as several roadside nature reserves. The River Severn and the Montgomery Canal connect our communities with the route 81 cycleway and footpaths to the larger towns, Newtown and Welshpool, providing opportunities to meet the seven Wellbeing goals, being prosperous by promoting a low carbon society, healthier, globally responsible and building cohesive communities.

Our communities benefit from a good number and network of footpaths and bridleways that criss-cross through mixed agricultural, woodland and some ancient woodland landscapes. Some of our public rights of way have been improved recently, but more needs to be done to improve our networks to meet the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act 2015.

Local communities are also fortunate to enjoy some historical sites, some of which they have access to; Dolforwyn Castle 1273 (CADW), Brynderwen bridge in Abermule. A grade II listed iron bridge that was designed by Thomas Penson and constructed in 1852. Brynderwen Motte and Bailey Castle is a medieval military stronghold and is of National importance (Cadw).

Action Report

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Established a Biodiversity Working Party Dec 22 to write an action plan & complete the S6 duty report	Community Council

<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<p><u>Dragon Field in Llandyssil</u> Swift talk & nest box building session hosted by Green Connections Officer Lottie Glover – Llandyssil Church April 2022</p>	<p>Community Council</p>
<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<p><u>Dragon Field in Llandyssil</u> Swift boxes put up on the church and in the village.</p> <p><u>Llandyssil Churchyard</u> Following a visit from Green Connections Powys sections are left unmown, stonewall and ancient trees provide excellent habitats for wildlife.</p>	<p>Community Council</p>
<p>-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p><u>Dragon Field in Llandyssil</u> Creation of a wildflower meadow in Llandyssil on Dragon field, officially opened by Iolo Williams in July 2022.</p> <p><u>MALT (Millfield Amenity Land Trust) in Abermule</u> Altered management (mowing) in peripheral areas to encourage wildflower meadow establishment, following discussions with MWT.</p> <p>Fruit trees were planted in April 2022 & more planned for Spring 2023</p> <p>Planted a length of native hedgerow alongside the Mill race to provide nesting opportunities, shelter and food for birds and wildlife – pleach hedge after strong growth management – trimming hedge every 3 years. More regular alongside public path</p>	<p>Community Council</p>

-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Llanmerewig Burial Ground – reduction in management (grass cutting) in half of the ground, to encourage wildlife/wildflowers.	Community Council
-use improve and share evidence		
-support capacity and/or other organisations		
Review of s6 duty		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change? <p>Wildflower areas have been established and the Community Council has worked closely with Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, the Green Connections Officer and the Local Places for Nature Officer (OVW) to develop an action plan for 2023-26. Barriers have been the pandemic. An action plan is now in place for the next cycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? <p>Action plan for 2023 – 26 is in place. Biodiversity is now a standing item on the Council’s agenda & will be reviewed annually. Biodiversity Working Party to meet Quarterly.</p>		



Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity.	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
	Organisations:			
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or occupy an office building only and whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management. 	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or that can influence those who own or manage land. 	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not. 	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:
The 6 objectives to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

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