



LLANHARAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Llanharan Community Council serves the communities of Llanharan, Brynna, Brynnau Gwynion, Bryncae, Llanilid and Ynysmaerdy, comprising three wards, with 14 Councillors serving an electorate of approximately 7500 people. At the time of writing the Council employs three part time officers, a full time Senior Grounds person and a part time Grounds person. The Council owns or leases 3 allotment sites and a number of areas of green space, including: a mixed play area and open space at Brynnau Gwynion ; a mixed mini football pitch and open space at Meadow Rise, this area also containing a small woodland; a memorial garden at Grove Terrace, a parcel of light woodland to the east of Meadow Rise, a skatepark at Oakbrook, land around the War Memorial on Hillside Avenue and around the ruins of St Peter's Church.

Biodiversity objectives:

1a - embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement.

1b - raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance.

	Action planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
1	Make sure all members are aware of the Council's duties under Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act by circulating a note/email to all members alongside this BAP.	End May 2026	ORA Committee
2	Make all members aware of available biodiversity and Section 6 duties training.	End May 2026	ORA Committee
3	Include a standard agenda item in ORA Committee's – "To Review the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan and consider any business relating to it brought in advance and distributed as a formal paper by the Clerk."	End May 2026	ORA Committee
4	Include as a standard agenda item at the Council's annual meeting – "To review the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan."	End May 2026	Council



5	To alter the wording of the paper accompanying the Planning agenda item at full council meetings to include that consideration of commenting on planning matters should consider the impact on biodiversity.	End May 2026	Council
6	For the Council to appoint a 'Biodiversity Champion' to be named on the Council's list of external representatives. For this person to attend RCTCBC Local Partnership for Nature (LNP) meetings and forums and to act as liaison with other groups.	End May 2026	Council
7	To create a separate budget line for Biodiversity/ Environmental initiatives delegated to the ORA Committee. Amount £500 - a virement to be taken from general reserves to create this budget line.	End Nov 2026	Council
9	To amend the Council General Grant Policy and CIL Grant Policy and forms to prompt members to consider the effects of any application on biodiversity.	End Nov 2026	Audit Committee
10	To publish the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan, reviews and reports on a separate section of the Council's website and to publicise these via social media when reviewed, to help inform the public.	End July 2026	ORA Committee
11	To publish tangible actions/work conducted to enhance biodiversity on the Council's social media channels, to help inform the public.	End July 2026	ORA Committee
12	Where appropriate to place signage where tangible actions/ work has been conducted to enhance biodiversity, to help inform the public.	NA	ORA Committee
13	Where biodiversity surveys are to be conducted by the Council to publicise these via social media and invite participation from the public.	NA	ORA Committee

Biodiversity objectives:

2 - safeguard principal species and habitats.

3 - restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks.

4 - tackle negative factors: e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species.

14	To redesign aspects of the play area at Brynnau Gwynion to incorporate a biodiversity area. The area to be developed using cut and collect mowing methods. Appropriate signage to be placed and the area publicised on the Council's social media channels.	End Aug 2026	ORA Committee
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15	To develop a hedgerow comprising appropriate species (Hawthorn, Hazel, Buckthorn, Alder, Holly etc.) in front of the newly erected boundary safety fence at the north-western boundary of the Meadow Rise open space.	End Aug 2026	ORA Committee
16	To develop a nature trail/woodland walk in the wooded area at the Meadow Rise Open Space. Appropriate signage to be placed and the area publicised on the Council's social media channels.	End July 2027	ORA Committee
17	To examine the contents of the Council's planters and hanging baskets ready for summer 2027, aiming to achieve the most sustainable, biodiverse, colourful summer display possible. To examine the types of soils used to retain as much water as possible.	End Sep 2026	ORA Committee
18	To examine the potential use of starch granules in the Council's hanging baskets and planters to help retain water. (And reservoirs, potentially using pond liners in planters)	End Sep 2026	ORA Committee
19	To make (or purchase) and place 'Bug Hotels' for the following locations: Meadow Rise open space, Brynnau Gwynion play area, Land to the east of Meadow Rise and potentially elsewhere with appropriate signage. Potentially engaging local schools to make the bug hotels and help choose locations. Fairly simple project build instructions can be found online for school projects.	From Sept 2026	ORA Committee
20	To make (or purchase) and place 'Hedgehog Houses' for the following locations: Meadow Rise open space, Brynnau Gwynion play area, Land to the east of Meadow Rise and elsewhere with appropriate signage. Potentially engaging local schools to make the Hedgehog houses and help choose locations. Fairly simple project build instructions can be found online for school projects. The hedgehog hospital charity could potentially assist in engaging the schools. Hibernation season typically begins in November each year.	Nov 2026	ORA Committee
21	Plant on available verges along New Road (Near Heol Y Parc Roundabout) and maintain in a biodiverse nature. Nature of plants to be decided.	End April 2026	ORA Committee.



22	Cut down three dead/dying trees identified on tree survey at Meadow Rise and leave as log piles. Replace with locally sourced alder saplings (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>).	End April 2026	ORA Committee
23	Survey council land to identify INNS and develop eradication/ management plan	End Dec 2026	Officers/ interested members
24	Investigate possibility of volunteer teams to help pull Himalayan Balsam on public rights of way	End Dec 2026	Clerk

Biodiversity objectives:

5 - use, improve, and share evidence.

25	Recording of any INNS sightings on an appropriate platform. Details of how to log to be made available to interested parties and made available to the public via the Council's social media channels.	End Dec 2026	Clerk
26	For guidance sheets re INNS to be kept at the Council offices for public use along with a list of known contractors and provide links to information on INNS management on private land on the Council's social media channels.	End July 2026	Clerk
27	Share Biodiversity Action Plan, Annual reviews and three yearly reports submitted to One Voice Wales as well as publishing on own dedicated section of the Council's website and social media.	Yearly	Clerk

Biodiversity objectives:

6 - support capacity and/or other organisations.

28	The Council will continue to budget annually for grant support for the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, subject to the receipt and approval of a suitable annual grant application. See also actions 6 and 9, above.	Yearly	Council
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