

Llanwrthwl Community Council

Biodiversity Plan

Updated November 2022



Environment Wales Act 2016 Section 6

1. Introduction

Community & Town Councils are required under the Environment Wales Act 2016 Section 6 to prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to comply with the duty to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity within their current work areas.

Public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

This plan demonstrates Llanwrthwl Community Council's commitment to and responsibility for complying with the duty.

2. Llanwrthwl

Llanwrthwl Community Council covers a vast area of, mainly upland, Mid Wales in the Cambrian Mountains. It comprises of 7,795.92 hectares¹ with a population of approximately 191. This equates to a population density of 0.02 persons per hectare.

Part of the National Trust's large Abergwesyn Common (6523.02 ha total) lies within the Community Council area. Llanwrthwl village is situated on the River Elan close to its confluence with the River Wye. The Wye passes through the Community Council area as does part of the Wye Valley walk. The river Wye is designated as a SAC and SSSI along its entire length.

Community facilities include Llanwrthwl Village Hall, (run by an independent Management Committee), Penuel Congregational Chapel and St Gwrthwl's Church.

3. Wildlife and Biodiversity

Most of the Community Council area lies within National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) 21, Cambrian Mountains. The open moorlands are home to some important bird species including Red Grouse Lapwing, Golden Plover and Red Kite.

A small section of the area sits within NLCA26, the Upper Wye Valley. Varied riparian habitats and sessile oak woodlands characterise this part of the Community Council area.

The upper reaches of the Wye are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna including specialties such as otter and red kite.

4. Audit of Functions – What we do now

The Community Council does not own or manage any land. It holds the Trust of the Village Hall which is managed by an independent Management Committee. The Community Council takes an active interest in the Powys Countryside Volunteers initiative run by Powys County Council and involved in creating and maintaining rights of way in the County.

The Community Council makes an annual contribution to the running of the Village Hall and an annual donation to the Church and Chapel.

¹ NOMIS Local Area Data 2011 census

5. Action Plan – What more we can do

Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales Objective	Action carried out to:	Llanwrthwl Action
Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p> <p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<p>The Community Council will:</p> <p>Review its policies to ensure that biodiversity is at the heart of all it does.</p> <p>Reflect its commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's Annual Report.</p> <p>Take into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters.</p> <p>Support local organisations to embed biodiversity into local activity e.g. Community Centre, churches and chapels which own assets in the area.</p>
Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	-safeguard principal species and habitats	The Community Council does not own or manage any land but will support those organisations that do in the area.
Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	It will pass any concerns to the relevant officers in Powys County Council, NRW or any other relevant agency
Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species phosphate levels	The damage caused by off-road vehicles is a major concern. The Community Council will continue to work with Powys County Council to address the issue.
Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	-use, improve and share evidence	The Community Council will continue to work with

		other organisations including national charities like the National Trust, Powys County Council and community organisations for the well-being of the community.
<p>Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns of nature.</p> <p>This poses many risks to human beings and the forms of life on earth.</p>	-support capacity, and/or other organisations	

6. Barriers and enablers

Barriers

Limited ability to impact on biodiversity:

- The Community Council has little capacity to act. It does not manage or own any land for example.
- It does not undertake any maintenance work but reports issues directly to Powys County Council.

Enablers

As a small community it is easy to work with other community groups on joint projects. The Community Council has excellent links with other community groups.

7. Monitoring and Review

This plan will be reviewed in 2025

Adopted by Llanwrthwl Community Council

Date 9/01/2023.....

Signed Paul Booth..... Chairperson