

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

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Name of Town or Community Council: Pennard Community Council

Introduction and Context

- A short description of the Council, its functions and context in relation to
 - how it could help biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities, for e.g.)
 - spatial scale and place (e.g. how much land does it cover, population, precept?)
 - public service delivery (e.g. is it subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act?)

As the Pennard Community Council area is home to substantial non-residential land, both private and community council owned, Pennard Community Council identifies significant scope for maintaining and improving biodiversity in our area.

Council administered land such as Pennard Playing Field and Pennard Burial Ground are obvious locations for the Council to undertake action, however they both present their own unique challenges. Pennard Playing Field has been a Queen Elizabeth II protected field since January 2013 and, as such, Pennard Community Council are restricted in what we can do there.¹ Pennard Burial Ground has different but understandably sensitive needs which mean that care must be taken in any action.

In 2020 the Community Council were given access to a parcel of land adjacent to the local primary school to use as a Community Garden, this has been fenced and plans are in place to develop this through the aid of grant funding. This project is to provide growing areas for the local community and the school as well as increasing the biodiversity and ecosystems of the area.

Land not administered by Pennard Community Council presents different challenges in that the Community Council has no direct control. However, there continues to be scope to assist and encourage others as well as seeking transfer orders for land administered by Swansea County Council where we believe that we can add value.

¹ Fields in Trust <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/FieldSite/Pennard-Playing-Field>

Pennard Community Council is adjacent to and includes the Gower commons the Gower ash woodlands SAC, the Pennard Valley SSSI as well as National Trust land and the Wales coastal path.

Action Report

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<p>Having worked towards a plastic free community and declaring a climate and ecological emergency in May 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we continue to consider biodiversity at all levels during our decision making and procurement, using local companies and natural or recycled materials where appropriate. • Our Christmas decorations are as sustainable as possible and we are working towards making them more so. • Our Environment Committee is a very important part of the council which considers both social and physical elements of sustainability. • We are due to update our Climate Action Plan produced for 2020/21 now things are returning to a new normal. • Biodiversity and ecology planning is always considered when reviewing planning applications and those concerns are fed back to the unitary authority. • We are considering applying for green coast status. • We have set a budget to implement our biodiversity action plan as for community awareness. • Attendance of OVW biodiversity Conference. • Seeking advice from OVW LPFN regarding issues 	<p>Chairs of Committees, Full Council and Clerk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of OVW/SLCC conf which includes Section 6 reporting 	
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<p>We will work with local residents, landowners, commoners and Swansea County Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of what biodiversity means across the Pennard Community Council area. • Identify areas of potential improvement of biodiversity across the Pennard Community Council area. • Identify local fruit/nut trees and edible plants/fungi across the Pennard Community Council area. • Collaborate with other organisations such as Swansea Council Biodiversity Team and Swansea University in order to plan and coordinate our approach. • Identify suitable land for tree planting and work with external organisations for land purchase and planting. Identify best species for fruit/nut foraging and carbon capture. • Assess current biodiversity of hedgerows in Pennard Playing Field, Burial Ground and Community Hall. Reassess on an annual basis to establish change in biodiversity. Encourage Pennard Primary to assess school hedgerows. • Sharing advice and knowledge with local residents through social media and events. 	Full Council and Clerk

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the community to take part in national surveys eg the big bird watch and the big meadow search. <p>Encouraging and working with local residents and organisations to plant appropriately in gardens and other suitable locations to create wildlife corridors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of animal boxes such as bat boxes, hedgehog dens, bird boxes and insect hotels by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying suitable locations on Community Council grounds and installing them. ○ Encouraging and working with local residents and organisations to install them in gardens and other suitable locations. • Organise community workshops to create animal/insect homes, ideally using recycled and repurposed materials. 	
<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<p>We will continue to relax mowing schedule around the perimeter of the playing field and burial ground to create pollinator habitat and biodiversity lines as well therefore creating better connectivity.</p> <p>We continue to monitor any potential lots of habitat through planning decisions.</p> <p>We will encourage local stakeholder to leave some wilder areas especially brambles and scrub for the identified local bat population.</p> <p>Pennard has a large population of swifts that visit each summer, we plan to encourage the installation of swift boxes and other strategies to safeguard this species.</p>	<p>Planning Committee, Full Council and Clerk</p>

<p>-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>We will create and enhance nature corridors by continuing to spread native wildflower hay around the banks of the playing field and burial ground the hay includes yellow rattle to inhibit grass growth. This is supplied directly from Rhossili National Trust due to the pandemic we were unable to do this in 2020 and 2021 but intend to continue this process this year as the native wildflowers that grew was encouraging and we noticed increased wildlife corridors in both areas. This is an ongoing project in collaboration with the National Trust and we are looking for other areas where this could be extended</p> <p>We plan to reduce to our grass cutting schedule leaving areas in the park burial ground and around the hall more relaxed to promote flora for pollinators.</p> <p>Land has been acquired for the development of a community food growing garden. During the period of planning and as we organise funding, the area will be left to encourage the growth of natural wild flowers to build up a seed bank. This area is connected to a network of hedgerows across the area creating better connected biodiversity..</p> <p>The plan for the community growing garden incorporates a pollinator habitat as well as bird boxes bug hotels etc..</p>	<p>Land Management Committee, Full Council and Clerk</p> <p>Environment Committee, Full Council Clerk and Admin Assistant.</p>
<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>We have agreed not to use inhumane pest control methods to deal with the rodent and mole populations in the burial ground</p> <p>We will remove the excess soil from mole hills from the playing field and pitches for relocation to the hedge line to benefit biodiversity.</p>	<p>Land Management Committee, Full Council and Clerk</p>

	<p>We have removed the rat bait boxes from the outside hall and will continue to monitor.</p> <p>Council prohibits the use of Glyphosate products in and around our Burial Ground, Park and Hall is prohibited.</p> <p>The Council has requested Swansea Council do not use glyphosate in and around our local community and will Continue to encourage residents to consider alternatives to glyphosate</p> <p>Moving to a cut and collect method of grass cutting on the park banks will contribute to a reduction to flooding on the path</p> <p>We will consider the installation of a SUDS planter to alleviate run off from the garage roof</p>	
<p>-use improve and share evidence</p>	<p>As progress is made evidence will be reported through social media the council website and our annual report. Along with this we will share the information received from the Local Places for Nature Officer using the same media. We will also be working with the Local Nature Partnership, the National Trust, the Commoners Association and the Wildlife Trust.</p>	<p>Environment Committee, Full Council and Clerk.</p>
<p>-support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>We will continue to work with the following organisations to promote restore create and enhance biodiversity through nationally recognised strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gower Society • the National Trust • the Gower Commoners association • West Wales Wildlife Trust • Caring for Gods Acre. • Local School and Youth Groups amongst others 	<p>Environment Committee, Full Council and Clerk.</p>

Review of s6 duty due Dec 2025		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?• How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? The s6 duty will be monitored as a standing item at each Environmental Committee meeting. The s6 plan will form part of any future annual report.		