

FINAL BIODIVERSITY REPORT FOR 2019-2020

PENNARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

<p>Short description of Planning Authority & its functions and context in relation to biodiversity (e.g. management of land, influence over land management, or indirect influence through procurement, funding projects, etc)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Land not administered by Pennard Community Council presents different challenges in that the Community Council has no direct control. However, there is still 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.</p>	
<p>Action carried out to:</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<p>Having worked towards a plastic free community and declaring a climate and ecological emergency we try to consider biodiversity at all levels during our decision making and procurement, using local companies and natural or recycled materials where appropriate. We have agreed a Climate Action Plan for 2020/21 as a starting point.</p>	<p>Chairs of Committees, Full Council and Clerk</p>
<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<p>Through social media and participatory budgeting, the Council have encouraged the local businesses in the community to become plastic free, supporting a waste free shop within the community and supplying litter picking</p>	<p>Full Council and Clerk</p>

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

	equipment. Further actions are embedded in our Climate Action Plan.	
-safeguard principal species and habitats	The Council have raised concerns over the destruction of ancient hedgerows and endangerment to reptiles and dormice with regards to local development plans and will continue to monitor this.	Planning Committee, Full Council and Clerk
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	We have spread native wildflower meadow hay around the banks of the playing field and burial ground the hay included yellow rattle to act as a natural weed killer. This was supplied directly from Rhossili National Trust and will be an ongoing project	Field and Burial, Ground Committee, Full Council and Clerk
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	We have introduced solar powered pest deterrents in the Burial Ground to deter the moles and other rodents and are looking at similar methods for the Playing field. We are using Yellow Rattle to address invasive plant species.	Burial Ground Committee, Field Committee, Full Council and Clerk
-use, improve and share evidence	As progress is made evidence will be reported through social media the council website and our annual report,	Environment Committee, Full Council and Clerk
-support capacity, and/or other organisations	We are aiming to identify areas for planting native and appropriate trees and rewilding with Community and National Organisations.	Environment Committee, Full Council and Clerk.
Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with local residents, landowners, commoners and Swansea County Council to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Raise awareness of what biodiversity means across the Pennard Community Council area. b. Identify areas of potential improvement of biodiversity across the Pennard Community Council area. c. Identify local fruit/nut trees and edible plants/fungi across the Pennard Community Council area. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Collaborate with other organisations such as Swansea Council Biodiversity Team and Swansea University in order to plan and coordinate our approach. 3. 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. 4. Assess current biodiversity of hedgerows in Pennard Playing Field and Burial Ground. Reassess on an annual basis to establish change in biodiversity. Encourage Pennard Primary to assess school hedgerows. 5. Increase wildflowers in the area 6. Encourage the use of natural pest controls e.g. nematodes. 7. Encourage the use of animal boxes such as bat boxes, hedgehog dens, bird boxes and insect hotels 8. Establish best species of bee and identify best location for community Hives.
<p>Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan</p>	<p>The key outcomes will be reviewed annually and amended accordingly as part of the Climate Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has worked well? The wildflower meadow hay worked reasonably well but due to the pandemic subsequent seeds were unavailable and we were dependent on the initial spread. • What have the barriers been? <p>Our main barrier has been the Pandemic it has put many things on hold including our Community Garden.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will you change? <p>The council work closely with the Local nature partnership and the local places for nature officer at one voice wales to develop new biodiversity strategies.</p> <p>The council plans to identify more areas for relaxed mowing and pollination habitat creation.</p> <p>We will identify any gaps in the nature networks eg new hedge planting.</p> <p>We will look to nature based solution to deal with issues such as pest control flooding and sustainability.</p> <p>We continue to plan our Community Garden and are in the process of applying for grant aid which will enable us to get everything in place ready for our volunteers and working</p>

	<p>parties to proceed. In this and all other projects we will continue to monitor priority species and over time develop our habitat lists in conjunction with the local nature partnership.</p> <p>In this and all other projects we will continue to monitor priority species and habitats and over time develop our habitat lists in conjunction with the local nature partnership.</p> <p>As part of our duty we will endeavour to spread awareness through social media and other communication channels about various biodiversity issues and campaigns including the use of the “Its for them” stakeholder tool kit.</p>
<p>How and when will the Environment Act section 6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<p>The Environment Act section 6 duty will be monitored annually at the same time as the production of the annual report and reviewed as required. Our progress towards meeting our biodiversity action plan will be continually monitored by the environment committee as a standing item on the agenda.</p>