

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Report 2025

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| Name of Community or Town Council: | Pennard Community Council |
| Group: | 2 |

Pennard Community Council serves the settlements of Kittle, Pennard, and Southgate and a number of smaller rural hamlets. It is a semi-rural coastal area with high levels of tourism due to its beautiful natural landscapes, habitats, and geology. The community includes the world famous Three Cliffs Bay and surrounding cliffs, saltmarsh, dune systems and coastal grasslands. The area has featured in numerous films and TV programmes. Facilities in the community include a primary school, several hospitality businesses, shops, a library, GP surgery, pharmacy, golf club alongside a mix of arable and livestock farming.

Pennard CC has 3,100 residents, and 1300 dwellings over an area of 30.6 Km². The precept for 2025/2026 was £98,700.

Pennard CC currently has 14 Councillors and employs a full-time Clerk, a Community & Grants Officer and a caretaker. The Council owns and manages a recreation park (Fields in trust), community hall, a burial ground, 3 planters and a Community garden.

Large areas within the community are open access/registered common land with grazing rights. Currently cattle graze the land across Southgate from Easter to late Autumn. There are 20 designated sites within 2Km including: Pennard burrows SINC, Pennard Valley SSSI, Pennard cliffs SAC and the Gower Ash Woods SAC. Please see [Appendix A](#) for a location map.

There is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM) on Pennard burrows – Pennard castle and the remains of St Marys Church (GM044).

Pennard community is located within the Gower National Landscape/AONB and the area has a large population of Swifts, Choughs, Rooks and other priority species as well as being home to several rare plant species. Yellow whitlow grass grows on the walls of Pennard castle, and this plant is only found in South Gower. There are also records of the Isle of man cabbage and several plants on the IUCN red list classed as vulnerable or at risk across Pennard burrows and cliffs.

Action Report 2023 – 2025

| NRAP Objective | Action carried out to... | Monitored by: |
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| 1 -embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement | <p>Our Environment committee continues to takes the lead on Biodiversity action planning and bringing biodiversity issues to full Council. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the committee meetings with social media posts, and there are co-opted members on the committee who make valued contributions and expertise.</p> <p>Council has considered biodiversity when tendering for new contracts for the management of our green spaces we have stipulated cut and collect mowing methods in the tender, guided by the Biodiversity committee and advice from One Voice Wales.</p> <p>We consider biodiversity at all levels during our decision making and procurement, using local companies and natural or recycled materials where appropriate. When agreeing to a new waste management provider the processing and sustainability of various companies was considered to ensure that waste such as nappies, incontinence pads and sanitary waste is recycled.</p> <p>In 2023 a community consultation on working towards Bee friendly status was carried out to inform Council decisions on the use of glyphosate by Swansea County Council.</p> <p>We have replaced our outdoor Christmas displays with sustainable items such as wicker, willow and metal decorations ensuring they can be reused each year. Council has resolved that neither a living nor felled Christmas tree was appropriate due to the surrounding protected habitats.</p> <p>Biodiversity and ecology planning is always considered when reviewing planning applications and those concerns are fed back to the unitary authority. The OVW Planning and biodiversity guide is used as a guide when assessing potential impacts on biodiversity.</p> | <p>Full Council and Clerk/RFO</p> <p>Full Council and Clerk/RFO</p> <p>Full Council and Clerk/RFO</p> <p>Environment Committee and Working party</p> <p>Clerk / Full Council</p> <p>Planning committee</p> |

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| | <p>In 2025 part of the Pennard burrows SINC was nominated by the private landowner as candidate site under the Swansea LDP 2023-2038. The Council facilitated a public meeting to consult with the community and resolved to object to this nomination at phase 2. The community were invited to contribute to the final response during several working party meetings, and this was submitted in April 2025.</p> <p>We have continued to review our banking and investment Biodiversity committee reviewed our banking services through the lens of biodiversity and climate change.</p> <p>The Council Clerk has attended several webinars and training events by the One Voice Wales Biodiversity team and has worked closely with them to ensure decisions are made based on expert advice.</p> <p>Biodiversity is considered when making decisions on land management and the community hall. The Biodiversity committee is consulted on any decisions that could impact the environment, and items have been referred to the committee for discussion to ensure all impacts are considered before full council approval.</p> <p>The Environment committee has a budget for projects across the Council's different responsibilities to ensure that investment in biodiversity is available.</p> <p>The Environment committee also has responsibility for the Youth services. In 2023/24 Council resolved to employ a youth worker who could develop a programme of activities to include environmental projects and awareness and utilise our natural environment. In 2024 this service was outsourced to a local provider that would include environmental issues with the young people and work with the community garden project. In 2025 this provider collaborated with the Environment committee chair to successfully secure a grant through the Swansea Council Rural anchor fund to provide a biodiversity focussed youth club.</p> <p>In 2023 the Council decided to apply for Local Places for Nature funding from Welsh Government to develop a community growing garden called 'Tyfu Pennard' that would also showcase and enhance biodiversity</p> | <p>Environment Committee</p> <p>Clerk / Finance committee</p> <p>Biodiversity committee</p> <p>Full Council</p> <p>Environment Committee</p> <p>Environment Committee</p> <p>Environment Committee</p> <p>Environment Committee</p> |
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| | <p>alongside community food growing. An application was submitted in 2023 and a grant of £58,000 was awarded in January 2024.</p> <p>In 2025 The Council invited One Voice Wales LPfN Officer to carry out a site visit to discuss biodiversity enhancements at Pennard park, Pennard burial ground and for the 3 street planters in Kittle.</p> | Cler / Environment Committee |
| -raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance | <p>Information on biodiversity is shared via social media. This has include advice on protecting hedgehogs, adders etc... Information on citizen science schemes such as the new year plant hunt, big garden bird watch and Wales Nature Week have been shared through networks and social media.</p> <p>We added a section on our website which includes information on general climate and biodiversity issues.</p> <p>Our quarterly newsletter includes a dedicated section to biodiversity and the environment. Any information on local training/volunteering opportunities are shared via the newsletter, notice boards and social media. (See Appendix B)</p> <p>Since 2023 several 'It's For Them' signs have been displayed in Pennard park where changes have been made to mowing.</p> <p>The Chair of the Environment committee regularly shares photos and information on local plant species that the community can spot.</p> <p>In 2025 The replanting of the 3 planters in Kittle were promoted and celebrated on social media and in the newsletter to inform the community on the importance of locally native plants and encourage more resilient gardening and wildlife friendly methods. Please see Appendix C for photos.</p> <p>In 2025 as a result of the LDP candidate site consultation process the Council facilitated 2 community Bio-Blitz</p> | <p>Clerk / Environment Committee</p> <p>Clerk / Environment Committee</p> <p>Clerk / Environment Committee</p> <p>Clerk / Land management committee</p> <p>Clerk / Environment Committee</p> <p>Environment Committee</p> |

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| | <p>events to encourage local residents to recognise biodiversity and record what they find. In April 2025 we organised an amphibians and reptile walk led by local experts Thom Lyons and Matt Cooke which was attended by 50 local people. Despite the awful weather common lizards, bumblebees, spring flora and evidence of birds of prey were all spotted. The issue of garden escapes, non-native plants and the use of herbicides were also discussed. In June 2025 Chris Jones from Natur Hud led a Butterfly walk raising awareness of butterfly and moth populations, dark skies, habitats and this was attended by over 30 local residents. Opportunities were given to use gentle capture techniques and identify and record species found. A round up of these events was shared on social media. Please see Appendix D for photos of the events.</p> <p>Tyfu Pennard Community Garden – in February 2025 twice weekly volunteer sessions began on Wednesdays and Saturdays to provide opportunities to help create, enhance and restore biodiversity. The project shared information on its dedicated social media page, through WhatsApp groups and in local publications.</p> | Environment Committee |
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| | | <p>The Council has sought to improve communication and trust between Pennard Golf club and the local community by arranging meetings and discussions on the management of Pennard burrows and Pennard valley. Cllr Carter met with the community liaison officer in 2023 had was given a tour of Pennard burrows to discuss land management and issues and concerns. Some of the issues raised by the community were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential use of chemicals (fertilisers/herbicides etc) Scrub clearance Removal of sand and topsoil Fly tipping Encroachment Footpath erosion Conservation of the SAM Pennard Castle at Church Damage to flora Pest control Adders <p>The meeting was very positive, and led to the following outcomes:</p> <p>The Golf club has contributed to the quarterly newsletter with information on habitat management and events.</p> <p>In 2024 PCC produced signs to inform visitors about Adders to be installed by the Golf club at agreed locations across Pennard burrows. – The signage had to be redesigned to improve readability in 2025 and are planned to be installed in early 2026. (See Appendix E)</p> <p>Golf club has informed PCC of work and events so that these could be shared on social media.</p> <p>As part of the LDP consultation process, the Council submitted objections based on the importance of the site as a priority coastal grassland habitat, which supports many protected and priority species, such as hedgehogs, choughs, lesser horseshoe bats, slow-worms, common lizards, grass snakes and adders.</p> <p>An open dialogue between the stakeholders of the Pennard burrows SINC, Commons and SSSIs has been founded and will continue to facilitate discussions on</p> | Environment Committee |
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| | <p>the habitat management, pressures, and potential enhancements of the area.</p> <p>We have actively supported volunteer litter picking activities and purchased a '2 minute beach clean' board outside Penard stores in Southgate. We have provided bags, litter pickers and rings to anyone in the community who would like to carry out litter picks.</p> <p>We have encouraged dog walkers to dispose of their bagged dog waste responsibly through our bin signage and social media.</p> <p>We have used the One Voice Wales Nature Recovery Guide as a guide to follow the 5 key principles of nature recovery. (Appendix E)</p> <p>The Council and community were able to raise and discuss concerns regarding the National Trust's habitat management plans to remove Ragwort on Pennard cliffs and seek an alternative approach.</p> <p>Pennard Park</p> <p>Through cut and collect management changes we have created nature corridors around the edge of the playing field, paths and tennis court.</p> <p>Discussions on other biodiversity enhancements have been had, but due to the use of the entire green space for football and cricket throughout the year, we have been limited in our options. In 2025 the Cricket club requested to use netting to prevent balls getting lost in the hedgerow, this may have impacted birds and was rejected, and an alternative solution re-using white plastic banners in front of the hedge was put in place. Use of herbicide on the cricket crease was rejected and manually removal is used to keep the crease in good condition. Machinery to remove weeds on paths and other hard surfaces has been purchased and is now available to the caretaker. Removal of encroaching bamboo on the boundary of the park has been regularly removed. The use of inhumane pest control methods is</p> | Full Council |
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| | <p>no longer used; molehills are topped and the loose soil is topped and placed in the hedgerow.</p> <p>Discussions on a new park pavilion have included many considerations for biodiversity including the use of SUDs planters, and bee and bird boxes incorporated into the design.</p> <p>Pennard Burial ground</p> <p>The verges of the car park are managed for biodiversity using twice per year cut & collect. Any logs, and branches removed during tree management are retained to create habitat in the car park area. The car park light is operated using a timer and shuts off at 10pm to preserve dark skies habitat.</p> <p>In 2025 it was resolved to enact the suggestions in the OVW site visit report for this area and create several wildflower areas through twice yearly cut & collect and appropriate wildflower seed and to create a larger rose garden with bench, wildflower patch, bird feeders, signage and replant with native species, of roses, and shrubs. The Council purchased the plants for planting in winter 2025/2026.</p> <p>Council agreed to stop using ultrasonic mole deterrents and any other methods of pest control. Mole hills are topped and the soil placed in the hedgerow.</p> <p>Kettle planters</p> <p>There were concerns of the appearance of the planters and the struggle to keep them watered during long drought periods. Council resolved that the planters should be replanted, this offered an opportunity to use native coastal plants that would be more drought resilient and showcase local biodiversity.</p> <p>The planters were replanted with species such as Common birds foot trefoil, ox eye daisy, betony, wild thyme, common toadflax, Atlantic ivy, and ivy leaved toadflax. Use of horticultural grit and gravel was used to reduce water evaporation from the soil and the reservoirs restored and filled. This was completed by volunteers in summer 2025 and the local businesses agreed to water them during dry spells. (Appendix C)</p> <p>In April 2025 The Council was successful in obtaining a grant of £ 948 towards the cost of the enhancements at</p> | <p>Full Council</p> <p>Environment Committee / Land management committee</p> |
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| | <p>Pennard burial ground and the Kittle planters from the Gower National Landscapes team.</p> <p>Community Garden</p> <p>The Local Places for Nature grant of £58,000 was used to create the Tyfu Pennard Community garden. The project began in October 2024 and was completed in September 2025.</p> <p>The garden has different habitat created by a team of volunteers:</p> <p>Wildflower areas containing locally native coastal species including:- Oxe eye daisy, Wild carrot, Common bird's foot trefoil, Red clover, Lady's bedstraw, selfheal and Red campion.</p> <p>A wildlife pond of native plants:- Yellow iris, Marsh marigold, Tufted sedge, Water forget me not, Water lily, Water mint and Watercress.</p> <p>A bog garden, adjacent to the pond and containing native marshy grassland species.</p> <p>A wildflower lawn of Common birds foot trefoil, red clover and lady's bedstraw. This will create a soft, colourful shorter flowering meadow that can be used for community events.</p> <p>A coastal garden planted with species found on Pennard burrows and Three cliffs bay such as Marram grass, Common restharrow, Thrift, Sea aster and Sea lavender. The hedgerows and trees were managed by hand and removed branched used to create a dead hedge, closing gaps in the hedge and providing habitat for birds.</p> <p>2 bird nesting boxes were installed, and several bird feeders, which are maintained by volunteers.</p> <p>The food growing areas are managed using organic methods, peat free compost and the 'no harm' principle is applied throughout. Where possible no-dig methods are used. During operations the local biodiversity was preserved fencing off any nesting areas discovered such as solitary bees, mice and other small mammals.</p> <p>Natural fertilisers were made from nettles, and biodiversity was considered throughout the procurement process. Fine netting was used to prevent butterflies and other insects from becoming trapped in the polytunnel and when used to cover plants, an alternative food source was provided.</p> | |
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| | <p>Many mouse nests were discovered during the clearing process, and a large habitat was created over this to preserve it.</p> <p>Books and ID guides have been made available to the volunteers on site and signage interprets the aim of the garden to showcase Pennard's biodiversity. (Appendix F)</p> <p>2 wildlife cams have been installed to monitor wildlife in the garden and many animal tracks, and a badger latrine was discovered in the garden.</p> <p>It was ensured that the boundary had plenty of gaps and spaces for wildlife to move through the garden.</p> <p>The garden has weekly volunteer sessions and has been used for several events, and this will be further developed in 2026.</p> <p>As part of the Tyfu Pennard project, habitat boxes for hedgehogs, birds, and bats, citizen science equipment, and hedgehog highway signs were purchased and shared with the community. This will be further developed in 2026.</p> <p>The garden provides a community venue to explore and promote biodiversity friendly gardening and offers opportunities for local residents and groups to hold workshops and activities, fostering an appreciation for our local biodiversity and increasing knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Community hall</p> <p>As part of the Tyfu Pennard project 5 wheeled planters have been installed in the Hall car park which have been planted by the Pennard Youth Club. This can be used to close off the rear car park whilst benefiting biodiversity and through the planting of herbs provide food for the community and opportunities for the Youth Club to learn new skills.</p> <p>Native bulbs and seed have been used to enhance the verges around the car park and at the rear of the small hall.</p> <p>Cessation of rat bait traps around the exterior of the hall.</p> <p>The Council continues to prohibit the use of glyphosate on its own land and following community consultation Council has requested Swansea Council to cease the use of glyphosate spraying in Pennard ward. The Council has encouraged residents to consider alternatives to glyphosate and look at other methods available through</p> | <p>Environment Committee / Land management committee</p> |
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| | | <p>informative posts on social media. Unfortunately, glyphosate spraying has not stopped, and the Council has continued to raise this issue with our County Councillor.</p> <p>The environment committee has raised concerns regarding the biodiversity enhancements required by planning law on developers at the 'Hedgerows' development in Pennard. The Council has asked about who will be replanting and managing the remaining ancient hedgerow to improve its condition. Council will continue to pursue this with Swansea Council.</p> <p>The Environment committee has contributed to the monitoring of our local area for Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and has reported any recordings and concerns to the relevant authorities.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>-use improve and share evidence</p> | <p>This report will be made publicly available through our website and submitted to One Voice Wales for inclusion on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website.</p> <p>Any decisions made by the Council have been based on evidence available and expert advice. Any plans and results of biodiversity initiative are shared with the public and local organisations.</p> <p>The Council has encouraged local residents to use of the LERC app to record any species in the area during the Bio-Blitz events and other events.</p> <p>Councillors have been invited to attend biodiversity training available from OVW and other organisations.</p> <p>The Council has been represented at the Gower National Landscape management plan consultation, and other Gower area meetings to raise biodiversity related issues where relevant.</p> | Clerk |
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| 6 | <p>-support capacity and/or other organisations</p> | <p>As detailed in this report the Council has worked closely with the following organisations to promote, restore, create and enhance biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Landscapes • Gower Commoners association • National Trust • Local Schools and Youth Groups • Local business and landowners | Clerk |



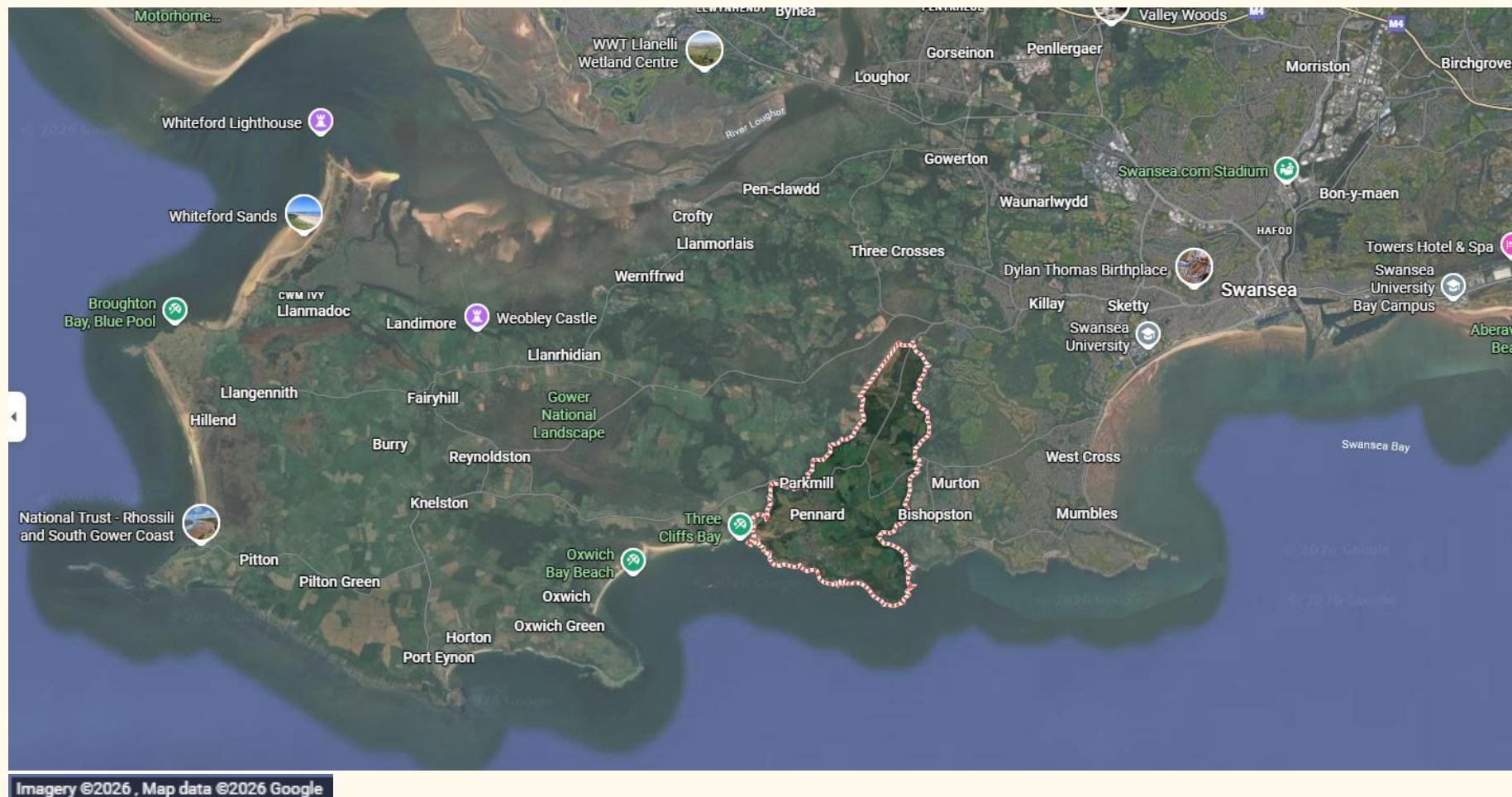
Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

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| What has worked well? | Tyfu Pennard – over 50 registered volunteers attend sessions including many children. Kittle planters – The plants have thrived despite the very dry conditions and will further establish over the next year. Bio-blitz events were attend by over 80 people across two events. |
| What have the barriers been? | The development of the wildflower areas in Pennard burial ground was delayed due to a lack of communication in areas designated as cut & collect. Cessation of glyphosate spraying due to opposition from a neighbouring community council that is part of the same electoral ward. Lack of capacity within the council to follow through on ideas and projects has led to delays in achieving goals set. |
| What will you change? | Improve communication with contractors and seek more volunteers to complete planned actions. |
| How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? | We are in the S6 reporting year of 2025. A new Biodiversity Action Plan will be written in 2026, to be reviewed annually. |



Appendix A

Location map





Appendix B

Newsletter

Biodiversity projects with Gower national landscapes

Under Section 6 of The Environment Act (2016) the Council has a statutory duty to embed biodiversity and ecosystem resilience into all of its planning and functions. Thanks to funding from Gower National Landscapes, we are able to make biodiversity improvements at Pennard burial ground and in Kittle.

Pennard Burial Ground

We are introducing small wildflower areas by reducing mowing intervals and introducing locally native wildflower species commonly found across Pennard and South Gower. The Rose garden will be enhanced by planting beautiful native rose species, shrubs, and plants, a metal rose sculpture and the addition of a new bench. We hope this will create a peaceful, tranquil and reflective space to remember loved ones.

Kittle planters

We have introduced a new planting scheme in the 3 planters outside the businesses in Kittle. Using locally native plants such as common toadflax, evening primrose and ox eye daisy the planters should be more resilient to our drier hotter summers. The plants will establish themselves over the next year or so and provide a bright and colourful addition to the area. The businesses have kindly agreed to water the planters to help the plants establish. We always need help with watering so if you think you can help please pop over with a watering can or a bottle of water!

If anyone would like to volunteer to help to create and maintain these beautiful new areas please contact Cllr Rachel Carter: rachelcarter@pennarddc.gov.wales



Tyfu Pennard



Pennard community council have a project in Pennard, Swansea creating 'Nature on the doorstep' by providing community food growing opportunities whilst enhancing and creating biodiversity.

The aim of the Project:

We want to provide an outdoor space that is inclusive and welcoming to all. A place where groups and individuals can come to learn and share skills, make new friends, enjoy nature and share in the produce grown.

What can the project offer:

- Volunteering opportunities
- An outdoor venue for groups, classes and meetings
- An accessible social space
- A place to learn new skills
- An Inclusive environment for disadvantaged groups
- Learn to grow food
- Learn how to create biodiverse spaces and provide wildlife habitats.



Site facilities:

- Free car parking
- Access ramp and pathways
- A safe secure location
- A variety of outdoor spaces
- Access to toilet



Tyfu Pennard is a 'Local Places for Nature' project funded by Welsh Government



To find out more about the project:
Visit our Facebook page @Pennard community garden
Email us: tyfupennard@outlook.com

Find us behind Pennard Community Hall, Southgate SA3 2AD
Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/S2F2jxHLwF2dLbFM9>

Have Your Say!

Community consultation on road safety.

Scan the QR code to take part in our Road Safety survey.

Alternatively:

- Contact the Clerk for a paper copy.
- Copy this URL into your internet browser:
<https://forms.office.com/r/9nqLc7fCOY>

Pennard Burrows Bio-Blitz Events

Two successful Bio-Blitz events were held during the Spring and Summer months.

Reptile Walk - Friday April 25th
The community were joined by Matt Cooke and Thom Lyons from the Amphibian & Reptile Trust to learn about our incredible reptiles. Over 30 people turned out on a bit of a grey day and although we didn't spot any adders we did see some common lizards.

Butterfly Walk - Saturday June 28th
We were joined by Chris Jones from Natur Hud who brought some live moths for us to view, and showed us some of the amazing species living in the community garden before heading out onto Pennard Burrows to find a variety of butterflies, moths and other insects. Cllr Rachel Carter also shared her knowledge of the coastal flora that can be found on this fantastic coastal habitat. The children thoroughly enjoyed being given the chance to catch and handle butterflies correctly and had lots of fun trying to identify the species correctly. Chris even spotted a rare fungus!

Look out for more Bio-Blitz events in Spring 2026

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Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales 2025



Appendix C

Kittle planters





Appendix D

Bioblitzes

2025

Pennard Burrows Bio-Blitz Events

Reptile Walk
Tuesday April 15th
10am
Meet outside Linkside Stores

We will be joined by Matt Cooke (ARC) and Thom Lyons (Swansea Uni) for a reptile discovery event at Pennard Burrows. This 90min event will teach skills for reptile field surveys, identification, recording and general ecology.

Come and join us to discover the incredible wildlife on your doorstep.

Contact Cllr Rachel Carter to find out more:
rachelcarter@pennardcc.gov.wales



2025

Pennard Burrows Bio-Blitz Events

Butterfly Walk
Saturday June 28th
11am
Starting from:
Tyfu Pennard Community Garden
(Behind Pennard community hall)

Come along and discover the butterflies and other insect life that can be found on Pennard burrows with Chris Jones from Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

The event will last around 1-2 hours and you will have an opportunity to learn how to recognise some of the common butterflies and insect life you can find on Pennard burrows, and how to use the LERC recording app.

 Scan QR Code To Register or email:
rachelcarter@pennardcc.gov.wales





Appendix E

One Voice Wales - 5 Pillars of nature recovery action





Appendix F

Tyfu Pennard signage

