



## **TONYREFAIL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

# **Biodiversity Duty Plan 2025 - 2027**

## **BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY**

(Part 1, Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016)

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## Context

Tonyrefail & District Community Council is committed to reducing the decline of biodiversity in its area and realises the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement for our community's health and well-being.

## Legislative Framework

### Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Under the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) **all public bodies in Wales** are required to:

1. Maintain and enhance biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities and in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems.
2. Demonstrate an ecosystem approach by applying the principles set out in the Act.
3. Prepare and publish a plan outlining how they intend to fulfil the duty.
4. Publish a report, every three years, on the actions which they have taken to meet this duty.

A public authority, in **complying with the Section 6 duty**, must have regard to:

- The Section 7 list of habitats and species of principle importance for Wales,
- The State of Nature Report published by Natural Resources Wales, and
- Any area statement which covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions, once these are produced.

### Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It sets out ways of working that ensure all elements of well-being are considered together and encourages collaborative working. The Act placed a duty on public bodies to carry out actions towards sustainable development. This is defined as a process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. This is achieved through taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle so that well-being goals are achieved.

Complying with the Section 6 duty will also help Public Authorities subject to the Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to maximise their contributions to the Well-being goals.

## Nature Recovery Action Plan Wales 2020-21

The Nature Recovery Action Plan Wales outlines **six objectives**:



### Rhondda Cynon Taf Action for Nature Plan

A partnership approach to biodiversity has been taken by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in developing and delivering the **Action for Nature Plan**.

Action for Nature is about action everyone can take for wildlife in Rhondda Cynon Taf. It has been created by a partnership of many different people and organisations, combining science, local evidence and local expertise. The Plan has a technical section with actions for particular habitats and species that are of importance in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

First set up in 1998, the RCT Action for Nature Partnership includes partners with a depth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the wildlife of the county, including Rhondda Cynon Taf

County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales, Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, South East Wales Rivers Trust and many more.

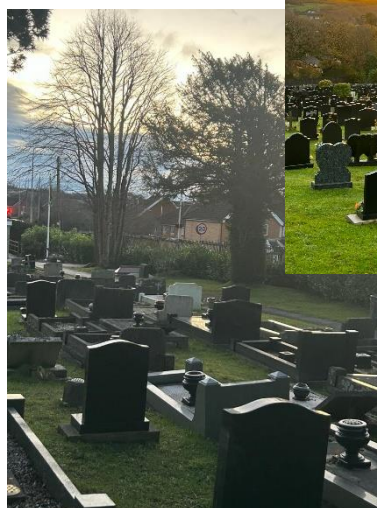
The Plan identifies a number of actions aimed at public authorities who would like to take positive action for their local environment, perhaps as part of their environmental and community responsibilities.



## Community Council Land & Facilities

The Community Council owns and/or manages the following areas of land:

- ❖ Trane Cemetery
- ❖ Cemetery extension
- ❖ SSSI land





- ❖ Llantrisant Road Allotments – 46 plots (Council owned)
- ❖ The Avenue Allotments – 111 plots (Council owned)
- ❖ Penrhiwfer Allotments – 150 plots  
(Council owned)
- ❖ Pritchard Street Allotments – 224 plots  
(Leased from RCTCBC)
- ❖ Tylchawen Allotments – 48 plots  
(Leased from RCTCBC)



- ❖ Hanging baskets and tubs at various locations



## Biodiversity Plan 2025-2027

The Biodiversity Duty Actions set out below broadly identify what the Council intends to do to meet its legal requirements. The actions are organised into six Nature Recovery Plan objectives each of which are interdependent with other objectives.

| Objective                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Council approach / areas of application                     | Specific Actions 2025-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Objective 1 - Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</p> | Council decision making                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Incorporate biodiversity considerations into all council decision-making.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Planning policy & decision making                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Require all planning applications to consider biodiversity impacts and incorporate wildlife-friendly features.</li> <li>➤ Work with the RCTCBC Planning Authority to ensure new developments include biodiversity net gain principles.</li> <li>➤ Identify and safeguard priority habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, wildflower meadows and hedgerows.</li> <li>➤ Oppose developments that may damage important local ecosystems or disrupt wildlife corridors.</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Procurement & contracts<br>Ethical & sustainable purchasing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prioritise eco-friendly suppliers that use sustainable materials, reduce plastic waste and support biodiversity.</li> <li>➤ Ensure on-site contractors align with wildlife-friendly policies.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Objective | Council approach / areas of application | Specific Actions 2025-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Source peat-free compost for topping up graves.</li> <li>➤ Buy sustainably sourced timber and paper for council operations.</li> <li>➤ Reduce single-use plastics in council facilities and events.</li> </ul>              |
|           | Public engagement & consultation        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Involve local residents and community groups in biodiversity planning and habitat enhancement projects.</li> <li>➤ Share updates and successes through social media and newsletters.</li> </ul>                             |
|           | Small Grant Fund                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Award grants to various local Environmental groups e.g. Allotments Associations, Tonyrefail Environment Group.</li> <li>➤ Prioritise applicants that seek to support biodiversity.</li> </ul>                               |
|           | Biodiversity Training                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organise training on biodiversity laws, nature-friendly policies and best practices for staff and elected members.</li> <li>➤ Encourage staff and councillors to champion biodiversity in their decision-making.</li> </ul> |

| Objective                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Council approach / areas of application                                                                                                                                                                                  | Specific Actions 2025-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|  <p data-bbox="163 938 611 1102">Objective 2 - Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</p> | <p data-bbox="651 260 2040 339">Where there are principally important species identified locally, these will be incorporated into the Council plan and appropriate actions and partners found to support management.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p data-bbox="651 483 1189 515">Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p>                                                                                                                                           | <ul data-bbox="1330 387 2029 595" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain this 0.7 acres of marshy grassland under a management agreement with Natural Resources Wales (NRW).</li> <li>➤ Encourage flora supporting the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p data-bbox="651 659 1272 738">Watercourse to the west of Cemetery upper section</p>                                                                                                                                    | <ul data-bbox="1330 659 1973 738" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Regular clearance of litter and obstructive debris.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p data-bbox="651 962 846 994">Cemetery site</p>                                                                                                                                                                         | <ul data-bbox="1330 770 2051 1185" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Avoid disruption to nesting birds by restricting hedge, tree and bush cutting to late September to February only.</li> <li>➤ Explore options for planting scheme over the Capel Y Ton mass grave to reduce the risk of flooding and provide habitat for small mammals.</li> <li>➤ Allow species-rich flora to proliferate in unused parts of the Cemetery to promote insect diversity.</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p data-bbox="651 1281 920 1313">Allotment Gardens</p>                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul data-bbox="1330 1217 2051 1377" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Require Allotment Associations to promote activity that supports pollinators and wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Encourage composting and recycling of organic waste on allotment sites.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



| Objective                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Council approach / areas of application                                                                                                                                                       | Specific Actions 2025-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|  <p>Objective 3 - Increase the resilience of our natural environments by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation</p> | <p>The Council will use its resources towards restoring and creating habitats and will ensure that resource use increases the potential for resilience of the ward's natural environment.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Lower Cemetery site</p>                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reduce the number of summer grass cuts in A &amp; B sections to allow flowering plants the chance to reseed.</li> <li>➤ Remove invasive non-natives in wildlife corridors along the eastern boundary.</li> <li>➤ Sections of the cemetery unavailable for burials will be developed as wildflower meadow.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Upper Cemetery site</p>                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sections of the cemetery not yet required for burials will be left uncut through the Summer.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Whole Cemetery site</p>                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Where possible, fencing and plastic barriers will be replaced with living or dead hedges.</li> <li>➤ Chemical pesticides and herbicides will not be used on the site, and the use of other chemicals will be phased out where possible.</li> <li>➤ Install insect "hotels", log piles and bee boxes for invertebrates.</li> <li>➤ Allow for some unkempt areas that will provide cover and shelter to amphibians and mammals.</li> </ul>  |

| Objective                                                                                                                                           | Council approach / areas of application                                                                                                                         | Specific Actions 2025-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|                                                                                                                                                     | Memorial tree planting                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Investigate the feasibility of introducing a native tree planting scheme under the Memorial policy.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                |
|  <p>Objective 4 - Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</p> | Chemical-free land management                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Eliminate use of pesticides and herbicides on Council-maintained land.</li> <li>➤ Require grave cleaners not to use environmentally damaging chemicals or materials.</li> </ul>                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                     | Invasive species                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monitor and control invasive species on Council-owned land (eg. Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed).</li> </ul>                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                     | Pollution-reduction initiatives                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reduce the amount of waste generated on Council-managed land going to landfill.</li> <li>➤ Improve recycling rates in the Council's office.</li> <li>➤ Support community litter-picks and waste reduction schemes.</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                     | Sustainable procurement                                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure procurement is undertaken with the S6 Duty in mind and, wherever possible, sustainable products are sourced.</li> </ul>                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                     | The Council will seek to learn more about, understand and mitigate risks around environmental pressures in the district, within its resources and capabilities. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Objective                                                                                                                                                              | Council approach / areas of application                                                   | Specific Actions 2025-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|  <p>Objective 5 - Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring</p>              | <p>Biodiversity Mitigation &amp; Enhancement Scheme</p> <p>Public Information leaflet</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A requirement of Planning consent that will encompass the whole Cemetery site.</li> <li>➤ Commission a full-site ecological survey and production of Scheme.</li> <li>➤ The Scheme will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A conservation grassland plan</li> <li>○ A biodiversity management plan for the wider Cemetery</li> <li>○ Production of biodiversity interpretation</li> <li>○ The erection of bat and bird boxes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>➤ Collect records of species sightings for inclusion in an information leaflet.</p> |
|  <p>Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery</p> | <p>Biodiversity Plan 2025-2027</p> <p>Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Report 2025</p>         | <p>➤ This plan will guide the Council's activities over the remaining course of this election cycle.</p> <p>➤ The second of the 3-yearly reports will outline progress to date.</p> <p>➤ Publish online for transparency.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## **Conclusion**

Tonyrefail & District Community Council recognises that protecting and enhancing biodiversity is an ongoing responsibility. This plan sets out a realistic and proportionate approach to fulfilling our duties under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, while supporting the well-being of our community and future generations. We will continue to review and adapt our actions, working in partnership with local groups, public bodies and residents to ensure our green spaces remain healthy, resilient and rich in biodiversity.