Un Llais Cymru

One Voice Wales

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	
Name of Community or Town Council:	**Talybont on Usk, Powys**
Group:	

Introduction and Context

- Talybont Community Council (Precept approx £19 000) has nine councillors, overseeing a community of approx. 700 people with the majority living in the 4 settlements of Talybont, Pencelli, Aber and Scethrog. We are situated in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNPA) the main settlements mostly being located along the River Usk valley and its tributaries. There are two pubs and a village shop. Much of the land comprises traditional farms and small holdings with arable, cattle and sheep. There are pockets of mixed woodland and NRW managed conifer plantations and upland moorland towards the Beacons. There are several reservoirs in the community environs, with Talybont Reservoir wholly within the community area. The Brecon and Monmouth Canal passes through the community bringing canal boat traffic. A regular but infrequent rural bus service operates on the route between Brecon and Abergavenny, most travel being by car.
- The environment is predominantly rural with farming, a regular local sheep market and small businesses scattered through the community. Tourism is also major contributor to the local economy. In recent years an increased income has been derived from hosting moderately large running, cycling and walking events. The area is one of particular natural beauty with many foot and bridle paths and cycling routes all of which attract many visitors from the UK and abroad, focused on the canal, river and wildlife. The river is part of the Upper Usk SSSI and the valley has important roosts and foraging ground for lesser horseshoe bats bringing a designation of an SAC. It also hosts an osprey nest as well as other rare plants and animals.
- *Talybont on Usk Community Council is committed at a grass roots level to protect, enhance resilience and increase biodiversity in the community. We aim to nurture our local spaces and inspire community members of all ages to love nature and encourage it both in the community and on their own patches and share our beautiful environment with visitors.*

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Action Report 2023 - 2025			
NRAP Objective	**Action carried out to…**		**Monitored by:**
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Scrutinising planning applications to ensure where possible biodiversity is enhanced by 10% as suggested in biodiversity net gain requirements. Applying light touch methods, organic where possible, to maintaining community owned land. Our grass cutting contracts have targets for no mow areas and support wild flower and orchard planting on council land.	All councillors
	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	- Encouraging and supporting local wildlife initiatives - Running a biodiversity recording challenge for the community through the summer months - Several biodiversity tables were set up for our Community Forum in 2024 to generate community discussion, awareness and action in biodiversity A biodiversity recording challenge for the community has been used to encourage awareness of our local species.	All councillors
2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	- We try to assess our species and habitats with the above community challenge. - Working with NRW to inform them of local conditions and aim to work with them to protect our listed as well as lesser known habitats. - Coordinating with Canal and Rivers Trust and Usk Valley Ospreys to support their respective nature initiatives.	All councillors
3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	- Working with Talybont Energy to allocate a proportion of grants to nature projects - Continuing to maintain the Henry Vaughan Garden to encourage invertebrates and other wildlife. - Ensure a proportion of our land holding contain areas of “messy” scrub to provide cover and habitat for invertebrates and small mammals. - Encourage green infrastructure plans through the planning system. Working with One Voice Wales, BBNPA and Powys CC for grant funding to support local	All councillors

		wild life groups and implement measures to increase biodiversity. Looking to improve drainage from storm run off by encouraging discussion on natural flood management solutions with NRW and BBNPA.	
4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	- Alerting NRW/BBNPA when local habitat is seen to be under threat. - Scrutinising planning applications for negative impact on the environment - Encourage Powys CC to continue to improve bus services to reduce car use. - Reporting and removing invasive species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. - Working with the litter picking group - Supporting green energy use in the community hall. Our 2024 Community Forum raised the issues of negative impacts on the environment from increasing visitor numbers and the need for a better system to handle this.	All councillors
5	-use improve and share evidence	Reporting fully at council meetings on biodiversity matters and hear and act on where possible issues from the community. - Attending Powys and One Voice Wales seminars and training sessions and disseminate information through Council meetings, our website and social media.	All councillors
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	Supporting and working with local and government bodies in biodiversity initiatives. In the community: - Henderson Hall Trust - Canal and Rivers Trust - Usk Valley Ospreys - Talybont Woodland Group - Llangynidr Cubs and Scouts and Guides - Talybont Energy - Our local churches	All councillors

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Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025	
What has worked well?	We are helping to improve local awareness of biodiversity and encourage local nature groups and the Community Forum 2024 was very useful in gathering community thoughts and ideas about biodiversity. Our local community news letter now had a regular update on council led biodiversity and climate change actions. We worked with Talybont energy to secure a grant for batteries to store power from solar panels on the community hall roof. We secured funding from OVW and BBNPA (in collaboration with local community groups) to increase biodiversity on council and local land. Interaction with NRW and BBNPA resulted in clearing of culverts and re signing foot and bridle paths following NRW felling operations. We have a council representative coordinating and providing support for Usk Valley Ospreys who manage the Schedule 1 osprey nest for the Welsh Government. We have supported our County Councillor in working to improve our local bus routes We have suffered significant tree loss (broadleaf and conifer) in the past year but this has raised awareness of the issues in the community and with the relevant government bodies. We now have started meeting with Canal and River Trust and NRW reps regarding local issues and have informally approached BBNPA ecology support.
What have the barriers been?	Lack of time to get involved Raising awareness and the importance of the biodiversity and climate change emergencies in the face of a difficult economic climate and uncertain world. Finding time to apply for help from the appropriate government bodies.

	Finding the balance between supporting biodiversity and keeping the playing field (our largest land holding) safe for users. Working out how to engage with farmers Balancing large commercial activity events and tourists with protecting our landscape and environment Bringing all community members along in this endeavour apart from the relatively small proportion already active in local groups.
What will you change?	**Ambitions for 2025-28** We have set ourselves a key number of ambitions to improve our environment in the next 3 year period. We will report these through Council minutes, website and noticeboards and produce a biodiversity special report for the community news letter several times a year. We will collaborate with local community volunteer groups where possible, but will also need to look into possible grants to fulfil some of the below. A large number of running and other outdoor events begin or end on Council land providing the opportunity to influence action on the environment locally. 1. Setting a mission statement of biodiversity and climate change for hosting events with ambitions to improve environmental negative impacts including non reuse plastics, cable ties and non biodegradable route markers, soil compaction from running events, disturbance of wildlife on uplands, visitor vehicle emission, waste, whilst acknowledging the importance of visitors to the community: - mission statement to raise awareness - suggesting mitigation actions, eg “contribution” towards other aims (see below Himalayan balsam pulling) - Encouraging event organisers to reduce: plastics and packaging waste, including bottles/free t shirts trinkets/route marker flags; food waste; footpath erosion, and wildlife disturbance

	- Consider using Talybont Annual Show as a case study for exploring strategies/raising awareness 2. Waste and recycling Lobbying Powys County Council to increase recycling and general waste bin provision at Henderson Hall. Currently the vast proportion of waste from visitors is cleared by community and local council volunteers. Contact local public land owners, such as the Canal and River Trust, given a significant stretch of the canal passes through our community, and canal boat companies to improve waste recycling and possibly fuel usage. 3. Making an event calendar A series of talks and gatherings to reach out to our community will be explored – topics may include - the local ospreys - requesting a film for the community film night on nature or the environment - running the 2026 Peoples Emergency Briefing event at our community hall - BBNPA curlew project - NRW bank vole or mussel project - Beavers - Local farming practice for nature improvement 4. Species and biodiversity - Re instate the summer Biodiversity Challenge - Identify several contrasting sites to possibly hold local bioblitzes - Organise invasive species removal sessions focussing on Himalayan Balsam with community groups and Outdoor events volunteers – with help from BBNPA/ WTSWW local branch. - Continue work with local community groups to expand wild flower planting

	- Apply to OVW for more biodiversity packages - Continue to collaborate with locals interested in local biodiversity projects such as repairing the two bird hides on Talybont reservoir. 5. Review local use of pesticides and herbicides - on community council property - on County Council and trunk road agency verges in our community - Create/source a leaflet for the local community on use of the above and alternatives.
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	Annually via report to the Council Clerk

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	• that own or occupy an office building only and • whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	• that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, • whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or • that can influence those who own or manage land.	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	• that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

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Adrodd ar Adran 6

Cynghorau Tref a Chynghorau Cymuned

Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 Rhan 1 – Adran 6
Y Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau

Adroddiad 2025 **Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau**	
Enw y Cyngor Tref neu Gymuned:	
Grŵp:	

Cyflwyniad a'r Cyd-destun

- *Disgrifiad byr o'r Cyngor, ei swyddogaethau a'r cyd-destun o ran*
  - *sut y gallai helpu bioamrywiaeth (trwy ei swyddogaethau rheoli tir, cyllid grant, gweithgareddau addysgol e.e.)*
  - *graddfa ofodol a lle (e.e. faint o dir mae'n ei gynnwys, poblogaeth, praesept?)*
  - *cyflawni gwasanaethau i'r cyhoedd (e.e. a yw'n destun Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol?)*

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Adroddiad Gweithredu 2023 - 2025			
Amcan NRAP	**Camau gweithredu i...**		**Wedi eu monitro gan:**
1	-cynnwys bioamrywiaeth o fewn llunio penderfyniadau a chaffael		
	-codi ymwybyddiaeth o fioamrywiaeth a'i bwysigrwydd		
2	-diogelu prif rywogaethau a chynefinoedd		
3	-adfer & chreu cynefinoedd a rhwydweithiau ecolegol cydnerth		
4	-mynd i'r afael ag elfennau negyddol: lleihau llygredd e.e. defnyddio atebion yn seiliedig ar natur, mynd i'r afael â rhywogaethau goresgynnol		
5	-defnyddio gwella a rhannu tystiolaeth		
6	-cefnogi capasiti ac/neu sefydliadau eraill		

Arolwg o ddyletswydd Adran 6 2023 - 2025	
Beth sydd wedi gweithio'n dda?	
Beth fu'r rhwystrau?	
Beth fyddwch yn ei newid?	
Sut a phryd fydd y ddyletswydd Adran 6 yn cael ei monitro a'r cynllun Adran 6 wedi'i adolygu?	

Grŵp	Disgrifiad o sefydliad mewn perthynas â bioamrywiaeth Sefydliadau:	Camau Gweithredu Sylfaenol	Enghreifftiau	Amcanion NRAP ar gyfer Adrodd ar gamau Gweithredu (Gweler Templedi)
1	• sy'n berchen neu'n meddiannu adeilad swyddfa yn unig • ac nad yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig yn uniongyrchol â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir.	Camau sy'n gysylltiedig a rheoli adeiladau, caffael, cynaliadwyedd, codi ymwybyddiaeth, hyfforddiant, neu mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau eraill.	Comisynau, DVLA	Amcanion NRAP: **1, 4, a 6**
2	• sy'n berchen yn meddiannu neu'n rheoli eu adeiladau a'u tir eu hunain, • y mae eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig a bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir, neu • sy'n gallu dylanwadu ar y rhai sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir.	Fel Grŵp 1 uchod A rheoli tir, rhaeadru meini prawf cyllido, darparu addysg a hyfforddiant	Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru, Prifysgolion, Chwaraeon Cymru	Amcanion NRAP: **1,4, a 6** *fel uchod +* Amcanion NRAP: **2, 3, a 5** *yn ymwneud â thir y sefydliad*
3	• sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir y tu hwnt I'w tir eu hunain, waeth a yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir ai peidio.	Fel Grwpiau 1 a 2 uchod A rheoli tir er mwyn cynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth, a hyrwyddo cydnerthedd ecosystemau.	Dŵr Cymru, Awdurdodau Lleol, CNC, Llywodraeth Cymru	Holl amcanion NRAP: **1,2,3,4,5 a 6**

Mae **Cyllun Gweithredu Adfer Natur Cymru (NRAP)** yn gosod chwe amcan ar gyfer gwrthdroi dirywiad bioamrywiaeth a dylid eu defnyddio i helpu i ddatblygu ac arwain gweithredoedd i gydymffurfio â dyletswydd adran 6:

Y **6 amcan** i gynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth yw:

Amcan 1: Ymgysylltu a chynorthwyo cyfranogi a dealltwriaeth er mwyn gwreiddio bioamrywiaeth ledled y penderfyniadau a wneir ar bob lefel

Amcan 2: Diogelu'r rhywogaethau a'r cynefinoedd pwysicaf, a gwella'r modd y'u rheolir

Amcan 3: Cynyddu cydnerthedd ein hamgylchedd naturiol trwy adfer cynefinoedd a ddiraddiwyd, a chreu cynefinoedd

Amcan 4: Mynd i'r afael â'r pwysau allweddol sydd ar rywogaethau a chynefinoedd

Amcan 5: Gwella ein tystiolaeth, ein dealltwriaeth a'n systemau monitro

Amcan 6: Sefydlu fframwaith llywodraethu a chymorth ar gyfer cyflenwi