

BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Community Council recognises the importance of biodiversity. Biodiversity is recognised as underpinning human health and can contribute to physical and mental well-being.

The widespread reduction in species across the UK coupled with the impact of climate change threatens a major environmental disaster.

The Council recently supported a motion declaring that there is a climate emergency. The Council fully supports the plans of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) with regard to the commitments of RCT to become a “net zero” Council and will support RCT (so far as possible) to achieve this aim.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduces a new duty on public authorities in Wales to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems in the exercise of their functions. The Community Council as a public authority will comply with this duty in relation to the scope of its activities.

This means that the Council should when managing land in its ownership should seek to maintain and enhance the wildlife that these areas support and manage the habitats so that they remain in as natural a state as possible.

The Council has a very small land holding, namely a parcel of land known locally as the Lions Head, a small strip of land known locally Pop Factory Lane and the Allotments site at Taff's Well.

The Community Council has produced an action plan, and this is suggested as a future programme of work in order to develop the Community Council's contribution to these important issues.

ACTION PLAN

LAND IN OWNERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Land known as the Lion's Head

Land to be inspected and advice sought in relation to the maintenance and possible improvement of the existing wild planting on the land to promote healthy growth as pollinators.

Pop Factory Lane

Review of maintenance of the land to promote and maintain biodiversity.

Allotment site

Meet with the Allotments Association, who manage the site on behalf of the Council to discuss options in relation to the enhancement of wildlife existing on the site and sustainable practices on site to promote biodiversity.

GENERAL

Encourage local organisations to promote and maintain biodiversity

Consider the net benefit of biodiversity when considering planning applications so that proposed development does not cause the significant loss of habitats or populations of species.

Engage with local land- owners including RCT and local schools to create habitats for birds and other wildlife and participate jointly in project work in order to achieve this aim

Continue to report concerns and liaise with national organisations such as National Resources Wales to ensure that river pollution, fly-tipping, flooding issues and general water management concerns are actioned without delay. Seek public co -operation in reporting issues early.

Raise public awareness of any project work undertaken in the area via the Council's website

Where it is practical to do so the Council will seek to use products that are made from sustainable resources or use recycled materials

To consider supporting any organisation who wish to promote biodiversity through project work, applicants are invited to contact the Clerk for more information.

This plan will be developed over the next three years and will be monitored annually at Full Council.

Taff's Well and Nantgarw Community Council adopted November 2019.