

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6**  
**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**  
**Report 2022**



**Cefn Community Council**

**Introduction and Context:**

Cefn Community Council serves approximately 7,500 residents, within the villages of Cefn Mawr, Acrefair & Penybryn, Newbridge, Plas Madoc and Rhosymedre & Cefn Bychan. The offices are at The George Edwards Hall in Cefn Mawr, which falls within the World Heritage Zone. It employs five members of staff: Clerk, assistant, groundsman, caretaker, and a community agent.

The precept requirement for 2022/2023 was £154,776 and as such falls within the requirement to report annually on its contribution to the Public Service Board Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Plan.

The Community Council area comprises of four electoral wards:

Acrefair and Penybryn – 5 members  
Rhosymedre and Cefn Bychan - 1 Member  
Plas Madoc – 5 members  
Cefn – 5 members

We as a council promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible

The following are located within the community council boundary, Trefynant Cemetery, GE Hall, PK Area, Play Parks, Cenotaph, Youth Provision, Streetlighting, are maintained by the community council.

- **Trefynant Cemetery** – Located at Abernant, Acrefair, this is owned and maintained by the Community Council, with records from the site dating back to the 1800s. The cemetery is regularly maintained in the summer months, no major cutting takes place on the trees until after nesting season.
- **George Edwards Hall and council building** – Owned and maintained by the community council. This building is located on Well Street in Cefn Mawr. The main hall opened in 1911 and was built with a donation of £1,000 from Mrs Janet Edwards, In memory of her late husband George Edwards of Trevor Hall (brother of the well-known local Brick and tile manufacturer JC Edwards). The hall has been at the centre of the village of Cefn Mawr for over 100 years, having also previously been a cinema and has hosted many dances and parties. The attached council building was building in the late 1970s to accommodate the community council offices, which includes a lower room used as a youth club and meeting room, a council chamber and an office. The Community council was recently awarded a grant to replace all the windows and doors throughout the hall and council building, making the site more energy efficient. Over 90% of lighting has been changed to more energy efficient LED lighting.
- **Plas Kynaston Multi- Use Games Area** – Located on Plas Kynaston Lane in Cefn Mawr, this large site consists of a Bowling Green and bowling hut; football pitch, with dressing rooms and a tea hut, an enclosed basketball/5 a side football pitch with a recently installed multi-sport synthetic carpet, a fully equipped play area with apparatus for both infants and junior users, and parking facilities. Owned and maintained by the community council, the area features many species of trees and a large, grassed area.
- **11 play parks** – these fully equipped parks are in various locations around the community. They are owned by Wrexham County Borough council, but their maintenance and repair are funded by the Community Council via a service level agreement.
- **The Cenotaph** - located on Plas Kynaston Lane, the obelisk is set on the edge of a green space with views over the Dee Valley and is owned and maintained by the community council. A wildflower meadow was planted at the site to attract insects.
- **Cefn Bank** – The green space located to the rear of the public car park on Crane Street, known as Cefn Bank, was recently transformed by Cefn Community Council in partnership with Our Picturesque Landscapes, as a picnic area and viewpoint, overlooking the Dee Valley, complete with a traditionally built dry stone wall. Along the main street in the village centre, the community council are committed to

planting flowers, we have several planters throughout the community, including those mounted on lampposts, which are planted by Derwen College with the support of community council staff.

- **Schools** – There are four primary schools within the community; three English medium – Ysgol Rhosymedre, Ysgol Cefn and Ysgol Acrefair, and one Welsh medium; Ysgol Min Y Ddol. These are feeder schools for the nearest secondary school, Ysgol Rhiwabon, which is based in the nearby village of Ruabon.
- **Youth Provision** – There are two youth clubs running within the community, two in Cefn Mawr on Monday and Wednesday nights, and a club running in Plas Madoc. The community council provide the setting and funding for the Cefn Mawr club, with the provision run by Wrexham County borough Council.
- **Ty Mawr Country Park** – Located on Cae Gwilym Lane, Ty Mawr Country Park lies on the banks of the River Dee in the Vale of Llangollen. It was first awarded the green flag accreditation in 2006. The circular walk reaches from the Cefn Viaduct to the Froncysyllte aqueduct along the Dee River. Enjoyed by people from far and wide, Ty Mawr has animals such as sheep, pigs, and goats, a picnic area, play park, BMX track and football field, as well as a newly opened Café. Ty Mawr do not use chemicals or pesticides on their land, so there is always an abundance of colourful wildflower meadows.
- **The Rock / Coed Richard** – The stadium known as The Rock is home of Cefn Druids, one of the oldest football clubs in Wales. The 3,000-capacity stadium is situated on the site of a disused quarry on an area known as Coed Richard. This large area borders Acrefair, Cefn and Rhosymedre on all sides. A large part Coed Richard has been reclaimed by nature and now includes rich and diverse examples of wildflower and bird species. The Community Council have held three wildlife walks in the area in conjunction with The Wildlife Trust, and large wildflower meadows have been planted in three locations on the site.
- **Biodegradable dog bags** – At 9 locations around the community, the council have provided residents with biodegradable dog waste bags to encourage more dog owners to bag their dog waste, and also providing regular monitoring and refilling.
- **Streetlighting** – Cefn Community Council own and maintain over 500 streetlights, which were upgraded to LED over the last few years. This will save on annual maintenance costs, and a projected 70% saving on energy costs.
- **Splash Leisure Centre** - The leisure centre located in Plas Madoc has a play pool, Gym, sports hall, children's soft play, squash courts as well as a café. Its run by a trust and is community owned, having been taken over from Wrexham Council in 2014. The centre does not just attract people from all over Wrexham, but holidaymakers staying the nearby Llangollen area.

## Action Report

- How the Council assists biodiversity (through functions regarding land management, grant funding, education activities)

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
<p>Embed biodiversity into decision making &amp; procurement</p>	<p>Considering the ongoing climate change emergency, having open discussions on how Cefn Community Council can play their part in helping to tackle climate change.</p> <p>Converting lighting to LED in the community and within the council buildings.</p>	<p>Evidence within reports of the Council considering biodiversity as part of its decision-making processes.</p> <p>The re-investment of savings procured from the changing of street and indoor lighting to LED, and savings with the annual council budget.</p>
<p>Raise awareness of biodiversity &amp; its importance</p>	<p>Regular nature walks in conjunction with The Wildlife Trust, involving local schools, free giveaways of birdboxes. Inviting members of the community to volunteer with outdoor community projects.</p> <p>Installing and promoting large areas of wildflower meadows.</p> <p>Holding monthly litter pick sessions and inviting the community to attend. Becoming a litter pick hub – offering support and guidance to the community should they wish to organise their own litter picks.</p>	<p>Species of flowers and wildlife documented by the wildlife trust. Questionnaires provided to attendees to gain insight into what they have learnt from the sessions, and what they would like to see happening in the future.</p> <p>Less grassland areas to be cut, resulting in less carbon emissions from machinery.</p> <p>Documentation via databases an App on the amount of litter collected and frequency of litter pick sessions.</p> <p>Ongoing litter picks with councillors serving on the community council.</p>

	<p>Opportunities to raise the importance of biodiversity with the young people who attend the youth sessions.</p>	<p>Monitored via the service provider (Wrexham County Borough Council).</p>
<p>Safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<p>Initiatives involving the wildlife trust and other partner organisations.</p> <p>Taking into account any environmental impact when considering planning applications.</p> <p>Working with the principal authority in managing the cutting back of foliage during nesting season and managing overgrown foliage when matters of health and safety arise.</p>	<p>Monitor the areas regularly and promote their importance widely, using social media channels and providing regular walks.</p> <p>comments made on applications</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with the community on what maintenance services can be provided during bird nesting seasons. Agreeing a suitable service level agreement</p>
<p>Restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>Wildflower meadows have been created at several sites throughout the community.</p>	<p>Project carried out as part of the Green Spaces initiative and is ongoing.</p>
<p>Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>Providing the community with biodegradable dog waste bags as part of the community councils initiative to tackle dog fouling in the area.</p> <p>Not using pesticides when treating grassed areas on community council owned land.</p> <p>Recycling at the council office and main hall.</p>	<p>Council staff regularly monitoring and maintaining the stock levels in the dispensers and regular promotion of the locations they are placed.</p> <p>Using natural products to maintain grassed areas.</p> <p>Providing labelled recycling boxes for hall users and council staff.</p>
<p>Use, improve and share evidence</p>	<p>Supporting the principal authority with identifying</p>	<p>Regular dialogue with principal authority.</p>

	<p>and clearing any land that has been used for fly tipping.</p> <p>Sharing data with Keep Wales tidy (Volume and types of litter collected)</p>	<p>Data stored via an app, regular contact with Keep Wales Tidy.</p>
<p>Support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>Facilitating members of the community who wish to form litter pick groups by becoming a litter pick hub.</p> <p>Holding an annual gardening competition which is organised in conjunction with Derwent College.</p> <p>Providing funding for the youth provision delivered by WCBC</p> <p>Grants given to local organisations to support various causes in the community and further afield. Opening applications to the wider community.</p>	<p>Becoming a litter pick hub and actively advertising the use of our litter pick equipment, offering guidance and support.</p> <p>The number of entries received and the participation of Derwen College.</p> <p>Monitoring reports by the principle authority .</p> <p>The number of grant applications received and awarded are published on our website. Documentation on what the grant is to be used for.</p>

**Review of Section 6 duty**

- **What has worked well?**

Litter picks have worked well, especially involving children from the local schools. The improvement in the area visually is appreciated by residents, and by publicising our sessions on social media and posters, increases our reach. We have started to see an increase in the number of attendees, so much so that we have had to obtain more litter picking equipment. The Green Spaces Project has been a success, the wildlife walks have proved popular with the local community, and many residents have received the wildflower meadows positively. The gardening competition, which has been running for over twenty years continues to be a popular event with many entrants of all ages, and forming a working partnership with Derwent College to

deliver the event and to maintain the community flower beds has provided young people with disabilities the chance to learn about horticulture.

- **What have the barriers been?**

The small amount of land owned by the community council limits opportunities to create biodiverse spaces. Budgetary demands restrict new initiatives and have cost implications, and trying to reach a diverse age range of residents to can be an issue when not all use social media, so there is an extra added cost of producing posters and flyers. Grant funding for planting new trees in the community has been paused due to the issue of finding suitable space, which requires negotiation with the principle authority. The same issues have prevented the community council finding suitable land for an allotment site, which residents have been requesting for a number of years

- **What will you change?**

Increase liaison with Wexham CBC's Biodiversity Officer and seek advice whenever necessary. Encourage and support community groups to continue the discussion on how they can create and maintain more biodiverse spaces. Increase resident participation in environmental events with more emphasis on reaching residents who do not use social media..

- **How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?**

The duty is to be monitored by Members of the council and the Clerk with periodic agenda items at Council meetings The plan will be developed and reviewed in response to new initiatives, evidence and information that may become available to the Council.

Adopted December 2022