



# BIODIVERSITY ACTION REPORT

## Argoed Community Council

### Introduction and Context

Argoed Community Council provide a range of services to its communities which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a park and a quarry.
- Organising planters and hanging baskets.
- Grant-funding – giving grants for projects within the Council's area, impacting on biodiversity through cascading funding criteria.

We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainable practices whenever possible.

### Action Report 2022

Action carried out to:	Example:	Monitored by:
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Reflected in Biodiversity Policy  Taken into account when commenting on planning applications, with particular attention to Tree Preservation Orders and the creation of appropriate habitats to protect existing wildlife and encourage more (e.g. New Brighton proposal).	Commitment given in documents.  Evidenced in comments made in relation to planning applications.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Highlighted the work that has been undertaken to create flower meadows and planting of native bulbs and orchard trees  Invited local school to maintain the wildflower garden in Bryn-y-baal. Local volunteers maintain the wildflower garden in New Brighton	Social media feeds. Feedback from councillors and gardening contractors.
Safeguard principal species and habitats	Management plan for the Quarry is being implemented, which further stages proposed.	Implementation of management plan.

<p>Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>Recreating the flower meadow in the Quarry, whilst also taking into account the wilder areas, which provide their own habitats</p> <p>Planted hanging baskets and planters with pollinator friendly flowers. Re-introduced winter bedding to create shelter and provide pollinators throughout the year</p> <p>Supported the planting of a wildflower meadow and orchard trees on county land.</p>	<p>Ongoing management plan for the Quarry</p> <p>Areas of habitat increased and potential new nesting sites</p>
<p>Tackle negative factors. E.g., reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>Organised community litter picks to remove potential hazards</p> <p>Removal of Giant Hogweed from Quarry</p> <p>Pesticides are used only when strictly necessary and then in a targeted, rather than general, application</p>	<p>Community events</p> <p>Instructions to contractors</p>
<p>Use, improve and share evidence</p>	<p>Liaise with the Biodiversity Officer at Flintshire County Council and with North Wales Wildlife Trust, to benefit from their expertise and ensure that any management works are done to maximise the potential for biodiversity</p>	<p>Implementation of expert advice</p>
<p>Support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>Worked in partnership with North Wales Wildlife Trust</p>	<p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit</p>

Review of s.6 duty:

What has worked well?

The meadow areas have been a success and are looking both attractive and encouraging residents to be more aware of their environment. There have been a number of trees planted and winter bedding has been re-introduced. Volunteers are engaging in community initiatives to promote biodiversity.

What have the barriers been?

Lack of expertise to identify what more can be done, off-set by the partnership working with Flintshire County Council and North Wales Wildlife Trust.

What will we change?

More community projects, to raise awareness.

How and when will the s.6 duty be monitored and the s.6 plan reviewed?

Quarterly item on the Amenities Committee agenda

Report approved by Argoed Community Council on 6 December 2022