



Argoed Community Council

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Introduction and Context

Argoed Community Council consists of four main village areas, Llong, New Brighton, Bryn-y-Baal and Mynydd Isa. The population was recorded as 5,627 residents in the 2021 census. In 2024-25 the precept was £80,577.

Argoed Community Council currently has 13 Councillors and employs a Clerk and Assistant Clerk, both on a part-time basis.

Argoed owns and has responsibility for the Bonc green and play park and Bryn-y-Baal Quarry. These are both registered village greens

We own 3 bus shelters, 37 planters, 7 window boxes and 24 hanging baskets.

We hold a Christmas Lights switch-on each year and make grants and donations too support other events in the community.

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



Wildflowers in the Bonc

Action Report 2023 - 2025

Ref	Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
1.	Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	<p>Reflected in Biodiversity Policy.</p> <p>During 2024-25 tender documents were developed and issued for the management of the Council's green spaces and planters and hanging baskets and to take advantage of any opportunities to enhance biodiversity. New contracts were let in May 2025.</p> <p>The Clerk has met with Biodiversity officers from Flintshire County Council (FCC) and sought advice about the frequency of cutting of the grass in the Quarry and ways to enhance biodiversity. There is a bug hotel in the Quarry and some more smaller ones have been built by local children to be placed in the Quarry.</p> <p>Meadow areas have been developed in the Bonc and in the Memorial Garden. One Voice Wales (OVW) officers have met with Members to identify other areas in the Quarry and Memorial Garden which can also be developed as meadow areas.</p>	<p>Clerk & Council</p> <p>Reports submitted to Council and Amenities Committee by Clerk.</p> <p>Emails summarise meetings with FCC Biodiversity Officers and One Voice Wales Biodiversity Officers.</p> <p>Emails summarise meetings with FCC Biodiversity Officers and OVW Biodiversity Officers.</p>
2.	Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	<p>Argoed Community Council has sourced a grant from OVW for native bulbs and wildflowers. The bulbs will be planted in December 2025 and the wildflowers sown in 2026. These will complement the bulbs already planted and will enable wildflower meadows to be developed in new areas.</p> <p>In the past, the village primary school children have helped with planting.</p>	<p>Social media feeds.</p> <p>Feedback from Councillors and gardening contractors.</p>

Ref	Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
3.	Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	<p>We have established areas of wildflowers in many of the parks in the Argoed ward and these areas can be seen full of bees and butterflies during the summer.</p> <p>A wildflower area on Flintshire County Council land, developed with the primary school children, is thriving and jasmine grows here too.</p> <p>We have started planning new areas that can be converted to 'meadow areas' in conjunction with the Biodiversity Officers from OVW. This will create even more movement corridors for wildlife that now live in our parks and village greens.</p> <p>The Quarry has a well-established bug hotel, and the village children have made some new smaller ones to be placed in there. We are mindful of the berries on trees when the gardening contractors are cutting back the shrubs and trees during winter because this is an important source of food for the birds that nest and live there.</p>	<p>Gardening contractors & Clerk</p> <p>Gardening contractors & Clerk</p> <p>Gardening contractors & Clerk</p> <p>Full Council</p> <p>Gardening contractors & Clerk</p>
4.	Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	Many flower and plant species were identified when North Wales Wildlife Trust undertook a review in X. Some species have since declined and we will be recreating the flower meadow in the Quarry in 2026, whilst also considering the wilder areas, which provide their own habitats.	<p>Ongoing management plan for the Quarry</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Ref	Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
5.	Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	<p>We keep in regular contact with OVW Biodiversity Officers and FCC Biodiversity Officers about any changes to the park and to seek advice whenever necessary.</p> <p>It has been some time since an organised community litter picks to remove potential hazards has taken place and we will restart these in 2026.</p> <p>Pesticides are used only when strictly necessary and then in a targeted, rather than general, application.</p> <p>New biodiversity and climate training is always suggested to Councillors and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk & Assistant Clerk</p> <p>Gardening contractors & Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6.	Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery	Liaise with the FCC Biodiversity Officers 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.	Clerk and implementation of expert advice



Photographs of Bryn-y-Baal Quarry

	Review of Section 6 duty:
	<p><u>What has worked well?</u></p> <p>The meadow areas have been a success and are encouraging residents to be more aware of their environment. The new gardening contractors have a lot of knowledge which will assist in maximising opportunities for biodiversity going forwards, in the Argoed ward.</p> <p>Using social media to promote what the Community Council is doing.</p> <p><u>What have the barriers been?</u></p> <p>Staff changes at Clerk and Assistant Clerk levels have impacted upon the continuity and monitoring of actions in this area.</p> <p>The Clerk and Assistant Clerk have a lack of expertise in this area and will attend any available training to improve this.</p> <p>Limited resources will affect what we are able to do each year.</p> <p><u>What will we change?</u></p> <p>More community projects, to raise awareness.</p> <p>We will add a section to our website in 2026 which includes information on general climate and bio-diversity issues.</p> <p>A new planting plan will be considered during 2026, in conjunction with the gardening contractors, to see if annuals can be replaced with more resilient, native perennials that are pollinator friendly and more drought resilient.</p> <p>We will liaise with Flintshire County Council to see if we can obtain signage for the meadow areas.</p> <p>We will consider cut and collect management changes in conjunction with our gardening contractors to create nature corridors around the edge of our amenity grassland.</p> <p>We will ensure we consider biodiversity in respect of any planning applications received</p>

<p><u>How and when will the Section 6 duty be monitored and the Section 6 plan reviewed?</u></p> <p>From 2026 there will be a bi-annual item on the Amenities Committee agenda and a report to Council each December.</p> <p>The Clerk will liaise with both OVW and FCC Biodiversity Officers if advice is needed.</p> <p>Further opportunities to obtain grant funding will be explored.</p> <p>A Biodiversity Action Plan will be submitted to the Amenities Committee in February 2026.</p>

Report approved by Argoed Community Council on 2 December 2025.