

# **Llanrug Community Council Environmental Policy and Promoting Biodiversity**

## **1 Introduction**

The Council is committed to working towards the Well-being goals of the Future Generations Act 2015, which places an emphasis on protecting the environment, using resources sustainably and protecting the health and prosperity of future generations. Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 all Town and Community Councils have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience

## **2. Council's Policy**

- recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses its resources efficiently and proportionately,
- aims to become a low carbon organisation through better management of its resources, water, and energy,
- integrate environmental and sustainable principles into the Council's operational procedures,
- promote best practice and endeavour to improve the environmental performance wherever practicable,
- wish to maintain healthy functioning ecosystems and encourage a biodiverse natural environment within the community.

## **3.0 Practical Measures**

### **3.1 Administration.**

- Use as little as possible materials and eliminate or change wasteful practices.
- Use recycled materials.
- Recycle all materials to be able to do so reasonably
- Circulate documents to reduce copying.

### **3.2 Waste of contractual work.**

- Endeavour to recycle waste from rights of way maintenance and cemetery land.
- Endeavour to recycle the contents of cemetery waste bins.
- Endeavour to compost green waste.

### **3.3 influence on others.**

- Asking applicants for assurance that activities which result from grant monies or tender doesn't contravene this policy.
- Asking contractors for an environmental policy as a specific qualification when being considered for contractual work.

- Responding to the wasteful actions of others.

### **3.4 Promote sustainability.**

- When drafting the council's spending plans.
- When council members are appointed to represent them on bodies and organisations.

### **3.5 Energy, Water and Waste Management**

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Reduce the amount of waste produced by the Council's activities by implementing waste minimisation systems. Examples could include using digital methods for distributing meeting papers and double-sided printing where printing is unavoidable.
- Use all available recycling routes to reduce waste going into landfill.

### **3.6 Environmental Procurement**

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Buy products and services, which cause the least harm to the Environment.
- Use local labour and materials wherever possible to minimise the environmental impact of travel miles
- Reduce its use of single plastics, such as drinking straws, plastic cups, laminated pouches etc

## **4 Managing Green Spaces and Promoting Biodiversity**

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Implement management procedures that supports and enhance local biodiversity.
- Use locally grown plants that are native to Wales.
- Provide a variety of pollinators in planting schemes.
- Replace any mature tree that needs to be felled with at least 2 young trees somewhere in the community
- Support the community to establish allotments.
- Support a change in cutting grass arrangements. Focus on meadow grasses, promote where appropriate pollinators which is one aspect of biodiversity.

- Recognise that longer grass holds more carbon and by not cutting grass it improves soil health, whilst being good for biodiversity.
- Grass management, for example, by not cutting grass around the base of trees to encourage wildflowers and other plants which attracts pollinators, as well as providing shelter for mammals and small reptiles, and a variety of species.
- Creation of wildlife areas in green spaces to provide nesting areas and shelter during the winter months.
- Place nest boxes in our grounds where applicable
- Consider biodiversity when considering planning applications and associated issues. Provide adaptation responses and mitigate the impact of climate change.
- Lead and promote the principles of biodiversity within the community where appropriate in order that they can then make their own decisions.
- Encourage the whole community to volunteer to maintain nature/green spaces
- Consider biodiversity when considering providing financial assistance
  - Support and promote community environmental projects by working together and advertising where appropriate, e.g., future projects due to GwyrddNi. Encourage volunteering within the council's area.