

Section 6 Biodiversity Report
Llandybie Community Council (2025)

Report prepared by

Dai Nicholas

Clerk & RFO

Llandybie Community Council

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1. Introduction and Context

Public Authority and its Functions

Llandybie Community Council is the community-level council for the community of Llandybie in Carmarthenshire, Wales, covering the village of Llandybie and surrounding settlements of Caerbryn, Blaenau, Capel Hendre, Cwmgwili, Penybanc, Pen-y-groes, Saron, Heol Ddu, Derwydd and Bonllwyn.

As a Community Council, its functions include responsibility for local amenities and community well-being, including provision and maintenance of 120 public Rights of Way footpaths (RoW), 10 Children's Play Areas, various open spaces including a nature area at Capel Hendre with verges and benches, and community services that include 2 Public Conveniences and 2 sports pavilions and adjoining football and rugby pitches.

Context in Relation to Biodiversity, Spatial Scale and Public Service Delivery

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 — specifically the “Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty” (the “s6 duty”) — Llandybie Community Council, like all public authorities in Wales, is required to “seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity ... and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.”

This local presence as a community authority makes the Council well placed to influence neighbourhood-level habitats, green spaces, and community engagement in nature.

As a community-level (town/parish) council, Llandybie Community Council's public service delivery overlaps with community well-being, amenity maintenance, public spaces, and support for local groups. Many of these intersect with biodiversity — for example, managing green spaces, community gardens, open spaces, and supporting local nature-friendly initiatives.

Contact with these types of organisations is at least twice annually through the Community Grants Schemes under Burial Grounds and the more discretionary awards under Section 137 payments.

How Enhancing Biodiversity Contributes to and is Affected by the Council's Functions and Strategic Objectives

In 2022 Llandybie Community Council formally “declared a nature emergency,” acknowledging the biodiversity crisis and committing to act to protect and restore nature locally.

By integrating biodiversity considerations into its functions (maintenance of public land/spaces, supporting community groups, funding local projects), the Council can contribute to several outcomes: improved ecosystem resilience, better local environment,

enhanced quality of life for residents, opportunities for nature in community spaces, and support for ecosystem services for example pollination, flood mitigation, recreation, mental well-being. This aligns with broader public-service goals of community well-being, resilience, and sustainable local development and with its aspiration of fulfilling the ethos of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Key Policies, Objectives, Performance Indicators & Monitoring

- The commitment to a “nature emergency” is a policy-level statement signalling intention to act.
- On the Council’s “Biodiversity” page they commit to “seeking opportunities” to manage and enhance local habitats.
- There is no publicly posted list of detailed performance indicators, monitoring data or progress reports.

Governance Arrangements for Delivery of the Section 6 Duty

Responsibility for biodiversity lies with the Council as a whole (members and Clerk) — there is no publicly identified dedicated biodiversity officer. The Council meets monthly (ordinary meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) where matters including local amenity, community and environment issues can be discussed, it of note that the council has merged its Parks and Amenities Committee, Footpaths and Open Spaces and the Environment Committee into an all-encompassing ‘Green Spaces Committee’

At present, the s6 duty appears to be embedded in general Council oversight rather than in a standalone “s6 Plan.” This area is to be addressed in the action points that follow and the draft Aims and Objectives Plan (attached) developed earlier in 2025.

Benefits and broader impacts (potential and intended):

- By acknowledging nature emergency and committing to biodiversity, the Council signals to residents the importance of biodiversity — this can boost community awareness, encourage local groups and individuals to act (gardening for wildlife, habitat enhancement, currently planned at Capel Hendre and the Banc Y Ddraenen nature area), and support social cohesion around environmental action.
- The soon to be launched Morgan Marine Tree planting scheme across 5 parks in the Llandybie Community Area.
- Through better-managed green/wooded spaces and habitats, residents may benefit via improved well-being, access to nature, recreation, mental health, and community pride.
- Over the long term, protecting and enhancing biodiversity could contribute to ecosystem services: pollination, flood regulation, carbon sequestration, soil health, and resilience of natural environment.

It must be noted that Policies have been introduced around wildlife such as the Human Mole Policy in 2023 which offers direction on dealing with issues of mole infestation and recommends the relocation of moles to more than a mile away to an appropriate site.

Challenges, Issues and Barriers Observed or Expected:

- Lack of publicly available detailed s6 Plan or Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The Council's "Biodiversity" page offers general commitment but no detailed, measurable plan. (llandybie.org.uk)
- Unclear monitoring or reporting arrangements: no published data on species counts, habitat condition, or past/present projects.
- As a small community council, capacity (financial, staff/time) to implement habitat restoration, ecological surveys, or long-term monitoring may be limited.
- Without a formalised plan, there is a risk that commitments remain declarative rather than leading to concrete actions.
- Potential conflict between development or other council responsibilities (e.g. supporting local economic activity, land-use planning) and biodiversity objectives — especially given local pressures (housing, infrastructure) in communities like Llandybie.

3. Action Report — Against NRAP Objectives

Below is a preliminary, draft account of how Llandybie Community Council's existing commitments map to the six objectives of the national Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) / s6 duty. Because current public documentation is limited, much of this is **proposed or in development**, and should be refined if internal council records or future planning documents are available.

NRAP Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding; embed biodiversity in decision-making

Actions taken / in progress

- Adoption of a "nature emergency" declaration (2022), raising the profile of biodiversity as a priority.
- Publication of a "Biodiversity" page on the Council's website, indicating commitment to maintain and enhance wildlife and manage habitats. (llandybie.org.uk)

Benefits / Outcomes (expected):

- Embedding biodiversity into everyday governance ensures long-term commitment beyond declarations.
- Community engagement strengthens local ownership of biodiversity projects, builds stewardship, and helps gather local ecological knowledge.
- Early involvement may help avoid biodiversity loss in future development decisions.

NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance, and improve their management

Current status / context

- The community's ward biodiversity profile (produced by the county-level partnership) shows that the Llandybie ward contains a mosaic of habitats: deciduous woodlands (with age diversity including dead wood and understorey), marshy grasslands and meadows, hedgerows, scrub, small woodlands, watercourses/streams, and areas of alkaline soils associated with limestone outcrops. ([Carmarthenshire County Council](#))
- The profile identifies species of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales present in the ward, including rare plants (e.g. the county flower Whorled caraway), and mammals such as Otter. ([Carmarthenshire County Council](#))
- There are also records of garden- and small-mammal friendly species: hedgehogs, bats, birds (swallows, swifts, house martins) nesting in buildings — indicating that both rural and urban-community habitats contribute to biodiversity. ([Carmarthenshire County Council](#))

Actions taken / possible contributions by the Council:

- By acknowledging biodiversity duty, the Council has signalled its readiness to support habitat protection and enhancement.
- Through small grants to community groups (per Council's funding activity) there is potential to support community-led habitat projects (e.g. community gardens, flower meadows, hedgerow restoration) — though publicly available record of such grants specifically for biodiversity is not explicit.

Challenges & Gaps:

- No published species or habitat action plans specific to Llandybie Community Council's land or remit, should we dovetail with other plans locally?
- No publicly available data on habitat condition, extent, or trends.
- Responsibility for many habitats likely lies with private landowners, farmers or the county-level authority; as a community council, direct control may be limited; Council must rely on influencing, encouraging or supporting others.

Recommendations / Next Steps:

- Work with county-level organisations (e.g. Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership, local ecological recording centre) to identify and map key sites, habitats and species of principal importance in the community.
- Develop a small-scale habitat and species action plan (even if only for publicly managed open spaces and Council-owned land) — e.g. hedgerow management, meadow/wildflower areas, bat/bird boxes, pond or watercourse protection if relevant.
- Use grants and community funding to support habitat enhancement by local groups (e.g. community gardens, allotments, wildlife corridors, hedgerow planting).
- Encourage residents to record wildlife (citizen science), collaborating with local record centres — e.g. the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC) — to build better data on species presence, trends, and habitat condition. The existing "Wildlife in your Ward – Llandybie" profile already refers to WWBIC data. ([Carmarthenshire County Council](#))

We will be liaising with One Voice Wales to develop these policies and areas.

NRAP Objective 3: Increase resilience of the natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and creating new habitats

Context and Potential

- The ward's landscape is described as a mosaic of woodlands, hedgerows, meadows, scrub, agricultural land, watercourses — a diverse ecological network. ([Carmarthenshire County Council](#))
- This mosaic offers good potential to restore degraded habitats (e.g. hedgerows, meadows), create habitat corridors (connecting woodland patches, hedgerows, waterways), and improve ecological resilience.

Possible / Proposed Actions by the Council:

- Identify suitable Council-owned/managed green spaces (public land, recreation grounds, verges, community gardens) for habitat creation — e.g. wildflower meadows instead of intensive mowing; pollinator-friendly planting; native hedgerow/tree planting; creation of “wild corners.”
- Where feasible, collaborate with local landowners, community groups, and county-level nature partnerships to restore or enhance semi-natural habitats (hedgerows, woodlands, meadows, riparian corridors).
- Encourage community participation — via funding, volunteer days, workshops, or community events (e.g. planting, habitat day, “Love your Park / Green Spaces Day”)

Challenges / Constraints:

- Council's limited direct control over large tracts of land (much is privately owned or managed by others) — limiting scope of restoration/creation to small community parcels.
- Capacity — financial, human resource (volunteers, staff) may be limited.
- Need for coordination with landowners and county conservation bodies; may require planning, agreements, and long-term maintenance commitments.

Recommendations / Next Steps:

- Develop a small-scale “Green Infrastructure / Habitat Creation Strategy” for publicly accessible Council spaces.
- Work with the county nature partnership / record centre / local conservation groups to identify priority areas for habitat restoration or creation (e.g. buffer zones along streams, hedgerow corridors, wild meadows).
- Explore funding or grant opportunities (e.g. via programmes such as One Voice Wales / “Local Places for Nature” that support community councils with biodiversity projects. ([One Voice Wales](#)))

NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats — reduce harmful practices, promote nature-based solutions

Current Opportunities / Potential Actions

- Council could review and adjust mowing / maintenance regimes on Council-owned green spaces to reduce frequency or change timing (e.g. fewer cuts, later cuts, leaving wildflower margins), helping pollinators and other wildlife.
- Promote nature-friendly landscaping (native plants, wildflower meadows, hedgerows, native tree planting) rather than intensive ornamental planting or hard landscaping.
- Encourage community uptake of these practices via grants, advice, and community projects (e.g. community gardens, wildflower planting, hedgehog corridors, bat/bird boxes).

Barriers / Challenges:

- As a small local authority, may lack the technical expertise to assess ecological impacts or design habitat-friendly landscaping.
- Limited budget — maintenance and resources for changing management regimes may be constrained.
- Potential resistance from community or residents used to tidy, “well-kept” public spaces or private gardens.

The 4 key pressures are:

- Urbanisation
- Agriculture
- Pollution
- Invasive species
- Actions include:
 - Commenting on planning that destroys nature.
 - Engaging landowners regarding land management (difficult)
 - Litter picking
 - Stopping all pesticide / poison
 - Reporting / removing invasive species

Recommendations / Next Steps:

- Use guidance and support from umbrella organisations (e.g. One Voice Wales / Local Places for Nature) to plan and design biodiversity-friendly green-space management. ([One Voice Wales](#))
- Develop a “Green Space Management Policy” for Council-owned land that considers biodiversity — e.g. mowing regimes, native planting, habitat corridors, minimal chemical use.
- Use community engagement to build acceptance — explain benefits to residents (wildlife, pollinators, mental health, environment) and encourage them to adopt similar practices in private gardens or allotments.

NRAP Objective 5: Improve evidence, understanding and monitoring

Current Situation

- The county-level profile “Wildlife in your Ward – Llandybie” provides a baseline for local habitats, species presence, and ecological context. ([Carmarthenshire County Council](#))

- Data is held by the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC), as indicated in the ward profile. ([Carmarthenshire County Council](#))

Actions to Strengthen Evidence & Monitoring

- The Council could establish a relationship or Service-Level Agreement with WWBIC (or similar) to encourage and support biological recording in the community — e.g. citizen science, wildlife surveys, creation of a local species & habitat inventory.
- Promote recording by residents (garden wildlife, sightings on walks, public spaces) — perhaps via community newsletters, social media, or local events.
- Use collected data to inform decision-making (which green spaces to manage for biodiversity, where to create corridors or habitat patches, monitor success of planting or habitat creation).
- Identify gaps — e.g. under-recorded habitats/species, lack of baseline data for certain habitat types; use this to plan future action or partner with ecologists / conservation organisations to survey and map priority areas.
- Promote the LERC app (which feeds to WWBIC) to be used on any public spaces or indeed anywhere

NRAP Objective 6: Governance, capacity and partnerships

Current Governance & Capacity

- The Council is nominally responsible for biodiversity, with biodiversity referenced in the Council's website. ([llandybie.org.uk](#))
- Monthly ordinary meetings provide regular governance structure to consider environment/biodiversity issues. ([llandybie.org.uk](#))

Partnerships and External Support

- The Council could work with county-level bodies/partnerships (e.g. Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership) and with umbrella organisations for community councils such as One Voice Wales, which provides resources, guidance, and support for biodiversity projects. ([One Voice Wales](#))

Recommendations / Next Steps to Strengthen Governance & Delivery Capacity:

- Develop a formal s6 Plan (or BAP) for Llandybie Community Council, with defined responsibilities, timeframes and monitoring.
- Consider appointing a “Biodiversity Lead” (could be a dedicated councillor or clerk) to champion biodiversity issues — to ensure continuity, oversight, and follow-through.
- Engage volunteers and the community — e.g. through events, citizen science, community gardens, local habitat projects.
- Secure funding (via Council budget, community grants, or external funding) for biodiversity projects.
- Forge partnerships with county-level conservation bodies, local environmental charities, record centres (e.g. WWBIC), and umbrella support organisations.

4. Review of s6 Duty — Key Issues & Next Steps

Summary of Key Issues

- Lack of a publicly available, detailed s6 Plan or BAP — existing statements are general commitments rather than actionable plans.
- No published monitoring or performance data relating to biodiversity outcomes (species, habitats, habitat condition, changes over time).
- Limited Council capacity (financial, technical, human resource) — typical for a small community council.
- Reliance on private landowners, county-level authorities, or third parties for much of the habitat, meaning the Council's direct influence may be limited.
- Need for greater community engagement, data collection and long-term commitment to ensure that declarations and commitments translate into real ecological benefits.

Proposed Way Forward / How Review Should Feed Into Next s6 Plan

- Commission (or draft) a formal s6 Plan / BAP for Llandybie Community Council covering at least the next 3–5 years — including clear objectives, responsibilities, timescales, and budget.
- Use the 2025 “nature emergency” declaration as the basis for setting priorities — e.g. habitat creation, green space management, community engagement, species/habitat safeguarding.
- Set up an internal governance structure: appoint a biodiversity lead councillor or working group to oversee implementation, monitoring, reporting, and community liaison.
- Engage with county-level conservation partners (e.g. Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership), local record centres (WWBIC), and umbrella user-group organisations (e.g. One Voice Wales) to access expertise, resources, and guidance.
- Develop a monitoring & reporting framework — regular (e.g. annual) update/report to the community on biodiversity actions, outcomes, and next steps. This will support transparency, accountability, and community engagement.
- Where possible, secure funding or re-allocate part of Council budget to biodiversity projects; use grants; support volunteer participation; encourage community-led green initiatives.

5. Conclusion

The publicly available information indicates that Llandybie Community Council has taken an important first step by declaring a “nature emergency” (2022) and acknowledging its obligations under the s6 duty. However, at present its commitments are more declarative than operational: there is no publicly available detailed Biodiversity Action Plan, limited evidence of concrete habitat or species-focused actions, and no monitoring or reporting framework in place.

Given the ecological richness and habitat mosaic within the Llandybie ward (woodlands, hedgerows, meadows, watercourses, species of principal importance) — as outlined in the county-level “Wildlife in your Ward – Llandybie” profile — there is significant potential for the Council to make a meaningful contribution to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem

resilience locally, especially through community engagement, habitat creation/restoration, and partnership working.

To meet its s6 duty in a substantive way, the Council should now commit to developing and publishing a formal s6 Plan / Biodiversity Action Plan, embedding biodiversity considerations into governance and decision-making, establishing monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and engaging actively with residents and local nature partners.