

LLANGOLLEN RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY REPORT 2022

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Llangollen Rural Community Council provides a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces including children's play areas, war memorial sites and the Noddfa cemetery;
- Organising planters and hanging baskets at a number of locations throughout the Council area;
- Funding projects in the Council's area which impacts on biodiversity through cascading funding criteria.

We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices wherever possible and practical.

The Community Council area covers the three villages of Garth, Trevor and Froncysyllte. It lies on the south-east border within the purlieu of Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) and adjacent to Denbighshire. It is within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and includes part of the World Heritage site of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal. The Community Council works with these organisations and others associated with their activities, such as the River and Canal Trust, in partnership on biodiversity and sustainability issues.

Directly the Council maintains only a few green spaces, the Noddfa cemetery at Garth, the Pump field at Garth, playgrounds at Garth, Trevor and Froncysyllte, the Clinker path in Trevor and planters and hanging baskets in Garth, Trevor and Froncysyllte. Other green spaces are either privately owned or the responsibility of Wrexham County Borough Council.

The Community Council area covers 533 hectares and a population of 2059 (last census data available). The average (mean) age of residents was 40.9 years. The precept for 2022/23 is £57,440.

ACTION REPORT

Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement

Llangollen Rural Community Council (LRCC) has appointed a biodiversity champion to ensure aspects of biodiversity are considered at meetings and in decision-making.

Biodiversity is taken into account when considering local planning applications, maintenance of footpaths and green spaces.

LRCC has a contractor to maintain grass areas and planters in the community. Some areas are left to grow to encourage wildflowers and to protect natural habitats.

LRCC organises regular litter picks across the three communities – this helps to reduce polluting factors.

Raising Awareness of biodiversity and its importance

LRCC has regular articles in the quarterly Community Newsletter on local bird species and wildlife.

LRCC runs an annual gardening competition which includes an eco-garden category for younger residents.

LRCC has run a competition for younger members of the community to actively consider their impact on the environment.

LRCC took part in 'Great Big Green Week' (September 2022) by organising a "Community plant/seed/fruit/veg swap and share event" to encourage residents to swap/share/give away plants, seeds, autumn fruit and vegetables with other members of the community. Also LRCC worked with partnership organisations to arrange additional litter picks and clean ups.

Safeguarding principal species and habitats

LRCC works with Wrexham County Borough Council and other local landowners to identify areas and species that require protection.

LRCC is exploring the creative use of land to identify further partnerships and funding to continue this work.

Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks

LRCC owns and has responsibility for maintaining a number of green spaces including children's play areas, the Noddfa cemetery, Pump Field at Garth and the Clinker path in Trevor. LRCC has identified a number of opportunities to restore and create habitats in these sites and to contribute to resilient ecological networks through the Local Places for Nature project – use of garden packs/wildflower seed packages.

An application has been made to the Green Communities Fund for a Community Miles project which will cover Froncysyllte, Garth and Trevor. The two key outcomes for the project will be the production of two separate leaflets showing walking routes in the area and improvements to the physical infrastructure of the routes.

Tackle negative factors, e.g.: reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, and address invasive species

LRCC organises regular litter picks across the three communities thus helping to reduce polluting factors. Members sort through the collections and ensure that recyclable materials are taken to the relevant facilities. Fly tips are reported to WCBC.

LRCC works with local partners to identify and monitor Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam in the community.

IMPROVEMENTS TO FORWARD PLAN

LRCC will continue with current projects.

LRCC is committed to improving local understanding of biodiversity by organising events that include more local people, schools and other organisations.

LRCC will explore the use of the planters, underused areas within the community and the 'Incredible Edible' model.

LRCC will explore working with WCBC and other organisations to identify areas of land that could be used for community gardens/allotments.

LRCC hopes to involve and work with local businesses to save/create habitats within the area.

HOW AND WHEN WILL THIS PLAN BE REVIEWED?

The plan will be reviewed annually.

A report will be published at the end of 2025 in accordance with Section 6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

2022BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Date Set	Proposed action	Expected Outcome	Responsibility	Review Date
October 2022	Publicise the outcome/plans for the community miles project once funding has been approved.	Two separate leaflets showing walking routes in Llangollen Rural and improvements to the physical infrastructure of the routes.	Cadwyn Clwyd Green Communities Project Working Group.	April 2023
November 2022	To consider reviewing activities, policies, and committees so that biodiversity is considered within all activities of the Council.	To ensure that biodiversity is considered in all Council activities.	Decision by Council.	July 2023
November 2022	To engage with residents to work as a community to enhance biodiversity and natural habitats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a 'citizen science' project to encourage residents to record and report wildlife and plants spotted in the community Promote participation in other projects, such as the big bird count 	Report published on the website, in the Community Newsletter and on social media to keep residents informed on biodiversity. Better understanding of wildlife in the area to help to identify necessary improvements. Engage the community with environmental promotional activities.	Cadwyn Clwyd Green Communities Project Working Group following approval by the Council.	September 2023
November 2022	To consider purchasing bat/bird boxes to be placed around the community.	Create and expand wildlife habitats in the green spaces which educate, engage and encourage the participation of the community	Cadwyn Clwyd Green Communities Project Working Group following approval by the Council.	Spring 2023
November 2022	Plant green space areas with edibles and orchards, creating new habitats for pollinators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the community to increase edibles areas. Identify areas for edible species to be planted. 	Identification and creation of new habitats for pollinating species and a community food source for residents.	Cadwyn Clwyd Green Communities Project Working Group following approval by the Council.	Spring 2023
November 2022	Participate in Great Big Green Week (June 2023)	A programme of events to support the enhancement of biodiversity in the area and engages the community.	Cadwyn Clwyd Green Communities Project Working Group following approval by the Council.	July 2023