

Aims as per the 2026 Biodiversity Action Plan	Action/s
<p>NRAP Objective 1: <i>embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement.</i></p> <p>I. The Community Council has created a Biodiversity and Sustainability Subcommittee with the aim of embedding sustainability and support for biodiversity throughout the Council’s working practices. This is inclusive of but not limited to: procurement, reducing energy use, phasing out the use of single use plastic, reducing water use, reducing paper use including photocopying and encouraging recycling.</p>	<p>Action/s:</p> <p>Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are we buying from ISO 20400 suppliers? ● Are we buying products that are made locally? UK/EU rather than imported from further afield? ● Are we purchasing recycled/certified products where possible? ● Can we provide eco-friendly cleaning products for the office cleaners? <p>Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do our office practices seek to minimise energy use? ● Do we follow the Energy Trusts guide to office energy efficiency? ● Is the Office on a green energy tariff? <p>Single use plastic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do we reduce office plastic use? ● Can we remove single use water/hot drink cups? <p>Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do we reduce office paper use? ● Can we adopt truncated meeting agendas? <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is it possible to reduce office water use? <p>Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is it possible to increase office recycling? ● Can PCC become a terracycle (recycling) hub? <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do we build sustainability and protection of biodiversity into our event planning? <p>To develop and implement an Environmentally Friendly Office Action Plan, recording measures and reporting quarterly to the Biodiversity Subcommittee.</p> <p>To record carbon emissions and calculate the council’s carbon footprint, outlining any areas for setting targets to be improved.</p> <p>Collaborate with Torfaen Council on the implementation of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.</p>

<p>NRAP Objective 2: <i>raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance.</i></p> <p>I. Collaborations and partnership working across environmental groups.</p> <p>II. The Community Council continues hosting an annual Environmental Quiz for the local primary schools.</p> <p>III. The Community Council continues to organise and fund annual Forest Schools for primary school-age children.</p> <p>IV. The Community Council will invite local environment and nature focused groups to attend the main annual event - Party in the Park 2026.</p> <p>V. The Community Council will attend the Local Nature Partnership ‘Go Wild’ event in Pontypool in 2026.</p> <p>VI. The Community Council continues to take a proactive approach in sharing social media content from local and national groups to raise awareness and promote opportunities to engage with nature.</p> <p>VII. Grants are available to local schools to support environmental initiatives and projects.</p> <p>VIII. Grants are available to local community groups to support green initiatives and projects.</p>	<p>Action/s:</p> <p>I. To sustain relationships and collaborations with various environmental groups.</p> <p>Continue attending SEECT (Schools Environment Education Collaboration Torfaen) meetings.</p> <p>To develop partnership working with other town and community councils to share good practices.</p> <p>II. Environmental Quiz - Business as usual, no additional action required.</p> <p>To develop a Torfaen (County Borough) wide Eco Championships in collaboration with other town/community councils.</p> <p>III. Forest Schools - Business as usual, no additional action required.</p> <p>IV. Party in the Park - Business as usual, no additional action required.</p> <p>V. Go Wild: liaise with relevant bodies to book a stall.</p> <p>VI. Social media - Business as usual, no additional action required.</p> <p>VII. Environmental School Awards - Business as usual, in spring of 2026 a presentation afternoon will be arranged for schools to share their projects.</p> <p>VIII. Green Community Grants – advertise and award local community groups and include in schools’ presentation afternoon to share projects.</p>
<p>NRAP Objective 3: <i>safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.</i></p> <p>I. The Community Council leases a small parcel of land in the Pontypool area, and this has been identified as</p>	<p>Action/s:</p> <p>I. Create and implement a short – long term plan for developing the Varteg Community</p>

<p>having diverse habitats as listed in the Section 7 biodiversity list of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.</p> <p>II. In conjunction with TCBC and other partners the Community Council will support the development and implementation of a management plan for the site to protect and enhance its biodiversity.</p>	<p>Woodland in collaboration with environment groups such as ‘Stump up for Trees’ and ‘Gwent Wildlife Trust’.</p> <p>II. Develop plan to implement the siting of bird, owl and bat boxes and a reptile hibernaculum on Varteg Community Woodland.</p> <p>Collaborate with Stump Up for Trees and Gwent Wildlife Trust to explore opportunities for partnership working on the project.</p>
<p>NRAP Objective 4: <i>increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring habitats and creating habitats.</i></p> <p>I. The Community Council will expand on the installation of Swift nest boxes in Pontypool and district. This project aims to include a live web stream of the boxes hosted on the PCC website.</p> <p>II. The Community Council will engage with local partners to provide opportunities to build your own bird / bat boxes and bug hotels or will provide wildflowers / pollinator / butterfly packs / bat boxes / bird boxes / bug hotels as giveaway prizes.</p> <p>III. The Community Council is in the process of building relationships with local nature & environmental groups with the aspiration to support new and develop existing community projects and has set aside capital to do so.</p>	<p>Action/S:</p> <p>I. Develop and implement Swift Box phase 2 of the Project, with the aim of long term and sustainable plans to further develop across Pontypool and district.</p> <p>To work in partnership with Local Places for Nature (LPfN) to engage with local schools on the swift project, providing swift resource packs.</p> <p>II. Events, prizes and giveaways - and when appropriate. For example local businesses sponsoring nature projects.</p> <p>Liaise with the Events Committee to understand opportunities for collaboration such as Gardening, Photography, Poetry Competitions (if nature based).</p> <p>III. Maintain good working relationships with Friends of the Earth Torfaen, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Climate Action Torfaen, The Canal and River Trust, Cwmbran CC Climate and Biodiversity lead and School’s Eco-Councils to arrange informal meetings.</p>
<p>NRAP Objective 5: <i>tackle key pressures on species and habitats.</i></p> <p>I. The Community Council to continue to build relationships with local nature & environmental groups with the aspiration to support new and develop existing community projects and has set aside capital to do so.</p> <p>II. In conjunction with TCBC and other organisations in</p>	<p>Action/s:</p> <p>I. Develop and maintain working relationships, to include hosting a half-yearly Biodiversity and Environmental Community Council across Gwent forum.</p> <p>II. Continue to explore opportunities to support</p>

<p>network, the Community Council will explore opportunities to support the development of the orchards within the Pontypool area.</p> <p>III. The Community Council aims to become a ‘bee friendly town’, meeting all the requirements for the bee town status.</p> <p>IV. The Community Council will implement phase 2 of the project to install Swift nest boxes in Pontypool and district. This project aims to include a live web stream of the boxes hosted on the PCC website.</p> <p>V. The Community Council aims to work in partnership with the Butterfly Conservation, becoming a Wales town/district of the national project.</p> <p>VI. The Community Council will install bird and bat boxes at the Varteg Community Woodland to support biodiversity.</p> <p>VII. The Community Council has established a Biodiversity and Sustainability Subcommittee to embed sustainability and support for biodiversity throughout the Council’s working practices. This includes nature projects, reducing office energy use, phasing out single use plastic, reducing water, reducing paper use including photocopying and encouraging recycling.</p> <p>III. The Community Council is promoting sustainability by building relationships with local groups that manage green spaces. Through these relationships, the Community Council is supporting groups managing these spaces in a way that safeguards species and habitats.</p> <p>IX. Implement the Tree Maintenance Plan, ensuring all the live trees planted are maintained.</p> <p>X. The Community Council will work with Gwent Wildlife Trust to institute a Pontypool based environmental Youth Group.</p>	<p>the development of community orchards.</p> <p>III. To scope the feasibility of becoming a bee friendly town and working in collaboration with GWT in implementing this project.</p> <p>IV. Further develop the Swift Box Project, subject to sponsorship and/or funding opportunities.</p> <p>V. In collaboration with the Butterfly Conservation, become part of the national project. Identify areas (green spaces) within Pontypool and district suitable to support the project.</p> <p>VI. As per the Varteg Community Woodland Project/Action Plan.</p> <p>VII. Recording measures and reporting quarterly to the Biodiversity and Environment Subcommittee on working towards becoming an environmentally friendly office.</p> <p>III. Maintain and further develop relationships across the environment sector.</p> <p>IX. Develop and implement maintenance and repair plans in collaboration with contractor/tree specialist.</p> <p>X. Develop and implement the second year of a three-year (longer term) plan.</p>
<p>NRAP Objective 6: <i>use, improve and share evidence.</i></p> <p>I. An Environment and Biodiversity page has been added to the PCC’s website to share details of projects and events.</p>	<p>I. Website - Business as usual, project updates to be included to webpage.</p>

<p>II. Recipients of the Schools Environmental Award and the Green Community Grant are invited to share information about their projects at the Council's Community Celebration Evening.</p>	<p>II. In addition to the Celebration Evening, a presentation afternoon to be arranged where award holders can present/share their projects.</p>
<p>NRAP Objective 7: <i>support capacity for biodiversity and support its delivery.</i></p> <p>I. The Community Council is committed to building and continuing relationships with local nature & environmental groups with the aspiration to support new and develop existing community projects and has set aside capital to do so.</p>	<p>Action/s:</p> <p>I. Working in collaborations and partnerships to deliver projects and initiatives regarding biodiversity and the environment.</p>
<p>Other</p>	