**CYNGOR CYMUNED**

**CILGERRAN**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Clerk: Mrs Valeria Varney

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**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6**

**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022**

**Introduction and Context**

Cilgerran Community Council is a small rural Council consisting of 12 Councillors and a Clerk. The Community of Cilgerran includes the parishes of Bridell, Llantood and Rhoshill.

Cilgerran village is on the northern border of Pembrokeshire, 3 miles south of Cardigan. The village is linear in nature and stretches along the south bank of the River Teifi.

The Wildlife Centre which stands within the Teifi Marshes Nature Reserve is a traffic free area with walking and cycle paths across the marshes where wildlife can be observed.

The Community Council is responsible for Parc Y Dre, a field of approximately 4 acres which was donated to the parish council in 1954. The field has a football pitch which is used regularly. The Community Council has facilitated, through the local Fruit and Nut Group, the enhancing of the waste scrub land at the rear of the pitch, and the transforming of it into a community garden. The planting of apple trees, fruit bushes, herbs and pollinator plants has created a sheltered and productive garden which is wildlife rich. There is a wildlife habitat area which includes bird boxes, bird feeders and bug hotels. The plants will increase pollination for the insect community. The grass cuttings from the football field are used in the compost heap. The allocated land has brought the community together and they are encouraged to volunteer in the shared project.

The village has a village green area, which is a large open space for the community to enjoy. The Community Council has previously planted various fruit trees on the edges of the green. Fruit trees have also been planted around the Youth Shelter~~,~~ which is near the school and MUGA.

Three old diseased trees on the green strip in the village centre have been replaced by three new flowering cherry trees.

The Community Council has discovered that an area of grass verge in the village is home to slow-worms, so that area of grass is trimmed but not cut short in order that they can be kept safe.

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| Action Carried Out: |  |
| Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement | The Council has adopted selection criteria for considering key decisions, which includes ensuring that biodiversity will be maintained and enhanced. |
| Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance | The Council will share information from other groups or agencies via FB community page and place posters in Notice Boards regarding biodiversity.  The importance of enhancing biodiversity will be made clear in any communication with the community. |
| Safeguard principal species and habitats | The Council is committed to the continuation of the development at the Fruit & Nut Garden at Parc Y Dre to safeguard the area for pollinators and plants. |
| Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks | The Council has supported the creation of the garden and will continue to support the project with future planting. |
| Tackle negative factors; for instance reducing pollution, using nature-based solutions, addressing invasive species | The Council employs a litter picker in their village working up to 4 hours per week. Also having the back up of volunteers. |
| Use, improve and share evidence | The Council will share information regarding biodiversity matters vis FB Community Page and notice boards.  The Council will act upon information received from outside agencies regarding the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. |
| Support capacity, and/or other organisations | The Council will look to continue to support the Fruit & Nut Group and other organisations that are involved in environmental projects.  Discussions with the Fruit & Nut Group to create new allotments, allowing for a communal boundary hedge to grow for later laying and permitting more trees to be planted in the hedgerow. |

**Review of Section 6 Duty**

The Community Council is aware that it needs to embed the idea of biodiversity into its thinking and will be taking steps to ensure that this can be achieved.

When considering donations and grants, the Community Council will be giving greater thought to the matter of biodiversity.

**How and when will the Section 6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan be reviewed?**

The Community Council will review the biodiversity duty annually at the Annual Meeting to ensure that developments are taking place.