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## *Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council*

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### **A Report of Actions relevant to Section 6 of Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

**Prepared November 2019 updated Dec 2021**

Section 6 of this Act requires that Pontyclun Community Council seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.

This is a report on actions of the Community Council and its partners which are relevant to this requirement.

In fulfilling this requirement Pontyclun Community Council recognises that its role is to facilitate and harness the contribution of many others including:

- Pontyclun residents,
- The volunteers of Pontyclun Environment Group,
- The volunteers of Pontyclun Community Garden
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
- Pontyclun businesses.

### **Pontyclun Environment Group**

The Community Council supports and work closely with the Environment Group.

This is a group of residents whose activities have included:

- Establishing and maintaining the riverside walk along the River Ely from Brynsadler to Pontyclun on land leased by the Community Council
- Managing the containment of knotweed and balsam along the riverside with the effect of widening the bio diversity of the area
- Working with Llais y Goedwig to optimise the health of the woodland areas on the land leased from the Community Council optimising the trees, plants, birds and animal species they support
- Coordinating the input of volunteer residents in undertaking litter picks throughout the Pontyclun Community recognising that litter free areas host bio diversity and foster community appreciation of local eco-systems
- Organising local walks with the county ecologist so that residents can better understand and appreciate the diversity of the local eco-systems

## **Pontyclun Community Garden**

The Community Council supports and work closely with the Community Garden

Pontyclun Community Garden is a group of volunteer residents who have established and maintained a community garden within the Pontyclun Park which is provided by Pontyclun Community Council.

The Community Garden includes

- Insect friendly flowers and vegetables
- Bug hotel
- Bees nest
- Composting

## **Working with Local Schools**

The Community Councils seeks to support and work closely with local schools.

### Refill Pontyclun

Pontyclun school children made agreements with local retailers that tap water will be provided to children bringing their own bottles. The effect is to reduce the use of plastic and reduce the littering of plastic bottles.

The Community Council formalised these arrangements through the launch of a “Refill Pontyclun” scheme. This scheme currently has 21 local businesses as members.

### Pontyclun Christmas Tree

In 2019 to encourage discussion on and the reuse and recycling of plastic waste the Council decided to decorate the Community Christmas Tree with waste plastic.

Local schools were asked to create garlands or paint empty plastic bottles which were then used to decorate our community tree.

## **Working with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

The Community Council seeks to support and work closely with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

RCT Council has innovated in the development of a grass cutting and collecting machine which allows vegetation a long growing season before it is cut and collected so as to foster local eco-systems and encourage greater bio diversity.

Pontyclun Community Council worked with RCT Council to identify and reserve sites for this ‘hay cut’ regime. The sites include:

- A half-acre of land along the perimeter of Pontyclun Park which is owned by the Community Council

- 5 acres of land on the top end of the cycle path which runs from Pontyclun Railway Station to the A473
- 20 acres of land enclosed by Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy
- Land in on Cowbridge Road, Talygarn and by the motorway Talygarn Drive
- In 2021 additional land near Heol Brenin was also added to the regime

### **Pontyclun Community Council**

Pontyclun Community Council owns and maintains 5 acres of woodland at Ivor Woods. Its woodland management is intended to increase bio-diversity and local eco-systems. Where safe, fallen branches and trees are left 'in-situ' or cut branches are placed in piles to encourage wild life. Where possible, the canopy is managed to control light and encourage bio-diversity.

The Community Council, as an agent of RCT Council, maintains 20 miles of public right of ways. In managing overgrowth and clearing litter, avoiding chemical interventions, the Council fosters bio-diversity and local eco-systems.

Our floral displays specifically use "Pollinator friendly" flowers in our hanging baskets.

The Community Council has a 'bee friendly' designation.

To encourage recycling the Council runs a Crisp packet recycling scheme in the Community with drop off locations at Café 50 and the Pontyclun Library. St Paul's Church will be added in early 2022. By the end of 2021 over 25000 crisp packets had been recycled using this scheme.

With regards to its administration, paper purchased for use in the Office is PEFC certified from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources. It is also Chlorine free

The Council replaces light bulbs with LED ones when then need changing and recently replaced the bulk of the lighting in Café 50 with LED lights, reducing the number of light bulbs by nearly 60 during the process.

The Council seeks to promote and encourage biodiversity and habitats for pollinators and insects. To do this we

1. Since 2017 we have operated a Hay cut regime in a section of our Park
2. In 2020 we started to leave the area of ground to the side of Café 50 in Pontyclun uncut (approx. 3m by 10m) and an area of ground at the Hollies uncut. (This area is approx. 10m by 20m)
3. In 2021 we also started to leave the land around the Car park in Heol Orsaf uncut (approx. 40sqm)
4. In 2019 we were asked by residents to look at installing additional fencing/gates at the park and as a result we planted new sections of hedging at the Park boundary (rather than metal or wooden fencing)
5. In 2020 we signed up to the Hedgehog Heroes scheme

6. In 2021 we also changed our recycling to start using the Co-op soft plastic recycling scheme and are arranging for our caterers to use the RCT food recycling scheme.

### **Groesfaen Gwyrdd**

We supported this new volunteer led organisation in Groesfaen to set up and start activities in 2020.

Their purpose is to make Groesfaen a better place to live by taking action to improve the environment and encourage local participation.

We supported them to acquire a "Pollinator garden" under the Local Places for Nature scheme and also to plant a number of Pollinator friendly bushes on local waste land which they have transformed into a community garden.