

CYNGOR CYMUNED **CWARTER BACH** COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENTAL / BIODIVERSITY POLICY

This policy was adopted by Cwarter Bach Community Council on 18th July 2023

Reviewed May 2024

Introduction

Cwarter Bach Community Council is committed to providing a quality service in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace and community for our employees, volunteers and residents whilst minimising our potential impact on the environment. We will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and we will strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practices in all we do.

Cwarter Bach Community Council recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing Biodiversity. As a Community Council, we have our areas of land to manage and we also work closely with Carmarthenshire County Council in managing and maintaining the areas of public land within our communities.

Section 6, The Welsh Government's Environment Act 2016 places a duty on Town and Community Councils to seek to enhance and maintain Biodiversity within our communities. Managing areas for wildlife can provide opportunities for community groups, volunteers and schools to become involved – thus contributing to their health and wellbeing. The healthier the natural environment around us is, with a variety of habitats and species, the more resilient it becomes.

1. Policy Statement

This policy is intended to outline our responsibilities and our aims in enhancing and maintaining biodiversity in the Brynaman, Carter Bach and Llynfell Wards. It is essential that appropriate guidance is sought and that the Councillors, Clerk and those doing work on behalf of the Council work with partners to benefit and enhance the biodiversity in the area.

2. Scope of the policy

All those who carry out maintenance and the elected members are expected to promote the principles of this policy and endeavour to ensure that sufficient funding and resource is made available to sustain it.

3. Responsibility for implementation of the policy

The Council has overall responsibility for the effective operation of the policy.

4. Aims and Responsibilities

The Council recognises the importance in incorporating actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity at every opportunity and commits to the following:

- To embed biodiversity in everything that we do.
- Promote biodiversity awareness among our employees and volunteers to encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner
- Train, educate and inform our employees and volunteers about environmental issues that may affect their work
- To ensure that goods and services are sourced from sustainable and ethical suppliers.
- Reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable or refurbished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable.
- To raise community awareness of biodiversity issues and create opportunities for community engagement.
- To safeguard any special sites and species and improve their management.
- To restore, create and manage habitats.
- To tackle pollution and any invasive plant species.

- To use and collect evidence of biodiversity.
- Avoid unnecessary use of hazardous materials and products, seek substitutions when feasible, and take all reasonable steps to protect human health and the environment when such materials must be used, stored and disposed of.
- To use pesticides only when necessary and then in a targeted application only.
- Where required by legislation or where significant health, safety or environmental hazards exist, develop and maintain appropriate emergency and spill response programmes.
- To consider sustainability and biodiversity issues in any decision-making.
- To work with partners such as Carmarthenshire County Council, Local Places for Nature, Wrenvale Nurseries and Quids In to ensure biodiversity is enhanced throughout the Community Councils Wards.

5. Monitoring and review of this policy

A biodiversity report will be approved and published on an annual basis and the Council as a whole is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the policy and making recommendations for work that may be undertaken in support of the policy.