



## **Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn Biodiversity report 2025-2028**

### **Scope**

Community Council requirement for reporting biodiversity measures and monitoring. Set within requirements of "Environment, (Wales) Act 2016, Part 1-Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty".

The aim of this report and biodiversity report produced previously and accepted at scheduled meetings in 2019 and 2022 by councillors aims to support biodiversity in the administration area of the Community Council and work in collaboration with other authorities and organisations.

### **Background**

Penyrheol Trecenydd Energlyn (PTE) Community Council area covers a large ward, with principal areas of residential housing and smaller, light commerce and industrial units. Additionally, the area still has agricultural farms and large open amenity areas and common land. Main housing areas include Penyrheol, Trecenydd, Castell Maen, Energlyn and Glenfields.

The area has previously been heavily industrialised with extraction industry, manufacturing factories, transportation networks for cargo and periods of inward migration of a high order.

The ward area has remediated the majority of heavy industrial legacies and has become a cleaner, greener area. Currently, pressure for land management and development is key and brings new pressures on environment, communities and biodiversity.

### **Observations and discussion**

#### NRAP Objectives

1. Great efforts have been made in recent years to raise the level of understanding of biodiversity issues in the community. School

projects, community events, training workshops by Cllrs and a partnership with Caerphilly Eco Hub and Nature, Nurture Caerphilly has been conducted.

2. Supporting and safeguarding species and natural habitats is a key objective by Cllrs with liaison and involvement of other bodies and authorities. Such include bird species monitoring, objection or observations on planning applications and candidate sites for LDP.
3. Maintenance of green buffer zones and corridors in between conurbations.
4. Protection of common land.
5. Landfill monitoring and remediation requirements.
6. Reduction in vehicle usage by efficient transport, (public and private).
7. Waterways clearing and invasive plants species removal to beds and borders to watercourses.
8. Contaminated waste and fly tipping issues at specific locations.
9. The Community Council has supported a challenge and remediation of large-scale contaminated waste on farmland and common land via NRW awareness and complaint. Subsequent legal proceedings completed and pending. Recovery of some remediation costs via proceeds of crime processes.
10. Contaminated runoff and leaching from remediated waste tip into public areas and then into receptor water courses reported and followed up as an ongoing challenge.
11. Close monitoring and involvement of solar farm in mountain plateau area bordering agricultural and common land to control impacts on biodiversity.
12. Challenge to loss of Greenfields in areas for residential development in preference to County Council policy of Brownfield first development sites.
13. Plantation of community orchard in Hendredenny.

14. Partnership with Eco Hub Caerphilly, (Nature Nurture Caerphilly) project by PTE. Development of school biodiversity projects, workshops, planting out in community settings, (nine areas). Project utilising Community Infrastructure Levy funds and runs from October 2024 to summer 2026.
15. Liaison with Carbon reduction team within CCBC.
16. Challenge to motor vehicle access to parks, common land and mountain areas involving Police and CCBC.
17. Change to LED lighting and Xmas decorations.
18. Nighttime switch-off of street lighting in residential areas. Reducing light pollution and impact on species.
19. Cessation of dirt track project for cyclists due to tree protection and mature area potential damage.
20. Liaison and communication or reporting to several organisations and bodies on relevant issues. This includes CCBC, NRW, County Councillors, Gwent Police, South Wales Police, Regional Senedd, Cadw, members of other community councils of neighbouring PTE area, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Council, Planning authority, Highway Authority and Welsh Government. Additionally, Ramblers SE Wales, ECO Hub Caerphilly, Groundwork Wales, Rivers Trust and Gelligaer and Merthyr Common group and National Landfill Campaign. Also, Plaid Cymru environmental education workshops for Cllrs/members.
21. Sharing and liaison with SWFRS on wildfires and risk profiles, access and education programs.
22. Support to local allotment associations with grant aid.
23. Frequent litter picking events in different areas and support to community litter picking parties.
24. Liaison with CCBC and support from Parks departments on policies on mowing frequency and fallow areas. Plus, weeding and grubbing out of specific areas and chemicals used by cleansing teams.
25. Monitoring, clearing and protection of rights of way across ward area.

26. Support to three foodbanks to reduce food poverty and utilise agricultural/manufactured food sources.
27. Grants awarded to various organisations and commitment encouraged towards biodiversity in their activities.
28. Advice and guidance from CCBC, NRW and One Voice Wales on carbon reduction, environment and biodiversity.

### **Action points**

1. Monitor, comment or object to planning applications.
2. Examine, monitor and raise complaint/observation on candidate sites and LDP development.
3. Seek further remediation of landfill sites, contaminated land and waste management.
4. Reduce fly tipping activity and seek prosecutions with partner agencies.
5. Utilisation of CCTV, drones, strategic or mobile cameras to identify changes in areas development or specific issues.
6. Reduce flooding and wildfire risks with partner agencies.
7. Reduce risk and damage by vehicles off road and on open amenity areas, common land and parks working with partner agencies.
8. Continue partnership on eco project and seek further financial support and community engagement.
9. Continue school environmental projects/workshops to increase education and awareness on biodiversity issues.
10. Via National groups, Senedd members and Governments seek review of Environmental Protection Legislation.
11. Further projects to establish bird, bats and small vertebrates nest boxes in fringes to woods and forests.

12. Media and awareness of PTE efforts on biodiversity and how community can engage and support.
13. Opportunities of educational activities, schools, Cllrs, businesses, land managers and farmers.
14. Lobby for infrastructure improvements to reduce congestion and impact on air quality. Or seek to offer alternatives to private transport usage i.e. active travel and interlinking of systems.
15. Identify further land areas for development with trees, shrubs and perennial plants to offer biodiversity improvement, aesthetic view and carbon reduction.
16. Encourage recognition of Planning Policy Wales Placemaking principles. Specifically, "refurbish, repurpose, reuse" existing premises rather than demolition and new build. To reduce carbon footprints of developments.
17. Building developments must be approved and balanced against community needs and environmental impacts. Cllrs must lead and monitor such development as community and biodiversity leaders.