

Section 6 biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty

Planning template

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6</i> <i>The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty</i> <i>Plan 2026</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Name of Public Authority Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction and Context</p> <p>Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council represents people of our local area at the grass roots level and covers five wards – Abertillery, Aberbeeg, Brinithel, Cwmtillery, Llanhilleth, Six Bells and Swffrydd. We have approximately 11,422 people on the electoral register. - For the 2023/45 financial year, council had an overall budget of £376,451 and a precept of £289,000. For the 2024/25 financial year, council had an overall budget of £431,131 with a precept of £381,131. For 2025/26, council has a budget of £464,023 with a precept of £434,023. - ALCC is not responsible for any land, buildings or playgrounds. However, we always look to incorporate biodiversity into our decision making and look to integrate it into our policy making.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Plan Action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Engage council in activities related to improving biodiversity in our area2) Show current projects on Council website3) Encourage volunteer groups engagement in activities4) Support activities via grant funding where appropriate5) Provide enhanced publicity to the biodiversity activities
<p>NRAP Aim 1: Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.</p>

Support activities at St Illtyd to remove thatch from churchyard

Support efforts to control ingress of bramble in churchyard

Support efforts to control ingress of ivy over gravestones and walls

Support efforts to encourage development of wildflower diversity by supporting annual cut/rake cycle

NRAP Aim 2: Safeguard species and improve their management.

Ensure areas of the churchyard are left undisturbed as habitat

Implement insect hotels, bird boxes and bat boxes in the grounds (bats are known to inhabit the church roof and elsewhere locally)

Implement a controlled cutting and raking regime (cutting in September/October)

Control ingress of swamping plants (ivy and bramble mainly, control sloe trees in north east corner)

Ensure grounds are suitable for improvement of fungi growth

NRAP Aim 3: Tackle key pressures on species, habitats and ecosystems.

Address lack of water on the site

Ensure range of habitat available – grass heaps, wood/branch heaps, undisturbed areas

Wall cavities not filled in

NRAP Aim 4: Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.

Establish single point of contact responsible for implementing the plan

Advertise need for volunteers at the church

Use and update plan of action to guide activities long term

Coordinate activities with local resources (Blaenau Gwent Rangers, Gwent Wildlife team, and others)

NRAP Aim 5: Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.

We must ensure that all grants, projects, tenders and decisions are reviewed and evaluated, to the best of our ability, in regards to their impact, or contributions towards our environment and biodiversity;

This could be locally, nationally or globally, (depending on circumstances)

We must ensure that if measures or decisions are taken (which are known or unknown at the time) that negatively effect biodiversity, the environment, or ecology, mitigations must be made to counter them or remedy where possible.

NRAP Aim 6: Improve our evidence and monitoring.

Successive bioblitzes and fungal monitoring activities show enhancement of range of species.

Wild flowers spread over all of churchyard

Visitors to churchyard express appreciation of the changes to the biodiversity