

Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council report on Section 6

Environment (Wales) Act

November 2019

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity duty which requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems in the exercise of their functions. Town and Community Councils are a public authority for the purposes of Section 6 and as such, we are required to comply with this duty.

The following report details our plan of actions which we propose to take to maintain and enhance biodiversity in our area.

While we do not own or maintain any parks, sports grounds or open spaces, we currently undertake the following projects/initiatives to improve the environment within Hirwaun and Penderyn:

- ❖ Centenary Fields – For the last three years we have worked with RCT and Fields in Trust to designate Yr Eithin, Penderyn and Y Cefndon, Hirwaun as Centenary Fields. By having this protection these open spaces are protected for generations to come.
- ❖ Tree Charter – In 2017 we became a Charter Branch for The Woodland Trust's Tree Charter initiative. In doing this we collected 939 signatures and The Woodland Trust then planted a tree for every signature collected. As part of this we distributed Leaf magazine in both villages to raise awareness on the work carried out by The Woodland Trust. Finally, we were allocated two tree charter trees which were planted in each village. We will continue to raise awareness of the importance of planting trees and undertake further projects with The Woodland Trust where possible.
- ❖ Bee Friendly – We have made a successful application to Welsh Government for the last 2 years to achieve Bee Friendly status. We are now working towards next year's application to build on what we have already achieved where we hope to seed bomb the local fire station's grass roof.
- ❖ Seed bomb event – For the last 2 years, to tie in with our Bee Friendly application we have run our seed bomb event for kids. At these events there has been the opportunity to make seed bombs of bee friendly flowers which the children could take home with them. We also had bumble bee, and pollinator arts and crafts for the children, and a local bee keeper gave a talk on the importance of bees – bringing a hive with him for the children to see.
- ❖ Garden Show – Each year we run our annual Garden Show where local gardeners can exhibit their home-grown vegetables and flowers. By encouraging local gardeners to grow and exhibit their produce this improves the local environment by providing food for pollinators.
- ❖ Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom – We have been running this competition for the last 2 years. This year we added a Bee Friendly back garden category in addition to our bee friendly front gardens. By encouraging residents to grow bee and pollinator friendly plants and flowers this will improve biodiversity in our area.

- ❖ Trees planted in Hirwaun – We have planted three cherry blossom trees and one copper birch tree in Hirwaun to improve the look of the village and enhance the environment.
- ❖ Flower baskets/planters in both villages – We have increased the number of flower baskets and planters, ensuring that the flowers in them are pollinator friendly. Our baskets and planters are a haven for Hoverflies.
- ❖ Daffodil bulbs in both villages – We planted daffodil bulbs in both villages, improving the environment for local residents.
- ❖ Wildflower seeds to schools – We have given Penderyn Primary School a large bag of wildflower seeds to plant at the school. This will provide pollinator friendly food, improve the environment and educate the children on the importance of pollinators to our environment. Hirwaun Primary is undertaking extensive renovation works at present but we hope to provide the same opportunity to them once the works are complete.
- ❖ Bug Hotels for schools – As part of our first Bee Friendly application both primary schools built bug hotels which were displayed at our Garden Show. Afterwards, they were returned to the schools where they remain providing a habitat for bugs.
- ❖ Walking Festival – Access to and engagement with the natural environment is associated with positive health outcomes including physical and mental health - local environmental projects advertised here such as Keep Wales Tidy, South Wales Community Mountain Rangers, grass fires, Natural Resources Wales, TIPical Valleys Project.
- ❖ Influencing others through grant funding for example e.g. grants to community groups and initiatives – We are open to grant applications from local groups to receive funds to improve the local environment.
- ❖ Influencing others through sharing environmental information on our Facebook page – We share all of our projects and initiatives on our Facebook page (and website). This raises awareness for residents as to what we are doing and encourages them to get involved.

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council will be responsible for ensuring that we continue with these in the future. We will also continue to add in extra environmental projects and initiatives where possible.

This plan will be reviewed every 3 years. Next plan due to be published November 2022.