



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

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MISSION STATEMENT

“Serving our community, preserving our identity.”

The Council will always strive to:

- Be open and accessible.
- Be accountable in all our Council activities.
- Be responsive to the needs of the community.
 - Encourage community participation.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Dear Residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis,

It gives me great pleasure, as Chair of Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council, to present our Annual Report for 2025-2026. This past year has been another busy and positive one for our communities, and I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved on behalf of residents. As a Council, we remain committed to serving our communities, preserving our identity, and ensuring that Bedlinog and Trelewis continue to be welcoming, supportive, and thriving places to live.

Throughout the year, we have delivered a wide range of projects, events, and initiatives that have brought people together and strengthened community spirit. Our weekly Community Hub in Bedlinog has continued to grow from strength to strength, helping to reduce isolation, provide support, and create valuable social connections for residents of all ages. I am particularly pleased that this year we were able to expand the initiative by launching an additional Community Hub day at Trelewis Community Centre, ensuring even more residents can benefit from these sessions closer to home. Our free transport, wellbeing activities, and partnership working with support organisations has made a real difference to many people within our community.

We were also proud to organise several successful community events during the year, including Glo in the Park, our Christmas Fayre, Summer Play Day, VE Day commemorations, and the Trelewis Cenotaph 100 Year Anniversary remembrance service. The commemorative service marking 100 years of the Trelewis Cenotaph was an especially important and moving occasion for our community. It was wonderful to see residents, school children, veterans, community representatives, and invited guests come together in such large numbers to remember and honour those who gave their lives in

service to our country. The event reflected the deep pride our community has in its history and heritage, and it was a privilege for the Council to help lead such a meaningful tribute during this significant milestone year.

The Council has continued investing in our community spaces and facilities. During the year, we completed significant improvements to the Trelewis Multi-Use Games Area, expanded allotment provision to support sustainable growing and biodiversity, and once again enhanced our villages through floral displays, street planters, hanging baskets, and Christmas lights.

Supporting local people has remained at the heart of everything we do. We have continued to provide grants to local organisations, schools, and community groups, whilst also helping residents through cost-of-living support initiatives and direct assistance during times of difficulty.

I am also delighted that the work of the Community Council received recognition at the One Voice Wales Awards, where we received commendations for governance, digital innovation, and our support for residents during the cost-of-living crisis. This recognition reflects the dedication and hard work of everyone involved.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Councillors, our Clerk, volunteers, partner organisations, and all those who contribute so much to community life in Bedlinog and Trelewis. Most importantly, I would like to thank our residents for their continued support, engagement, and encouragement throughout the year.

As we look ahead to 2026-2027, the Council remains committed to listening to residents and continuing to deliver positive improvements for our communities.

Thank you.

Councillor Richard Searl
Chair, Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK



As Clerk to Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council, I am pleased to support the publication of this Annual Report for 2025-2026. The past year has seen the Council continue to deliver projects and services that make a real difference in our community, whilst ensuring we meet our statutory responsibilities and maintain sound governance.

Behind the scenes, much work has been carried out to ensure the Council operates transparently and efficiently. This has included supporting Councillors in their decision-making, managing the Council's finances responsibly, and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. I am also proud to have supported the Council in securing and administering funding that has enabled local initiatives and community events to take place.

I would like to thank the Chair and Community Councillors for their commitment and dedication, as well as community volunteers and partner organisations who have worked alongside us to achieve positive outcomes for Bedlinog and Trelewis.

Most importantly, I would like to thank residents for their continued engagement and support, your input helps shape the priorities and actions of the Council.

I look forward to continuing to support the Council in delivering for our communities in the 2026-2027 year ahead.

Ryan James

Clerk to Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

CONTEXT

During the year 2025/26, the Council comprised of 9 Councillors who volunteered and were fully committed to representing the residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis, providing them with services and facilities designed to enhance the social and environmental well-being of the community. The Councillors who were in office during the year were as follows:



Cllr Richard Searl



Cllr Jeff Beard



Cllr Sherelle Jago



Cllr Gillian Preston



Cllr Deborah Brown



Cllr Ian Thomas



Cllr Vanessa Matthews



Cllr Christopher Frayne



Cllr Edward Dawson

Contact details of Councillors are available via the following link:

<https://bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales/councillors/>

The Council has a standing HR Committee. Members of the Committee during the year were:

- Councillor Jeff Beard (Chair)
- Councillor Richard Searl
- Councillor Vanessa Matthews (Vice Chair)

The Council has a standing Events and Consultation Committee. Members of the Committee during the year were:

- Councillor Deborah Brown (Chair)
- Councillor Gillian Preston
- Councillor Vanessa Matthews
- Volunteers Cathy Searl, Christina Jones, Roxanne Richardson, and Diane Land.

The Council had representatives on several outside body committees as follows:

- Taf Bargoed Learning Partnership - Councillor Sherelle Jago (Community Council Governor)
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Standards Committee - Councillor Jeff Beard
- One Voice Wales Area Committee - Councillor Edward Dawson, and Councillor Deborah Brown.
- Taf Bargoed Partnership Board - Councillor Gillian Preston, Councillor Jeff Beard, and the Clerk to the Council.

The Council has a member champion for biodiversity - Councillor Edward Dawson.

The main contact for all Council business is Ryan James, Clerk to the Council:

clerk@bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on 31 March 2026 is summarised as follows:

	£
Balances brought forward from 2024/25	16897
Income from local taxation	40314
Receipts other than from local taxation	64014
Sub-Total	121225
Staff Costs	21020
Total of all other Payments	76775
Sub-Total	97795
BALANCE C/FWD IN TO 2026/27	23429

The value of fixed assets of the Council is £282,031.19.

An independent auditor has internally audited the accounts.

The accounts have been submitted to Audit Wales, and an audit opinion will be received later in the year. They must, therefore, be regarded as 'Not yet Audited.'

The Council's finances are monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), the Clerk. The Council publishes all payments and schedules taken to Full Council every month on our website, and Council approves the payments. Full Council also monitors the budget. At the end of the financial year, a balance sheet is prepared by the RFO, and Full Council approves this before it is passed for audit.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Community Council has a charter in place with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - it sets out the way in which both aim to work together for the good of the communities of Bedlinog and Trelewis whilst recognising their respective responsibilities as statutory bodies.

A representative of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council also acts as Liaison Officer modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and County Councils.

The Community Council are consulted on planning applications in Bedlinog and Trelewis and represent the community in responding to these applications based on residents' feedback, and Councillor's thoughts on the best course of action for the community.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Code.

TRAINING

The Council has a statutory duty under section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to implement a plan setting out what it proposes to do to address the training needs of its Councillors and staff.

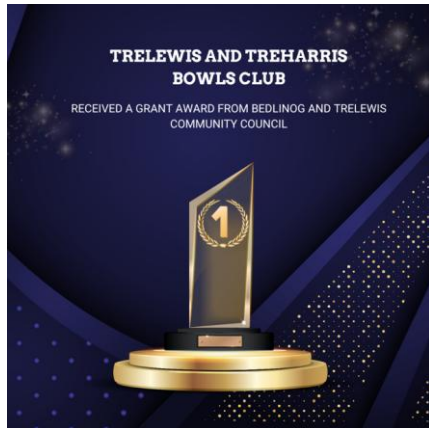
The purpose of the training plan is designed to ensure that collectively, Councillors and staff, possess the knowledge and awareness needed for the Council to operate effectively. It is not necessary for all Councillors and staff to have received the same training and develop the same expertise.

In October 2022, the Council published its Training Plan 2022-2027, to reflect the training needs of the Council. This is reviewed on an annual basis.

GRANTS

During 2025-2026, Council awarded the following grants to community organisations:

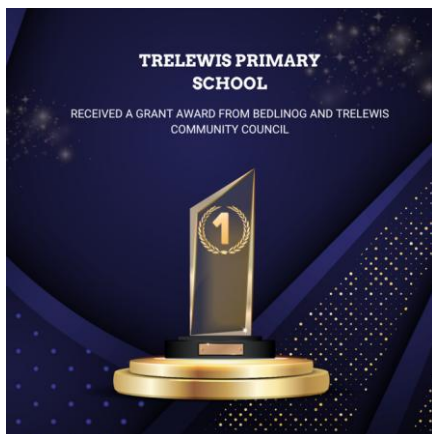
- **Trelewis and Treharris Bowls Club** - to support costs towards a digital score board.



- **Foxes Family School Partnership** - providing funding for a children's play day.



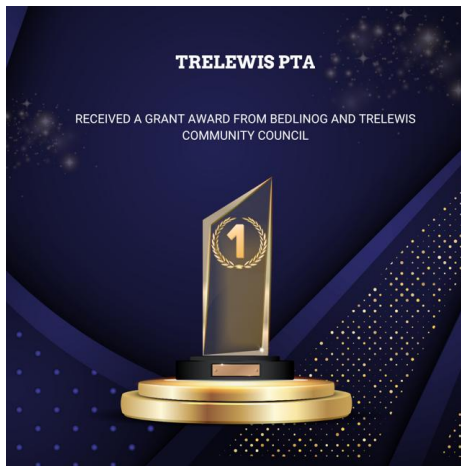
- **Trelewis Primary School** - funding towards rugby training tops for the children.



- **Bedlinog RFC Mini's** - to purchase training equipment.



- **Trelewis PTA** - to support them with materials for regenerating the school bridge.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2025/26

Social Media

The Council regularly updates residents on its work via social media. You can follow our work via the following social media channels:

Facebook: @BTComCouncil

Instagram: @BTComCouncil

X: @BTComCouncil

Community Hub

Our weekly Community Hub continues to be a vital part of life in Bedlinog and Trelewis, offering bingo, friendly conversation, free refreshments, and access to support services in a warm and welcoming setting. The free bus from Trelewis is well used and ensures that

everyone can take part, remove transport barriers and help to bring people together. We have more residents attending the Thursday Hub at Bedlinog Community Centre than Bedlinog residents, so the free bus is being fully utilised. More than just a social gathering, the Hub plays a significant role in tackling social isolation, strengthening community connections, and providing a central space that residents look forward to each week. Its success reflects the value of creating opportunities where people can feel supported, included, and part of a thriving community. In 2025/26 we extended the hub to Trelewis Community Centre. We would like to thank Adam, and the team at Trelewis Community Centre, for all their support in making this a success. Join us Tuesday's 1-3pm at Trelewis Community Centre, and Thursday's 2-4pm at Bedlinog Community Centre. We have also introduced light chair exercises for residents that attend to improve their health and wellbeing.



It has also been fantastic to partner with Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil. Ian, Community Coordinator from VAMT, regularly attends our hubs in both Bedlinog and Trelewis to offer over 50 support to residents, signposting them to any additional services they may need, offering befriending services, and carer support.

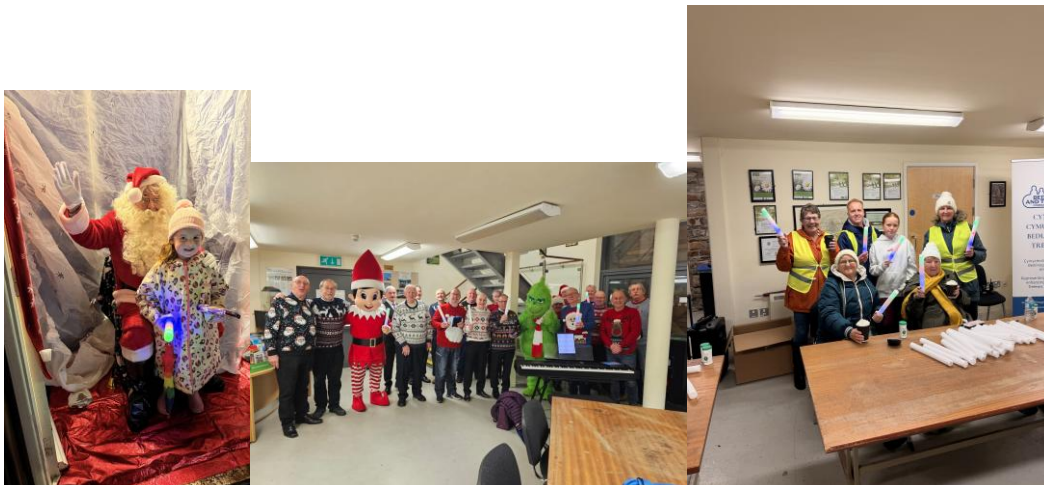


Glo in the Park

In November 2025 we proudly organised our second much-loved *Glo in the Park* event at Taf Bargoed Park. Whilst the weather was against us initially, it soon dried up and the event was a tremendous success, attracting over 350 attendees and bringing families together to celebrate the festive season.

Children once again lit up the park with their glo sticks, creating a magical atmosphere, and enjoyed a visit to Santa's grotto where each received a selection box. The evening was made even more special with a wonderful performance by the Treharris Male Voice Choir, adding festive cheer to the celebrations.

Glo in the Park was a tremendously successful and enjoyable family event, strengthening community spirit and creating lasting memories for all who attended.



Christmas Fayre

For the second year, we hosted our annual Christmas Fayre at the RockUK Summit Centre. The event was a fantastic success, drawing an excellent turnout and bringing the community together to celebrate the season.

To make sure everyone could join in, we provided free return transport, helping residents get to and from the venue with ease. The fayre itself was packed with festive cheer – from Christmas activities, a lively tombola, and a magical grotto where children visited Father Christmas for their treats, to entertainment from Treharmony Choir, crafts, a visit from the Christmas Alpaca's, and face painting that kept families smiling throughout the event.

The event also highlighted a wide range of local businesses and stalls, giving people the chance to buy unique gifts and support traders within our community.



Summer Play Day

During the financial year, the Council proudly organised its first Summer Play Day to celebrate National Play Day on Wednesday 6th August 2025 at Rock UK Summit Centre. The free event was a tremendous success, bringing families and the community together for a day filled with fun and enjoyment. Activities included mascots, candy floss, hook a duck, bouncy castles, bowls, soft play, crafts, face painting, climbing, high ropes, a tombola, and many other attractions for children and families to enjoy. With beautiful weather throughout the day, the event created a wonderful atmosphere and provided another opportunity for families within the community to come together and make lasting memories.



Allotment Improvement

As part of our ongoing mission to increase biodiversity and support sustainable growing in the community, the Council delivered several further key improvements during 2025-26. We have increased the number of allotment beds at Bedlinog Bowls Pavilion following a demand for more residents to have a facility to grow their own food. We also invested in improvements to other existing allotment sites, including the addition of secure storage facilities for tools and seeds, helping local growers to work more confidently and safely.

These initiatives are part of our wider commitment to creating greener, healthier, and more resilient community spaces for residents to enjoy.

Trelewis Cenotaph 100 Year Anniversary

The Council was honoured to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Trelewis Cenotaph with a special remembrance service attended by members of the community and invited guests. Wreaths were laid in tribute to those who gave their lives in service, and the service was led by Father Gareth Coombes. Hymns were beautifully performed by Treharris Male Voice Choir, creating a moving and reflective atmosphere throughout the ceremony. Residents, Community Councillors, school children, Gerald Jones MP, Dawn Bowden MS, Lord Lieutenant Peter Vaughan, Mayor Cllr Paula Layton, and councillors all gathered to pay their respects and mark this significant milestone. The service was a beautiful and meaningful act of remembrance, reflecting the community's continued respect and gratitude for those who served.



VE Day 80 Year Anniversary

The Council was also proud to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day with a special celebration for residents. The event brought the community together to

commemorate this important occasion through an afternoon tea, music, and remembrance celebrations, creating an opportunity for residents to reflect on the sacrifices made during the Second World War while also enjoying an afternoon of companionship and community spirit. The commemorative event was warmly received and provided a fitting tribute to those who served and sacrificed for future generations.



Christmas Lights

We once again installed Christmas lights around Bedlinog and Trelewis. As always, it was fantastic to bring some festive cheer to the community.

Street Planters and lamppost baskets

Our street planters and lamppost baskets were once again 'blooming' with colour throughout Bedlinog and Trelewis. As well as increasing biodiversity, it improves the look of the community and brings some colour and brightens up Summer.



Award Recognition

We were delighted that the Community Council's work was once again recognised at the One Voice Wales Annual Awards, where we received three separate commendations for our efforts on behalf of residents.

- Commended for Best Governance Initiative - recognising the strength of our governance setup, ensuring that the Council operates in a clear, accountable, and effective way.
- Commended for Best Use of Digital Resources - highlighting our successful implementation of digital systems to hold hybrid council meetings, making our work more open and accessible to the community.
- Highly Commended for Best Initiative Addressing the Cost-of-Living Crisis - acknowledging our continued commitment to supporting residents in challenging times. This included running a weekly community hub, providing free hot food, refreshments, and transport, delivering Cozy Corner and Winter Warm Packs, and offering access to support services. We also supported residents directly affected by the Trelewis floods, providing a £50 support payment to help them recover.

This recognition reflects the Council's dedication to good governance, innovation, and practical support that makes a real difference in our community.



Trelewis Multi-Use Games Area

The Community Council was delighted to complete the works at the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Mackintosh Terrace, Trelewis, a project which has been several years in the making. Through securing funding from a variety of sources, the Community Council was able to carry out essential resurfacing works following fire damage, as well as new line marking to improve the facility for community use. Additional funding has also been secured for the installation of goal posts, with the long-term aim of continuing to redevelop and enhance the area for children and young people within the community. We also took the opportunity of the good weather over the School Summer holidays to arrange football training sessions for our young people in Bedlinog and Trelewis, making use of this redeveloped facility.

Community Issues

Community Councillors have continued to deal with several issues on behalf of residents over the year, some of these include:

- Public transport
- Litter bins
- Street cleansing
- Potholes
- Overgrown vegetation
- Road signage
- Parking issues
- Green path/safe route to school improvements

Organisations with which we have worked.

Over the year, we have worked with several organisations for the benefit of residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis, including:

- Llais
- Groundwork Wales
- Merthyr Valleys Homes
- Trelewis Community Centre
- Multiply Merthyr Tydfil
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- One Voice Wales
- Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- South Wales Police
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- Dwr Cymru
- Transport for Wales
- Bedlinog Youth Club
- Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association
- RockUK Summit Centre
- Taf Bargoed Learning Partnership
- Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for managing various assets and services. A full list of Council assets can be found on our website.

[Asset register](#)

BIODIVERSITY PLAN

The Community Council provides a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity. It provides allotment facilities where biodiversity can be enriched, with land cultivated to produce vegetables, fruit, and flowers. As well as planting pollinators throughout Bedlinog and Trelewis.

In everything we do, we look to:

- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Use energy more efficiently.
- Switch to low carbon fuels.
- Prepare for climate change.
- Embed consideration for biodiversity and carbon footprint into procurement protocols.
- Ensure no negative impacts on protected species and the environment.
- Plant natural pollinators wherever possible and native friendly bedding plants.

Our Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6, report can be found in Appendix 1.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026/27

Following our annual budget consultation with residents, we have put in place a Strategic Action Plan for the forthcoming year 2026/27. This Strategic Plan outlines the Community Council's priorities for April 2026 – March 2027, shaped by resident consultation and budget feedback. Each Strategic Aim includes measurable KPIs and quarterly delivery milestones. These priorities are in addition to our ongoing work such as Community Events, Allotment Improvement, Food Pantry, Digital Skills, and the weekly Community Hub. These plans reflect our ongoing commitment to building stronger, greener, safer, and more connected communities, celebrating local heritage, and creating opportunities for everyone to take part in community life.

The full plan is available on our website, but our aims in summary are:

- Recreation & Green Spaces
- Partnership Working
- Young People Activities
- Older People Activities
- Healthy Neighbourhoods

APPENDIX 1



Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025	
Name of Community or Town Council	Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council
Group	2
Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council (BTCC) covers two ward areas, Bedlinog and Trelewis, with 1723 dwellings. Our precept for 2024/2025 was £40,314. BTCC currently has 9 Councillors and employs a part-time Clerk, and a Caretaker. BTCC owns Bedlinog Community Centre, and manages Bedlinog Allotments, Manor View Allotments, the 'Kickabout Area' at the rear of Hylton Terrace, and Trelewis MUGA Mackintosh Street, twenty-eight hanging baskets and fifteen street planters. Prior to the sinking of its collieries in the 1870's, Bedlinog was a small farming community called Cwmfelin (Mill Valley). It was triangular with three quite separate clusters of cottages. At one end of the base lay Cwmfelin, near where a chapel, Salem (1830) was built and where the village square and Inn soon appeared. About a mile away, another small settlement known as Coli, housed the early miners who worked in the small drifts driven into the mountain side. Near the top of the hill was Llwyn Crwyn (Round Grove) where Bedlinog colliery was sunk in 1874. In the following years Bedlinog grew into a close-knit community of miners and their families; the village itself expanded rapidly with public houses, schools and places of worship being built. Prior to the sinking of its collieries in the 1870's, Bedlinog was a small farming community called Cwmfelin (Mill Valley). It was triangular with three quite separate clusters of cottages. At one end of the base lay Cwmfelin, near where a chapel, Salem (1830) was built and	

where the village square and Inn soon appeared. About a mile away, another small settlement known as Coli, housed the early miners who worked in the small drifts driven into the mountain side. Near the top of the hill was Llwyn Crwyn (Round Grove) where Bedlinog colliery was sunk in 1874. In the following years Bedlinog grew into a close-knit community of miners and their families; the village itself expanded rapidly with public houses, schools and places of worship being built.

The original name for Trelewis was Bontnewydd (Newbridge); the later and current name refers to a local farmer, William Lewis. Trelewis grew and developed through the late 19th century as a small community of mining families, dependent in the main on the neighbouring Deep Navigation Colliery in Treharris, sunk in the 1870s. During the 20th century new collieries opened on the northern outskirts of Trelewis with the Taff Merthyr in 1926 and Trelewis Drift in 1954. With these developments the village became a large, lively community, justly proud of its coal mining traditions and achievements.

In the aftermath of the 1926 general strike, the Taff Merthyr became a clash point of bitterness and unrest. The mine owners insisted that no members of the South Wales Miners' Federation could be employed at this new pit, and they set up a company union which the miners were expected to join to work. Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s the pit, together with others in the South Wales valleys became major trouble spots in the struggle for democratic representation with torchlight processions, stay down strikes and mass meetings. The anger felt by miners and their wives towards the 'scab' workforce often spilled into the streets with physical violence and other forms of intimidation. Crowds would assemble on the streets and as this labour-force passed silence was observed with doffing of caps and caps until they passed out of sight (taken from the Western Mail 1935). This resentment was to remain in the village for many years.

Action Report 2023-2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to ...		Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	A Biodiversity Champion was established in 2023. This Member Champion enacts the BAP and brings biodiversity issues to full Council.	Full Council and Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO

		The Biodiversity Champion has attended biodiversity training and is aware of OVW webinars. We consider biodiversity when discussing planning applications. The Clerk reviewed our banking services through the lens of biodiversity and climate change. It was identified that our existing bank Co-op, is one of the most ethical and environmentally friendly banks that suit our needs. We include a section on biodiversity in our Annual Reports. Street planters - A planting plan is in place to replace annuals with more resilient, native perennials that are pollinator friendly and more drought resilient.	Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO Full Council and Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO
2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	We maintain a record on which section 7 priority species and habitats are present in the area. We created planters within a local park which now sees bees and butterflies all Summer. The Community Council funded a new tree in the local park.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO.

3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	We created planters within a local park which now sees bees and butterflies all Summer. The Community Council funded a bee hotel in the local park. Street planters - A planting plan is in place to replace annuals with more resilient, native perennials that are pollinator friendly and more drought resilient. We refer to the Nature Recovery Guide for principles in nature recovery for any appropriate decisions.  We facilitated the development of nature gardens in our two local primary schools.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO Full Council Clerk/RFO
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4	- Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	We have confirmed with the County Council that they do not use glyphosate spraying on footpaths and walkways in the community. The Biodiversity Champion has provided reports for Full Council and requests will be made for a future report to include what the most common invasive species found in the area are.	Clerk/RFO Biodiversity Champion
5	- use improve and share evidence	A volunteer group records species in the park. This information will be shared with the Council and can be shared with residents. A biodiversity page is planned for our website. The Clerk stays connected with OVW Biodiversity Officers to seek advice whenever necessary. New biodiversity and climate change training is always suggested to Councillors and the Clerk via OVW. Training and volunteering events within the County Borough are shared on social media with residents.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO
6	- support capacity and/or other organisations	Maintain good relationship with OVW, Local Authority Officers etc. We have followed the BAP, undertaken as many of the targets as possible, and	Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO

		are reporting on them here. This report will be published on our website and on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Website.	
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