

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

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:	Blackwood Town Council
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Group:	Group 2
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Blackwood Town Council represents the four wards of Blackwood North, Blackwood South, Blackwood Central and the Cefn Fforest East Ward, with 12,615 residents, our precept for 2024/2025 was £92,590.

The Council is made up of 16 members. 8 Elected and 8 co-opted that represent the community on a ward basis. These members make decisions on a range of services and activities which support the local community and liaise with Caerphilly County Borough Council when other issues of concern or interest arise. The staff team comprises of two part-time officers [a Clerk/RFO and a Deputy Clerk/Deputy RFO].

Blackwood is an urban community, located in the South Wales Valleys. It combines urban areas with surrounding woodlands, river corridors, and green spaces that support diverse habitats. Key features include mixed deciduous woodlands and grasslands along the Sirhowy River. These areas provide essential ecosystem services such as carbon storage, flood mitigation, pollination, and recreational benefits. The town also holds significant historical importance as a centre of the Chartist movement during the Industrial Revolution.

We hold a spring fayre, a summer beach party and a Christmas fayre. In addition, we hold a lantern parade and carol concert, Civic awards and a Mayors concert annually.

We lease an office and have several hanging baskets and planters displayed April to October. We facilitate the Christmas festive lighting throughout the town November – January.

The Blackwood Town Council offices are located on Gravel Lane in Town. Blackwood Town Council is an elected tier of local government. Its role is to represent the interests of the community.

Action Report 2023 - 2025



	<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking to add a section on our website to include information on general climate and biodiversity issue, offering advice and links where appropriate. • Blackwood Town Council is exploring the possibility of supporting/organising events during Great Big Green Week 2026. The Great Big Green Week • The Community Council will invite local environment and nature focused groups to attend the summer Beach party. • Blackwood Town Council will continue to engage with agencies that can offer advice to residents. • Blackwood Town Council will take a proactive approach in sharing social media content from local and national groups to raise awareness and promote opportunities to engage with nature. • In house training will be made available to all Councillors and office staff that wish to learn more about climate change and biodiversity. • Promote the use of the LERC Wales App in the community to enable the recording and sharing of wildlife sightings in Wales, through our website. • Develop greater website resources to better inform the local community such as sharing environmental calendars. • Share information in the community on the National Bird Watch campaign 	<p>Clerk & Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Full council, Clerk/ RFO & Deputy Clerk/ Deputy RFO</p> <p>Clerk & Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Full council, Clerk/ RFO & Deputy Clerk/ Deputy RFO</p> <p>Clerk & Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Clerk & Deputy Clerk</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwood Town Council funds the hanging baskets and planters in the Town Centre which enhance the street scene between May and September. The plants are and will continue 	



		<p>to be sourced from suppliers in South Wales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of plants used will be reviewed to ensure they are pollinator friendly. • Blackwood Town Council works closely with the Wales in Bloom group (Home) which involves various community groups and local businesses. The group undertakes additional planting and enhancement to the town. They will be encouraged to review their contribution to biodiversity. • Blackwood Town Council will remote schemes that encourage recycling, such as spectacles/batteries etc • Blackwood Town Council stock bags for green waste caddies to encourage the correct disposal of food waste. • Promote the Welsh Government “its for them” campaign. It's for Them campaign: stakeholder toolkit GOV.WALES 	
<p>6</p>	<p>-support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwood Town Council has added a sustainability & biodiversity requirement to all grant application forms. T • Blackwood Town Council is in the process of building relationships with local nature & environment groups with the aspiration to support new and develop existing community projects. 	



Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

<p>What has worked well?</p>	<p>Purchasing IT equipment to enable all council members to access digital copies of all documents, reducing the need for paper copies.</p> <p>Appropriate recycling receptors have been placed in the office, so materials are sorted into the correct category, reducing general waste.</p> <p>Stocking the bags for food caddies.</p>
<p>What have the barriers been?</p>	<p>Some council members are not confident in the use of IT, so training for use of the tablets will be provided with ongoing support.</p>
<p>What will you change?</p>	<p>Battery recycling will be facilitated in the premises.</p> <p>Continue to link with organisations such as Welsh Water to provide information to residents.</p>
<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<p>The plan will be formally reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the objectives remain impactful, achievable and cost effective.</p>



Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or occupy an office building only and whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management. 	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or that can influence those who own or manage land. 	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not. 	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- Objective 2:** Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- Objective 4:** Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Objective 6:** Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery



Adrodd ar Adran 6

Cynghorau Tref a Chynghorau Cymuned

Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 Rhan 1 – Adran 6
Y Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau

Adroddiad 2025		
Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau		
Enw y Cyngor Tref neu Gymuned:		
Grŵp:		Grŵp 1
Cyflwyniad a'r Cyd-destun		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disgrifiad byr o'r Cyngor, ei swyddogaethau a'r cyd-destun o ran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sut y gallai helpu bioamrywiaeth (trwy ei swyddogaethau rheoli tir, cyllid grant, gweithgareddau addysgol e.e.) graddfa ofodol a lle (e.e. faint o dir mae'n ei gynnwys, poblogaeth, praesept?) cyflawni gwasanaethau i'r cyhoedd (e.e. a yw'n destun Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol?) 		
Adroddiad Gweithredu 2023 - 2025		
Amcan NRAP	Camau gweithredu i...	Wedi eu monitro gan:
1	-cynnwys bioamrywiaeth o fewn llunio penderfyniadau a chaffael	
	-codi ymwybyddiaeth o fioamrywiaeth a'i bwysigrwydd	
4	-mynd i'r afael ag elfennau negyddol: lleihau llygredd e.e. defnyddio atebion yn seiliedig ar natur, mynd i'r afael â rhywogaethau goresgynnol	
6	-cefnogi capasiti ac/neu sefydliadau eraill	



Arolwg o ddyletswydd Adran 6 2023 - 2025

Beth sydd wedi gweithio'n dda?

Beth fu'r rhwystrau?

Beth fyddwch yn ei newid?

Sut a phryd fydd y ddyletswydd Adran 6 yn cael ei monitro a'r cynllun Adran 6 wedi'i adolygu?



Grŵp	Disgrifiad o sefydliad mewn perthynas â bioamrywiaeth Sefydliadau:	Camau Gweithredu Sylfaenol	Enghreifftiau	Amcanion NRAP ar gyfer Adrodd ar gamau Gweithredu (Gweler Templedi)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sy'n berchen neu'n meddiannu adeilad swyddfa yn unig ac nad yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig yn uniongyrchol â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir. 	Camau sy'n gysylltiedig a rheoli adeiladau, caffael, cynaliadwyedd, codi ymwybyddiaeth, hyfforddiant, neu mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau eraill.	Comisynau, DVLA	Amcanion NRAP: 1, 4, a 6
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sy'n berchen yn meddiannu neu'n rheoli eu adeiladau a'u tir eu hunain, y mae eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig a bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir, neu sy'n gallu dylanwadu ar y rhai sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir. 	Fel Grŵp 1 uchod A rheoli tir, rhaedru meini prawf cyllido, darparu addysg a hyfforddiant	Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru, Prifysgolion, Chwaraeon Cymru	Amcanion NRAP: 1, 4, a 6 <i>fel uchod +</i> Amcanion NRAP: 2, 3, a 5 <i>yn ymwneud â thir y sefydliad</i>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir y tu hwnt i'w tir eu hunain, waeth a yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir ai peidio. 	Fel Grŵpiau 1 a 2 uchod A rheoli tir er mwyn cynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth, a hyrwyddo cydnherthedd ecosystemau.	Dŵr Cymru, Awdurdodau Lleol, CNC, Llywodraeth Cymru	Holl amcanion NRAP: 1,2,3,4,5 a 6

Mae **Cyllun Gweithredu Adfer Natur Cymru (NRAP)** yn gosod chwe amcan ar gyfer gwrthdroi dirywiad bioamrywiaeth a dylid eu defnyddio i helpu i ddatblygu ac arwain gweithredoedd i gydymffurfio â dyletswydd adran 6:

Y **6 amcan** i gynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth yw:

- Amcan 1:** Ymgysylltu a chynorthwyo cyfranogi a dealltwriaeth er mwyn gwreiddio bioamrywiaeth ledled y penderfyniadau a wneir ar bob lefel
- Amcan 2:** Diogelu'r rhywogaethau a'r cynefinoedd pwysicaf, a gwella'r modd y'u rheolir
- Amcan 3:** Cynyddu cydnherthedd ein hamgylchedd naturiol trwy adfer cynefinoedd a ddiraddiwyd, a chreu cynefinoedd
- Amcan 4:** Mynd i'r afael â'r pwysau allweddol sydd ar rywogaethau a chynefinoedd
- Amcan 5:** Gwella ein tystiolaeth, ein dealltwriaeth a'n systemau monitro
- Amcan 6:** Sefydlu fframwaith llywodraethu a chymorth ar gyfer cyflenwi