

Trefriw Community Council Biodiversity Plan 2023/24 - draft update

Trefriw Community Council (TCC) is committed to playing its part in protecting and enhancing biodiversity (the variety of life found on earth) and reversing its decline. We will also take action to protect our broader environment, including aligning with the principles set out in the One Voice Wales / Friends of the Earth Cymru 'Tackling Climate Chaos' guide for town and community councils (2023). This Biodiversity & Environmental Plan includes the actions which will be taken across all the Council's functions to achieve this.

Biodiversity actions (for reporting as per Section 6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016)

Background for reporting: TCC serves two rural wards in Conwy county: Trefriw and Llanrhychwyn. TCC is responsible for the management of Trefriw cemetery, a small parcel of land on Wood Bank (known locally as Top Road), and Trefriw Trail 1 (adjacent to Gower Road). In addition, TCC is responsible for arranging the footpath maintenance in respect of the other Trefriw Trails around the village.

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:	Action taken towards compliance:
- embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Ensure opportunities to maintain and increase biodiversity are considered as part of decision making and procurement of services / goods as appropriate. For example, contracts for grass cutting of land under TCC jurisdiction to specify mower blade height to preserve pollinators; grants to relevant community groups will be conditional on biodiversity being promoted and - if possible - enhanced.	Full Council (decision making); Clerk (procurement of goods/ services)	Autumn 2022: grass cutting contracts re-let including clauses to promote biodiversity. December 2022: new village bike racks procured which incorporate planters in their design to support biodiversity through flora.
- raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Promote positive messages about the importance and benefits of biodiversity and support others in this, e.g., Trefriw Gardening Club, Trefriw Walkers are Welcome	Full Council	February 2023: TCC publicised actions residents can take to promote wellbeing of hedgehogs as they emerge from hibernation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safeguard principal species and habitats 	<p>Ensure protection of species and habitats is paramount in decisions about land under TCC jurisdiction, and safeguarding of the same is the default position. Any proposed necessary action which may threaten principal species / habitats will be subject to additional scrutiny (including by experts as appropriate) to ensure all steps have been taken to prevent or mitigate such an outcome.</p>	<p>Full Council and working groups as appropriate</p>	<p>Winter/spring 2023: updated plans for cemetery extension to take account of previously stipulated requirements to support habitats and species.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TCC will take every opportunity to restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks on land under our jurisdiction through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - appropriate timing of land maintenance. e.g., so as not to disturb nesting birds or other animals - maintenance of the cemetery butterfly garden to increase pollinating plants and insects - appropriate planting to attract pollinators, insects, birds and animals e.g., in future cemetery extension - reviewing grass cutting / land maintenance contracts to ensure they help promote biodiversity (e.g., preservation of pollinators, hedges etc.,) - consideration of developing TCC owned land on Wood Bank ('Top Road') as a specific haven for wildlife - grants to relevant community groups being contingent on biodiversity being maintained / enhanced. 	<p>Full Council and working groups as appropriate</p>	<p>Autumn 2022: grass cutting contract relet as above. Winter 2023: bike racks planted with spring bulbs, to be replaced after flowering by annual pollinators.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species 	<p>To reduce pollution, TCC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - co-ordinate regular litter picks around Trefriw - continue to promote anti-litter / dog waste messaging, including provision of dog waste bags near the Gower Road and Bro Geirionydd play parks and Gower Road recreation grounds - promote ways in which residents can report littering / dog mess / pollution issues for action - support and promote residents' 'Himalayan Balsam bashing' events 	<p>Full Council</p>	<p>November 2022: new signage at community field gate to remind users to dispose of litter and dog waste in the adjacent bin</p> <p>February 2023: TCC led a village litter pick. Next one planned for late spring and quarterly thereafter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use, improve and share evidence 	<p>TCC will share details of our activities and plans around biodiversity with interested bodies at their request, e.g., the principal authority, Natural Resources Wales, Keep Wales Tidy etc.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>	<p>March 2023: action taken throughout 2022/23 to be shared with One Voice Wales Local Places for Nature Officer. Litter picks reported to principal authority.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support capacity, and/or other organisations 	<p>TCC will support other local groups to maintain and improve biodiversity in our area, e.g., grants to Trefriw Gardening club to purchase appropriate plants</p>	<p>Full council and/or Clerk</p>	<p>Grants to be considered by TCC on request.</p>
<p>Broader environmental actions (in line with OVW/Friends of the Earth Cymru 'Tackling Climate Chaos' guide for town and community councils (2023))</p>			
<p>Action carried out to:</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>	<p>Action taken towards compliance:</p>

- reduce impact of chemicals	Where possible and cost-effective, switch to non harmful cleaning products and exterior weedkillers etc for TCC-maintained buildings and green spaces and require contractors to do the same.	Full Council (decision making Clerk (procuring goods and services)	
- reduce harmful emissions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure lights, heaters and equipment in TCC-maintained buildings and spaces is used appropriately and switched off when not in use. 2. For 2024/25 consider energy efficiency improvement plan for village hall based on 2022 audit. 3. Support Welsh government introduction of 20mph speed limit in residential areas Sept 2023 4. Support residents to use Active Travel and public transport as much as possible 	Full Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. & 2. - steps to improve energy efficiency in the hall being scoped for 2024/25 TCC Action Plan 3. TCC will support community speedwatch and other initiatives to enforce the new limit 4. Project ongoing to rename North Llanrwst station to re-include Trefriw and thus highlight as viable public transport option for the village. Sept 2023: TCC engaging with NRW to facilitate use of Coed Creigiau forestry tracks as road free cycle route to Ysgol Dyffyn Yr Enfys, Dolgarrog.
- limit investment of Council funds in companies / organisations which harm the environment	Ask Local Authority Pension Fund (LAPF) to set a target and timetable for decarbonising pension investments.	Clerk	
- reduce waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage users of TCC-maintained buildings and green spaces to take their rubbish home for recycling. 2. Support local producers/retailers when catering events 3. Buy Fair Trade sugar and coffee for TCC events where possible, and fully biodegradable teabags 4. Where practical, choose refillable cleaning products etc for TCC-maintained buildings and spaces. 	Full Council (decision making Clerk (procuring goods and services)	

- promote sustainable clothing and textiles	Work with the community / local schools on a clothes / uniform swap event		
- use water responsibly	Use grey water / mountain run off for village planters etc		Water butt installed at village hall 2021
Key outcomes	Our key outcomes are to maintain and, over time, increase biodiversity in Trefriw and Llanrhychwyn and protect our broader environment. Decisions about land and buildings under TCC jurisdiction will always consider opportunities to enhance our environment and biodiversity, including working with community groups where relevant. Any proposals for necessary action that may reduce or harm biodiversity or adversely affect environment will be subject to additional consideration to ensure appropriate and robust mitigations are in place.		
Review points, for e.g., enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan	The TCC biodiversity and environmental plan will be reviewed each year in line with our annual plan.		
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed (for biodiversity plan)?	Consideration and decisions made in reference to our s6 duty will be recorded in meeting minutes and related documentation. The plan will be reviewed annually as above.		

This document was reviewed and re-adopted at a meeting on 10th October 2023 and will be reviewed in May 2024 or sooner should legislation dictate