

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: Llanpumsaint Community Council

Group: Group 1

Introduction and Context

Llanpumsaint is a small rural community comprising approximately 730 residents (2021 Census). The community covers 26 km² with a population density of 28 people/km². The land is used mainly as grazing land for sheep, beef and dairy cattle or cut for silage; there are a handful of hay meadows. The Afon Gwili runs through the village, with five tributaries and a small sewage works, eventually joining the Afon Tywi near Carmarthen. There are some private woodlands and a network of hedges and verges, with minor pockets of land at road junctions. There are a few public footpaths, some of which are not very accessible (overgrown, locked gates and styles). The dis-used railway track of the old Gwili railway, currently owned by the Gwili Steam Railway, runs into the village from the south west and is navigable on foot. To the north east, the old railway line and goods yard forms the allotments. Beyond that, the land is now privately owned.

The community benefits from two independent charities responsible for running the village hall and the village park. The latter includes a football pitch, children's play area, tennis court and meadow. Both organisations often receive an annual small grant from the Community Council. Carmarthenshire County Council is responsible for the allotments. There is a Welsh-medium village primary school with around 30 pupils. The village produces a bi-lingual magazine every three months which is hand-delivered to all households.

The Community Council has a modest portfolio of assets: Ty Hers (a single room which used to house the horse-drawn hearse and is now rented out as a storage space), four bus shelters, five seats, two out-of-use telephone boxes and the streetlights. The annual precept for 2025/26 was £11,780. The Council engages with other groups in the village to promote biodiversity since it has limited opportunities to act independently.

Action Report 2023 - 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...	Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	

	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established baseline data on birds in village by encouraging households to participate in RSPB's Garden Birdwatch and then collated results at village level. Biodiversity sub-committee conducted survey of selected meadows in village and results were reported to the Big Meadow Search. Households encouraged to participate in 'No mow May'. Created Llanpumsaint Biodiversity facebook page which now has over 100 members. Regular posts are made by biodiversity sub-committee and members of the community. Posts cover wildlife observed locally as well as messages on ecosystem resilience. Created calendar from photos submitted to Llanpumsaint Biodiversity FB page and sold to community members. 	<p>Results shared in regular articles in village magazine.</p> <p>Regular posts on FB Llanpumsaint Biodiversity page.</p>
4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleared Himalayan balsam from stretch along the old railway track. Monitored quality of water in Afon Gwili as part of citizen science project Achub y Tywi monitoring the main river in Carmarthenshire. 	Results from water quality monitoring recorded in Achub y Tywi's dataset.
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with park volunteers to clear areas of Himalayan balsam from the hedgerow and riverbank in the park. Encouraged Chapel and park to designate areas to 'No mow May. Participated in Llanpumsaint's annual summer fair with stall, information and quiz on local biodiversity topics. 	

Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025	
What has worked well?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording data on birds and meadow flowers for several years • Regular posts on FB page by community members • Regular articles in village magazine • Engaging with the park maintenance team • Collecting data on water quality as part of Achub y Tywi citizen science project
What have the barriers been?	The main challenge is to increase outreach and encourage behaviour change at the household level; for example, to appreciate that 'nature isn't neat' and to promote nature-based solutions such as leaving wildlife areas in gardens, hedgerows and verges, and reducing the use of herbicides and pesticides
What will you change?	<p>Explore opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organising occasion litter picks along village roads • erecting bird boxes • continuing to work at reducing Himalayan balsam • creating safer environment for toads on roads • planting trees • encouraging people to participate in BTO surveys such as Garden Watch and Birdtrack
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The s6 duty is monitored through an agenda item at each Council meeting • The s6 plan will be reviewed and updated in spring 2026

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