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## *Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council*

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### **A Report of Actions relevant to Section 6 of Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

#### **November 2019**

Section 6 of this Act requires that Pontyclun Community Council seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.

This is a report on actions of the Community Council and its partners which are relevant to this requirement.

In fulfilling this requirement Pontyclun Community Council recognises that its role is to facilitate and harness the contribution of many others including:

- Pontyclun residents,
- The volunteers of Pontyclun Environment Group,
- The volunteers of Pontyclun Community Garden
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
- Pontyclun businesses.

#### **Pontyclun Environment Group**

The Community Council supports and work closely with the Environment Group.

This is a group of residents whose activities have included:

- Establishing and maintaining the riverside walk along the River Ely from Brynsadler to Pontyclun on land leased by the Community Council
- Managing the containment of knotweed and balsam along the riverside with the effect of widening the bio diversity of the area
- Working with Llais y Goedwig to optimise the health of the woodland areas on the land leased from the Community Council optimising the trees, plants, birds and animal species they support
- Coordinating the input of volunteer residents in undertaking litter picks throughout the Pontyclun Community recognising that litter free areas host bio diversity and foster community appreciation of local eco-systems
- Organising local walks with the county ecologist so that residents can better understand and appreciate the diversity of the local eco-systems

## **Pontyclun Community Garden**

The Community Council supports and work closely with the Community Garden

Pontyclun Community Garden is a group of volunteer residents who have established and maintained a community garden within the Pontyclun Park which is provided by Pontyclun Community Council.

The Community Garden includes

- Insect friendly flowers and vegetables
- Bug hotel
- Bees nest
- Composting

## **Working with Local Schools**

The Community Councils seeks to support and work closely with local schools.

### Refill Pontyclun

Pontyclun school children made agreements with local retailers that tap water will be provided to children bringing their own bottles. The effect is to reduce the use of plastic and reduce the littering of plastic bottles.

The Community Council formalised these arrangements through the launch of a “Refill Pontyclun” scheme. This scheme currently has 21 local businesses as members.

### Pontyclun Christmas Tree

To encourage discussion on and the reuse and recycling of plastic waste the Council decided to decorate the Community Christmas Tree with waste plastic.

Local schools were asked to create garlands or paint empty plastic bottles which were then used to decorate our community tree.

## **Working with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

The Community Council seeks to support and work closely with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

RCT Council has innovated in the development of a grass cutting and collecting machine which allows vegetation a long growing season before it is cut and collected so as to foster local eco-systems and encourage greater bio diversity.

Pontyclun Community Council works with RCT Council to identify and reserve sites for this ‘hay cut’ regime. The sites include:

- A half-acre of land along the perimeter of Pontyclun Park which is owned by the Community Council

- 5 acres of land on the top end of the cycle path which runs from Pontyclun Railway Station to the A473
- 20 acres of land enclosed by Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy
- Land in on Cowbridge Road, Talygarn and by the motorway Talygarn Drive

### **Pontyclun Community Council**

Pontyclun Community Council owns and maintains 5 acres of woodland at Ivor Woods. Its woodland management is intended to increase bio-diversity and local eco-systems. Where safe, fallen branches and trees are left 'in-situ' or cut branches are placed in piles to encourage wild life. Where possible, the canopy is managed to control light and encourage bio-diversity.

The Community Council, as an agent of RCT Council, maintains 20 miles of public right of ways. In managing overgrowth and clearing litter, avoiding chemical interventions, the Council fosters bio-diversity and local eco-systems.

Our floral displays specifically use "Pollinator friendly" flowers in our hanging baskets.

The Community Council has a 'bee friendly' designation.

To encourage recycling the Council runs a Crisp packet recycling scheme in the Community with drop off locations at Café 50 and the Pontyclun Library.

With regards to its administration, paper purchased for use in the Office is PEFC certified from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources. It is also Chlorine free

The Council replaces light bulbs with LED ones when then need changing and recently replaced the bulk of the lighting in Café 50 with LED lights, reducing the number of light bulbs by nearly 60 during the process.