

Community & Town Councils Biodiversity Action Plan

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

Name of Community & Town Council:	Brecon Town Council
Council type (Group 1, 2 or 3 for NRAP Objectives):	Group 2
Introduction and Context	
<p>1. Brecon Town Council: Functions and Potential for Biodiversity Impact</p> <p>Brecon Town Council delivers a range of local services across environmental, civic, and community domains. It operates through three main committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Events Committee: Manages town parks (e.g. Camden Road Park, Llanfaes Park), green spaces (e.g. Island Fields), and fishing rights along the River Usk. It collaborates on biodiversity, environmental improvement, and climate resilience, and engages the community through events. • Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee: Oversees contract management and grant funding, including to environment-focused organisations and wellbeing projects. • Planning, Guildhall, and Staffing Committee: Reviews planning applications and contributes to environmentally responsible land use and listed building maintenance. <p>The Council supports local conservation (e.g., the River Usk erosion monitoring, Island Fields biodiversity management) and education (e.g., youth representatives, school engagement in green initiatives).</p> <p>2. Spatial Scale and Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical Scope: The Council covers the town of Brecon in Powys, Wales, within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. • Population: Brecon had a population of 8254 recorded in the 2021 census. • Precept: The 2024/25 precept was £612,750.68 out of a total income of £658,381. 	

- **Assets and Services:** The Guildhall, public conveniences, parks, and Visit Brecon tourist information centre, and co-ordinates town-wide events and volunteer activities.

3. Public Service Delivery and Legislative Context

Brecon Town Council is subject to Section 40 of the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**, requiring it to take reasonable steps to contribute to the local objectives in Powys’ well-being plan. These include goals around environment, health, community, and economy. Its work supports all four of Powys’ local wellbeing objectives, and many national well-being goals, including:

- **A Resilient and Healthier Wales:** through climate action planning, park management, sustainable event practices.
- **Cohesive Communities:** via civic events, youth engagement, and community grant funding.
- **Globally Responsible Wales:** through conservation initiatives and support of biodiversity measures (e.g., swift boxes, fishing area risk management, tree planting).

NRAP Objective	Biodiversity objectives	Action planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include biodiversity and nature-based criteria in procurement where possible (e.g. sustainable sourcing, local/native planting). • Expand collaboration with Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA) on place-based decision-making for developments and land use. • Include biodiversity objectives in all new or renewed contracts (e.g. street cleaning, park maintenance, toilet refurbishments). 		



	<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and interpret biodiversity themes at parks and town events (e.g. as per existing signage at Llanfaes Park for wildflower meadow and recycling messaging and bins at events). • Use Visit Brecon to disseminate biodiversity information, including local species and conservation projects. • Partner again with schools for nature-based competitions or activities. • Empower Youth Representatives ideas to lead awareness campaigns (e.g. local food sourcing, sustainable living). • Promote video/stills footage of swift box if and when occupied. 		
<p>2</p>	<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue and expand involvement with the Brecon Swift Group, including public education and installation of swift or other species boxes on appropriate buildings. • Create species management plan for the Island Fields. • Incorporate habitat protection measures in the management of fishing areas and wooded green spaces. • Monitor impacts of planned developments near sensitive ecological sites in liaison with BBNPA. 		
<p>3</p>	<p>-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a biodiversity management plan for Island Fields with advice from ecologists. • Integrate native planting and pollinator-friendly practices in town centre planters and parks. • Support rewilding or reduced mowing regimes in appropriate council-managed grassland areas. 		



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore partnership opportunities with the Wildlife Trust or Keep Wales Tidy for new habitat creation initiatives, especially at Maendu Well. 		
4	<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promote recycling efforts (e.g. the town centre business recycling scheme pilot). • Monitor and help enable mitigation of erosion along the River Usk, with nature-based bank stabilisation where feasible. • Collaborate with Powys County Council, Bannau Brycheiniog and Volunteer initiatives to manage and remove invasive plant species (e.g. Buddleia on Castle Bridge and Himalayan Balsalm at Island Fields). • Introduce nature-based drainage and greening options during upgrades of public infrastructure (e.g. Lion Yard toilet block). 		
5	<p>-use, improve, and share evidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly share findings from erosion surveys, biodiversity audits (e.g. Island Fields), and climate resilience reports. • Encourage data collection by volunteers (e.g. swift sightings, park wildlife). • Record and report biodiversity outcomes from grant-funded projects. • Partner with environmental groups or academic institutions for joint research, monitoring or advice. 		
6	<p>-support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue funding local biodiversity and environment-focused groups through the Town Council grant scheme. 		



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer meeting space and administrative support for conservation partners (e.g. stakeholder workshops, River Usk working group). • Enable skill-sharing events for community groups on biodiversity or nature-based project development. • Encourage volunteer engagement in habitat management (e.g. balsalm bashing). 		
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Annual review of the Biodiversity Action Plan		Date reviewed:	
What has worked well?			
What have the barriers been?			
What will you change?			

Next review due:	July 2026
Approved by Environment and Events Committee on:	1 st July 2025



Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity.	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
	Organisations:			
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

