

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 Council:	Dinas Powys Community Council
Group	2

Dinas Powys nestles in lowlands between Cardiff and Barry. Whilst still considered a village, surrounded by arable land and woodland, it is home to some 9,000 residents who in the main commute for work. Our precept for 2025-2026 was £153471.00. It is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFTG) Act.

Dinas Powys Community Council currently has 16 Councillors and employs a full-time Clerk, and Assistant Clerk. It also employs a part-time Maintenance Manager and a Cleaner.

Over the years, the distance separating neighbouring settlements has been reducing as new housing is developed in line with national and local strategies. Some additional 300 homes have been developed in the village with no additional supporting infrastructure. Similar or greater amounts have been developed in surrounding towns / villages, reducing green spaces and natural habitats. More housing may be developed in line with the current Replacement Local Development plan (2021-2036).

The Village is reasonably well served with public transport (bus and rail), being on the main route between the southern conurbations of the Vale of Glamorgan and the city of Cardiff. It has two railway stations, but only one is fully accessible. The trains have recently been replaced with new rolling stock. The primary access road through Dinas Powys is often congested at peak times with consequential filtering of traffic through country lanes not built for the current volume of vehicular movements. Air contamination in the vicinity of the through routes is likely to be high at peak times. (Under Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 every Local Authority has an obligation to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Vale of Glamorgan the Council produces an Annual Progress Report on Local Air Quality Management. The 2024 report satisfies the relevant legal requirements examining results of air quality monitoring undertaken across the Vale of Glamorgan during 2023. The Annual Progress Report 2024 (issued to Welsh Government) confirms that air quality within the Vale of Glamorgan continues to meet all the relevant air quality objectives)

There are no cycle lanes alongside the primary access road between Barry and Dinas Powys making this activity hazardous along main routes. The Vale of Glamorgan, however, is in the process of consultations in planning and creating an Active Travel Route (ATR) along Cardiff Road fields, aiming for a safer traffic-free cycle route between Dinas Powys and Barry.

Dinas Powys Community Council manage the Twyn (the Square) and War memorial in the centre of the Village, Dinas Powys Common, Cross Common, the Scout Field in Greenfield Avenue, two play areas, a cemetery, an allotment site and two halls, the Parish and Lee Hall situated in Britway Road. We have a scheduled ancient monument on Dinas Powys Common which is the remains of a Roman Villa.

Sporting events are regularly held on Dinas Powys Common and the Parish and Lee Hall and the garden are the venue for the Annual Village Show, where residents get to showcase their gardening/allotment, homemade crafts and cookery skills.

A full list of the Community Councils Assets is as follows;

Dinas Powys Community Council Assets	
Dinas Powys Common	Classified as Common Land. Includes Scheduled Ancient Monument. 12 hectares (approx.)
Cross Common	Classified as Common Land. 3.5 hectares (approx.)
Bryn-y-Don Football Field	Classified as Public Open Space. Under licence to DP Football Club. 2 hectares (approx)
Scout Field	Classified as Public Open Space. 0.12 hectares (approx.)
St Andrew's Cemetery	Consecrated land. 0.69 hectares (approx.)
St Andrew's Allotments	52 plots. Part consecrated land. 0.54 hectares (approx.)
Land at Mill Field	Classifies as Common Land. (reclaimed river bed) CRoW access land. 0.07 hectares
The Square /Twyn	Classified as Village Green
Parish Hall	Arts & Crafts, Grade II listed building. Conservation area
Garden	Garden to Lee & Parish Halls. Conservation area.
Lee Hall	1970's construction, Community Hall. Conservation area
Highways Units	Storage units with parking. Leasehold. Tenanted.

The local environment and wildlife are important to Dinas Powys Community Council and we are constantly striving to make positive and sustainable changes within our community. We have the potential and capacity to lead by example and work together with local governing bodies to improve the state of our biodiversity and encourage the community to join us.

Other public landowners with an interest in the Village and surrounding area include the Vale of Glamorgan County Council, Network Rail, Natural Resources Wales and the Woodland Trust. Communication channels with these organisations exist. Any issues or concerns are reported as they arise.

Action Report 2023 – 2025

Dinas Powys Community Council takes seriously its responsibilities to the sustainable management of resources and the maintenance and improvement of the natural environment. A balancing act needs to be maintained in providing habitats for indigenous natural species and the provision of access to and enjoyment by local residents.

Due to constraints on budgets, equipment and installations will only be replaced when the economic argument for doing so is positively balanced, or current fixtures and fittings need to be replaced.

There are many factors beyond the control of the Community Council that could have potentially detrimental effects on the level of biodiversity in Dinas Powys. These are development, climate change, recreation, pollution, changes in land use and changes or lack of management.

Increases in future housing to meet growing demand can put pressure on the environment and protected sites and species. Inappropriate development can pose a threat to biodiversity through direct loss of habitats and indirectly through habitat fragmentation.

Changes in light, wind, drainage and usage of these sites can affect the type and number of different species able to survive there.

This plan outlines a series of actions to provide a framework for the delivery of conservation and enhancement within Dinas Powys. The actions are intended to make a genuine positive contribution to biodiversity while being realistic and achievable.

It is important that in setting out actions to improve biodiversity within Dinas Powys, we are mindful to reduce our negative impact on the biodiversity of the area. We must also contribute to the six objectives of the Welsh Governments' national Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) '**to reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society**'.

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

According to the National Biodiversity Network, there are some 1,250 recorded species in a 2 km radial area of Dinas Powys.

NRAP Objective	Action Carried out to....	Monitored by
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1	Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	The Community Council does not currently have sub-committee working group to enact the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). This is to be considered at Full Council in December 2025. The Chair of COSAC, Vice Chair of Full Council and the Clerk attended a virtual Biodiversity Workshop arranged by One Voice Wales during the summer of 2025. The Chair of COSAC and the Clerk attended an additional workshop in November in preparation for publishing the next Biodiversity Action Plan.	Clerk /working group/Management Committee
		Grass cutting regimes to achieve optimal between public use and habitat management. These will vary between sites, dependent on usage.	
		Establishment of wild flower meadow on Dinas Powys Common in conjunction with WANDP in 2021. A section (approx. 1/3) of the Common is managed as a hay meadow. Ideally the grass cuttings are to be removed in order to help with meadow management. Due to the size of the area, it has been difficult to rake off all of the grass. In 2025, help from Local Nature Partnership (LNP) enabled all of the cut grass on the meadow area of the Common to be raked off to inconspicuous areas of the common, to reduce soil fertility enabling wild flowers to grow. The meadow area on DP Common is to be reviewed annually.	COSAC Committee/Clerk
		Tree Survey and maintenance programme to aid in habitat maintenance/creation and strengthening biodiversity. Low level maintenance of trees undertaken as required for H&S of users. In areas where there is no hazard to the public, trees/branches that have been cut down, have been left for local wildlife to utilise. In December 2025 - a fresh Christmas was donated to the Community Council and planted in a large planter at the junction of Cardiff Road and Millbrook Road. Solar lights were purchased for the tree. It was not viable to plant the tree directly into the soil due to various utilities network infrastructure underground.	Working Group / Maintenance Mgr

NRAP Objective	Action Carried out to.... Monitored by	Monitored by
1	Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement Procurement of fixtures and consumables will endeavour to use biodegradable or made from recycled materials, low energy appliances/equipment and from a local supplier/source Halls & Garden Thermal, soundproof roller blinds have been installed into the Lee Hall and Old Library. In 2024 Lighting in both the Parish and Lee Halls have been replaced with low voltage LED systems. New Stage LED lighting system has been installed. Procured and installed by local firm. A leaf composting area has been established in the garden; a branch and twig depository has been provided as an insect and wildlife habitat. (there is clear evidence this area is used by hedgehogs). Watering system for the hanging baskets outside the Parish Hall has been replaced with drip feed system, worked on a timer system, thus using less water (hanging baskets also contain a reservoir) The Community Council plan to replace its roof in the foreseeable future. One of the conditions is to site bird boxes near and around the Hall roof.	
	Open Spaces Benches for Dinas Powys Common made from recyclable materials were purchased and installed in 2023. Any legs still in good condition have been kept for possibly reuse. All those that have fallen into disrepair were disposed of appropriately. Planting of perennial /pollinator (e.g. native geraniums) plants both in the Lee Hall garden and Twyn	
	Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance Assist in the promotion of schemes that enhance biodiversity Scout Field – In collaboration with WANDP (Wild About Nature, Dinas Powys) a voluntary organisation, several apple trees were planted in 2022 creating a small orchard. WANDP to prune trees annually. Mowing regime adjusted to accommodate the orchard, which continues to thrive. In November 2025, DPCC Councillors planted perennials around the bases of its 5 notice boards.	Working Group WANDP

		More recently small 'raised bed' boxes have been installed between the feet of the notice boards to help protect the plants from grass cutting strimmers.	
NRAP Objective	Action Carried out to....		Monitored by
	Use, improve and share evidence	Formalised at Full Council meeting on 18 th December:- Management Committee to be responsible in enacting the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). T	Clerk (Still to be formalised)
		Greater engagement with stakeholders and local groups, landowners and organisations.	Needs more work
	Support Capacity and or other organisations	Afford voluntary organisations assistance and encouragement to undertake plantings of pollinator friendly plants – including perennial pollinator plants Dinas Powys is a Fair Trade Community. Commitment maintained since 2009.	Needs more work
2	safeguard principal species and habitats	Made links with....	Needs more work
3	restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Replace felled trees with appropriate native species Keep uncut areas to provide the best possible habitats Leave deadwood in situ (whenever possible) to provide habitat. Following advice from the Barn Owl Trust the council erected a tawny owl nesting box in St Andrews Cemetery. We frequently refer to the Nature Recovery Guide for principles in nature recovery.	

NRAP Objective	Action Carried out to....		Monitored by
4	tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Residents encouraged to report Himalayan balsam and other invasive species to the community council or Natural Resources Wales. The Council are Currently in the process of removing bamboo from the boundary of Dinas Powys Common, including a site on Cross Common. Minimise the use of strong pesticides. Maintenance Manager uses a blower and brush on a strimmer to remove the build up of sediment on the Twyn.	
5	-use, improve and share evidence	We keep in regular contact with OVW biodiversity officers. We plan to seek advice regarding any changes. New biodiversity and climate training is always suggested to councillors and the clerk The Chair of COSAC, Cllr Anne Asbrey, Cllr Debbie Evans and the Clerk attended a Biodiversity Workshop, organised by One Voice Wales on 27 March 2025. The Chair of COSAC and the Clerk attended a Section 6 Workshop on 13 November 2025.	
6	-support capacity, and/or other organisations	Afford voluntary organisations assistance and encouragement to undertake plantings of pollinator friendly plants. Maintain good relationships with OVW, LNP, NL, NRW Officers. We have followed the BAP, undertaken as many of the targets as possible, and are reporting on them here. This report will be published on our website and on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website.	Working group Clerk and Councillors Clerk
	Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible	Dinas Powys has a good track record of positive contribution to its natural environment. The Community Council will endeavour to work more closely with stakeholders in facilitating improvements in engagement, co-ordinations and synergy The forward plan (below) identifies actions that will be progressed as opportunities arise.	

Review		
Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan	Annual update and review of Plan Regular updates with Maintenance Manager (discussed with Maintenance Manager earlier this year) Annual / periodic (as required) updates with contractors . Discussions regarding mowing regime to be undertaken with contractor (as required).	Clerk and Community Council
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	Every three years end of 2022 and again at end of 2025 NB : This is a live working document and will be updated and reviewed on a regular basis	Clerk and Community Council

Future Actions – 2026 Onwards

- An ecological survey (and recommendations) of Cross Common has been scheduled for the spring of 2026. A recent visit by the ecologist who will be undertaking the survey spotted over 100 species including a good number of indicator plant species of ancient woodland and lowland meadow grassland, and particularly to find several plants of Hairy St John's-wort, and Stinking Iris which are both listed as 'rare and scarce plants in Glamorgan'. Enable to create ecological corridors.
- Explore potential of introducing a scheme providing bird boxes, bat houses and insect hotels for the community
- Identify more areas suitable for planting of native pollinator plants
- Introduce more perennial pollinator plants instead of annual where appropriate
- Where trees need to be felled, continue to ensure they are replaced with appropriate native species, at least equivalent in number
- Explore sites that could provide opportunities for additional planting in an around the village
- Renewal of equipment and fittings at end of useful / economically viable life will be with low energy, renewable, recyclable products

Key biodiversity actions 2025



A Tawny Owl box – was erected in St Andrews Cemetery in Autumn 2025. Advice was sought from the Barn Owl Trust.



Baby hedgehog was found wandering in Lee Hall garden earlier this year (2025) – probably using the wood pile as a safe place of refuge

Meadow area on Dinas Powys Common –Cllrs Anne Asbrey and Debbie Evans helping to remove the rake and remove the grass cuttings from the Common to help with meadow management



