

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

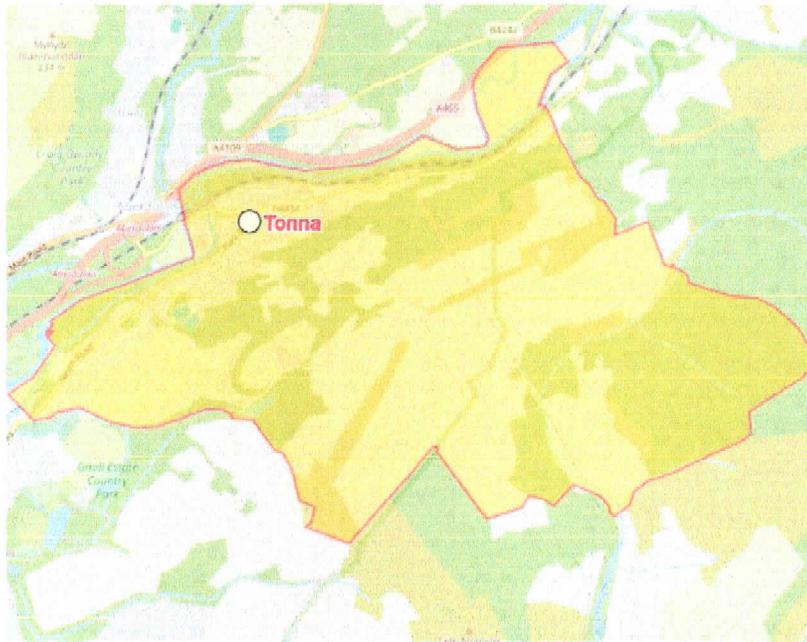
Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council: Tonna Community Council

Group: 2

Introduction and Context



The Tonna Community lies in the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot, situated to the east of the river Neath and covers an area of 7.548 km². Based on the 2021 census Tonna has a population of 2664, giving a population density of 353.0/km². This is an increase of 0.64% compared to the 2011 census.

The Council consists of 11 councillors (including the Chair), supported by a part time Clerk.

The precept of financial year 2025/26 is £49,448. There is a small income of £267, other than that all council activities are funded from the precept, together with any grant opportunities that may be forthcoming.

Currently the Community Council's assets include the following sites, which have an impact on biodiversity:

1. Memorial Park
2. Henfaes Allotment and adjacent areas
3. Heol y Glo Allotment and adjacent areas
4. Dan y Bryn Park and adjacent Wenallt Woods woodland

The council owns an area of land which is leased to Tonna Rugby Club. Under the terms of the lease all land management, including biodiversity, is the responsibility of the Rugby Club.

The council actively seeks out funding opportunities that may be available from, for example, Neath Port Talbot Local Nature Partnership Biodiversity Grant and Keep Wales Tidy.

Action Report 2023 - 2025

| NRAP Objective | Action carried out to... | Monitored by: | |
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| 1 | <p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p> | <p>Under the Town & County Planning Act, our Community Council has the right to be notified of planning applications affecting land falling within our wards boundaries. All applications received are scrutinised with due consideration of any adverse impact on the environment.</p> <p>The councils land management contract reflects the need to protect and enhance habitat. Minimise and manage grass cuts to ensure that wildflowers bloom, set seed and provide nectar for a range of insects. Any essential tree management will provide material for creating wildlife habitat.</p> | The full council |
| | <p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p> | <p>We will raise awareness of Biodiversity by engaging with our allotment holders, providing them with information on how best to incorporate Biodiversity in their activities.</p> <p>Engage with the local school when applying for Biodiversity applications.</p> <p>Use the Councils Website to inform and educate the community on Biodiversity</p> | The full council |
| 2 | <p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p> | <p>In order to understand how best to implement Biodiversity, an initial audit of council land was commissioned from Neath Port Talbot Council. This provided some baseline information on understanding what we have and how we can develop this further. This document will underpin the submission of grant applications to support Biodiversity and habitat management.</p> <p>The council commissioned an in-depth Arboricultural Health and Condition Survey as part of its commitment to habitat management, together with community safety. Understanding the condition of the trees on our land will ensure forward planning of pruning, felling and replacement of trees.</p> | The full council |

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| | | The councils land management contract includes unscheduled work on trees and bushes. The council will only sanction maintenance when the risk to wildlife is minimised. i.e. ensure birds have fledged and flown the nest. | |
| 3 | -restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks | <p>The Council purchased 1000 spring flowering dwarf daffodil bulbs to plant throughout the village.</p> <p>Several trees were felled in 2025 due to ash dieback. Logs and branches were used to create a nature friendly environment at the Heol y Glo allotment and the Memorial Park.</p> <p>The Community Council will monitor, maintain and protect footpaths, as recognised and established within its area of jurisdiction, and ensure that they continue to provide access and amenity to residents. The footpath at the Memorial Park has been refurbished in 2025.</p> | The full council |
| 4 | -tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species | <p>Ensure that the management of non-native invasive species e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsom etc are included in the land management contracts.</p> <p>The council has a contract for the management of litter and dog waste bins. These are emptied a frequent interval.</p> | The full council |
| 5 | -use improve and share evidence | <p>The process of submitting several Biodiversity grant applications has better equipped the council to producing better, more competitive bids.</p> <p>Working with Tonna Primary School in putting in a common grant application, has given both parties insights into the aims and priorities of the other.</p> | The full council |
| 6 | -support capacity and/or other organisations | <p>Following discussions with the Headmistress of Tonna Primary School, in 2025 the council has submitted a grant application to Neath Port Talbot Council which included a request for funding to support the schools association with the Forest School programme.</p> | The full council |

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| | | To continue to be alert for collaborations with existing and new stakeholders and partners. | |
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Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

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| <p>What has worked well?</p> | <p>The council has gained a better understanding and knowledge of its estate in terms of Biodiversity.</p> <p>The Arboricultural Health and Condition Survey has provided the council with the knowledge to adopt a risk managed strategy for tree management.</p> <p>The council has been successful in obtaining £1,549 funding for the purchase of bird boxes, bat boxes, insect hotels and hedgehog homes for the Neath Port Talbot Local Nature Partnership Biodiversity Grant.</p> |
| <p>What have the barriers been?</p> | <p>As the council has limited funds, based solely on the precept, it relies heavily of grants to provide funding to address Biodiversity. The council has submitted several bids to the Neath Port Talbot Local Nature Partnership Biodiversity Grant. However, due to the continual delay in funding becoming available (apparently from the Welsh Government), numerous opportunities are being lost. If funding was made earlier in the calendar year other activities, such as detailed habitat audits can be carried out.</p> |
| <p>What will you change?</p> | <p>Adding Biodiversity as an agenda item to every council meeting will ensue a greater focus on Biodiversity related issues, which may otherwise be lost if Biodiversity was not a discrete topic.</p> |
| <p>How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed?</p> | <p>This report will be reviewed at next council meeting before being released as our annual submission.</p> <p>As Biodiversity will be an agenda item at council meetings, any activity that has a Biodiversity element will be addressed then. The review of the plan, together with any adjustments can then be addressed monthly.</p> |