

Llanafanfawr Community Council

Biodiversity Plan

Updated October 2025



Environment Wales Act 2016 Section 6

1. Introduction

Community & Town Councils are required under the Environment Wales Act 2016 Section 6 to prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to comply with the duty to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity within their current work areas.

Public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

This plan demonstrates Llanafanfawr Community Council's commitment to and responsibility for complying with the duty.

2. Llanafanfawr

Llanafanfawr Community Council covers an area of arable and upland Mid Wales. It is characterised by large tracts of upland, scattered farms and hamlets. It comprises of 8251.45 hectares¹ with a population of approximately 470. This equates to a population density of 0.06 persons per hectare.

Part of the National Trust's large Abergwesyn Common (6523.02 ha total) lies within the Community Council area as does the former Llysdinam Field Studies Centre with its historic gardens, now run by a Trust. A short section of the Wye Valley Walk passes through the east part of the area.

Community facilities include Llanafanfawr and District Community Centre, (run by an independent Management Committee), 1 Congregational Chapel (Troedrhwdalar) and 2 Churches (St Afan's and Llanfihangel Brynpabuan). Pysgah Baptist Chapel has closed for worship and is currently for sale.

3. Wildlife and Biodiversity

The main settlements lie within National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) 27, Vales of Irfon and Ithon, the former being an important habitat in the area. The Irfon is a SSSI and SAC and is important for otters, Atlantic salmon and specialised aquatic plants. The Irfon Catchment has one of the last Welsh populations of Freshwater Pearl Mussels. The Irfon Catchment Resilient Freshwater Habitats project aims has been working to increase the resilience of the biodiversity in the Irfon River.²

Large areas also lie within NLCA 21, Cambrian Mountains. The open moorlands are home to some important bird species including Red Grouse Lapwing, Golden Plover and Red Kite.

4. Audit of Functions – What we do now

The Community Council does not own or manage any land. It purchased four redundant telephone boxes at various locations within the Community Council area.

¹ NOMIS Local Area Data 2011 census

² <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/irfon-catchment/>

The Community Council makes an annual contribution to the running of the Community Centre. It maintains good links with the Churches and Chapel.

5. Action Plan – What more we can do

Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales Objective	Action carried out to:	Llanafanfawr Action
Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<p>The Community Council will:</p> <p>Continue ongoing review of its policies to ensure that biodiversity is at the heart of all it does.</p> <p>Continue to reflect its commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's Annual Report.</p> <p>Take into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters.</p> <p>Support local organisations to embed biodiversity into local activity e.g. Community Centre, churches and chapels which own assets in the area.</p>
	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	
Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	-safeguard principal species and habitats	<p>The Community Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work with initiatives such as The Irfon Catchment Project and other organisations in the area to enhance biodiversity. – Pass any concerns to the relevant officers in Powys County Council , NRW or any other relevant agency.
Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation. The impact of forestry areas in the headwaters of small brooks could be investigated and any measures taken in particular with NRW management land to mitigate this	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	
Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species ,phosphate levels	Speeding traffic along the B4358 is a major concern. The Community Council will continue to work with Powys

		County Council to address the issue.
Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	-use, improve and share evidence	The Community Council will continue to work with other organisations including national charities like the National Trust, Powys County Council and community organisations for the well-being of the community.
Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for enhancing biodiversity.		
Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual patterns of nature, this poses many risks to human beings and the forms of life on earth.		As above

6. Barriers and enablers

Barriers

Limited ability to impact on biodiversity:

- The Community Council does not manage or own any land.
- It does not undertake any maintenance work but reports issues directly to Powys County Council.
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Enablers

As a small community it is easy to work with other community groups on joint projects.

The Community Council has excellent links with other community groups.

7. Monitoring and Review

This plan will be due to be reviewed in 2028.

Adopted by Llanafanfawr Community Council

Date 22 October 2025

Signed D A Powell Chairman)