



Gwernyfed Community Council

Section 6 Report on the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Reporting Period: 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2025

Report compiled November 2025

1. Introduction

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Gwernyfed Community Council (GCC) must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and, in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems. GCC serves the communities of Three Cocks, Felindre, and Glasbury (south of the river) within the Gwernyfed ward. Although the Council has limited direct land-management responsibilities, it recognises its vital role in enabling, influencing, and coordinating local environmental action through community engagement, partnership and good governance. This report summarises activity undertaken from April 2023 to March 2025 and sets out GCC's proportionate but ambitious plans for 2025–26.

2. Context and Baseline

- GCC currently manages no public-facing assets but expects to assume management of the green spaces in Three Cocks during 2025/26 under agreement with Powys County Council.
- The registered charity Three Cocks Matters Community Group (TCMCG) produced an Environmental Report (2024) identifying biodiversity potential, pollinator corridors, and community stewardship opportunities in Three Cocks. GCC has adopted this as an evidence base for future management.
- GCC continues to hold accessible hybrid meetings and share information openly through its website and social media.
- Meeting minutes note work exploring flood-risk issues in Glasbury, a recurring local challenge demonstrating how ecosystem management underpins community safety.
- Activities support GCC's aims (2024/25 Annual Report): 1) Support local community initiatives that promote wellbeing and sustainability; 2) Enhance communication and participation across the four villages; 3) Ensure good governance, transparency, and sound financial management; 4) Promote environmental responsibility and awareness.

3. What We've Done (2023 – 2025)

- Maintained a close working partnership with Three Cocks Matters, supporting community-led environmental projects and recognising their Environmental Report (2024) as a key evidence source.
- Provided small grants and letters of support for community venues and initiatives contributing to environmental or sustainability objectives.
- Engaged with Powys County Council on matters including verge maintenance and litter control, improving the quality of public spaces.
- Integrated environmental and flood-risk considerations into planning comments and local consultations, reflecting the Section 6 duty in core governance.
- Discussed potential flood-mitigation options for Glasbury, linking climate resilience with healthy catchments and habitats.
- Environmental topics appear regularly in minutes and public agendas, embedding biodiversity awareness within council practice.

4. Key Learning and Knowledge Gained

- Community interest is strong – residents value practical environmental information and local projects.
- Evidence informs action – the TCMCG Environmental Report provides a robust baseline for green-space management.
- Partnerships magnify impact – collaborating with local volunteers and neighbouring councils achieves far more than acting alone.
- Cross-village equity matters – environmental benefits should extend to Felindre, Glasbury and Llanigon, not only Three Cocks.

5. Looking Ahead (2025 – 26 Plans)

During 2025/26 GCC anticipates finalising its role in managing the green spaces in Three Cocks, a significant step towards direct delivery of biodiversity benefits. GCC will also focus on looking at further opportunities across the Gwernyfed Ward that align with its aims.

Initial priorities include developing a Green-Spaces Maintenance and Biodiversity Principles Statement, adopting a Biodiversity & Environmental Policy, and delivering environmental awareness sessions across the ward through the Community Skills for Life programme.

GCC will also explore broader initiatives such as participation in “No Mow May” or other Powys-wide pollinator schemes, and future partnerships with local schools to encourage youth involvement in nature projects.

6. Actions for the Year Ahead (2025 – 26)

These actions are linked to both the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) objectives and GCC's own aims (Annual Report 2024/25), ensuring biodiversity is integrated into core council functions.

Ref	Activity	Linked Objective(s)	NRAP	Linked Aim(s)	GCC	Lead Partners /	Timescale	Resources / Budget	Monitoring / Output
1	Deliver an Environmental Awareness & Sustainability workshop as part of the Community Skills for Life programme.	7 – Engage people & communities		1 & 4 – Promote wellbeing & environmental awareness	Clerk + Cllr Lead + Trainer	Nov 2025 – Mar 2026		£300	Attendance and feedback summary published
2	Draft and adopt a Biodiversity & Environmental Policy, embedding environmental considerations in all decisions.	1 – Embed ecosystem resilience; 7 – Engage communities		3 & 4 – Good governance & environmental responsibility	Council & Clerk	Mar 2026	Staff time		Policy approved and published
3	Support community environmental activity across Felindre, Glasbury, Llanigon and Three Cocks.	4 – Improve connectivity; 7 – Engage communities		1 & 2 – Support local initiatives & enhance communication	Chair + Cllrs + Local Groups	Mar 2026	Minimal		Events or groups supported
4	Add 'Environment & Biodiversity Update' as a quarterly agenda item at monthly meetings.	1 – Embed resilience; 7 – Engage communities		3 – Transparency & governance	Clerk	Apr 2026 onward	None		Minutes record standing item
5	Produce an annual Biodiversity Activity Summary in the GCC Annual Report and on website.	3 – Safeguard species; 7 – Engage communities		3 – Governance & accountability	Clerk + Cllr Lead	Mar 2026	None		Published summary
6	Liaise with Powys CC / NRW to access local habitat and species data and identify one joint action.	2 – Identify & safeguard habitats; 6 – Minimise invasives		4 – Environmental responsibility	Chair + Clerk	Jun 2026	None		Formal liaison recorded
7	Prepare for the transfer of Three Cocks green spaces; develop biodiversity-led maintenance principles.	1 – Embed resilience; 4 – Improve connectivity; 5 – Sustainable management		1 & 4 – Wellbeing & environmental responsibility	Chair + Property WG	Mar 2026	Within the lease budget		Green-space statement drafted

7. Review and Governance

Progress is reviewed quarterly through the standing agenda item and summarised annually in the GCC Annual Report.

The Clerk maintains an evidence log (including photos, attendance lists, and feedback) to support future reporting.

An annual review, conducted each June after the Annual Meeting, will reapprove or update this report.

Ongoing partnerships with Three Cocks Matters, Powys County Council and Natural Resources Wales will ensure shared learning and alignment.