

Martletwy Community Council
Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6.
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report

2025

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Martletwy Community Council ward is predominantly rural, comprising a number of small settlements surrounded almost entirely by farmland. This report relates only to the duties of the Community Council and does not apply to farmers or landowners within the ward.

The area consists largely of fields, trees and watercourses, including the Cleddau. Most buildings are traditional stone properties or single-storey structures.

The Community Council is subject to the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty under Part 1, Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and is required to publish a report outlining the actions it has taken to comply with that duty.

Martletwy Community Council comprises six councillors, has a precept of £11,250, and serves an electorate of 455.

AIMS

It is the Community Council's aim to:

- a) Embed biodiversity in decision-making and procurement.
- b) Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance within the community.
- c) Safeguard principal species and habitats.
- d) Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks where viable.
- e) Tackle negative factors where viable, including reducing pollution, using nature-based solutions, and addressing invasive species.
- f) Use, improve and share evidence.
- g) Support capacity building within the community and partner organisations.

ACTIONS TO DATE

1. When considering planning responses, the Community Council remains mindful of the impact of applications on biodiversity. Where appropriate, it raises concerns about unnecessary tree works, the effect of local drainage on watercourses, and other relevant environmental factors.
2. When procuring materials, the Community Council seeks to use local suppliers where possible in order to reduce delivery miles.
3. When procuring supplies, the Community Council seeks to use suitable materials that enhance biodiversity and reduce waste.
4. When engaging paid labour or contractors, the Community Council seeks to use local tradespeople and businesses where possible in order to reduce travel miles and support the local economy.
5. The Community Council has service level agreements with the local authority for two play areas, one in Martletwy and one in Lawrenny. Although it does not own the land, it

continues to explore opportunities to enhance these green spaces where possible. Recent works at both sites have included fence replacement undertaken in liaison with the local authority inspector.

6. Martletwy play area has also benefited from a range of enhancements following the successful Orchard Package Grant bid from Keep Wales Tidy, referred to in last year's report. These improvements include benches, a hedgehog box, a wheelbarrow, gardening tools and native bulbs.
7. Over the last 12 months, the Community Council has planted more than 80 saplings provided by the National Park, the Woodland Trust and Keep Wales Tidy.
8. In 2024, the Community Council gave a sapling from trees supplied by the National Park and the Woodland Trust to every family with children in the ward.
9. Recently secured grant funding through Doing the Small Things has enabled the Community Council to establish and expand volunteer community groups. Current and planned projects include local litter-picking sessions, managing plants and saplings at Martletwy play area, charity jumble sales to encourage recycling and upcycling, and regular swap shops for books, clothes and other household items.
10. The Community Council is establishing a Christmas tree initiative, offering live trees to each village where there is local interest. A solar light set has been purchased for one tree, with further sets to be acquired if the initiative proves successful. For the inaugural tree in Landshipping at Christmas 2024, decorations were made from recycled materials.
11. There is a privately run community garden within the ward. Although it is outside the remit of the Community Council, it remains a valuable local resource for those involved.
12. The Community Council continues to consider ways to enhance domestic recycling provision in addition to the local authority's recycling programme.
13. The Community Council reports highway maintenance issues promptly where they may have an adverse effect on local biodiversity.

REVIEW OF S6 DUTY

a. What has worked well

- i. Continued consideration of aspects of planning applications that may affect local biodiversity has been positive and will remain an ongoing priority.
- ii. Doing the Small Things grant funding has continued to support litter removal and other volunteer-led community projects, thereby enhancing the local area and removing hazardous items from spaces used by wildlife. Plans to reduce household waste through swap shops will also complement the local authority's recycling programme.
- iii. Issues relating to the maintenance of saplings have provided useful lessons, which will inform future planting and maintenance activity.
- iv. The use of local resources and labour continues to work well and will remain a priority for the Community Council.
- v. Applications for funding and external support continue to be successful.

b. Going forward

i. The Community Council will continue to consider what further action can be taken to ensure that its functions and activities meet the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty set out in Part 1, Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

c. Monitoring and Review

i. The Section 6 duty will be monitored regularly by the Community Council, with new plans and actions added as appropriate.

ii. This plan will be reviewed annually.

Updated by: E Lesnianski Date: 01/05/2025

Adopted by Martletwy Community Council:

Date: 08/05/2025

Signed: Cllr Liz Williams (Chair)