

Dolgarrog Community Council Biodiversity Policy

Adopted:

1. Introduction

In line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Dolgarrog Community Council is committed to enhancing biodiversity, fostering resilient ecosystems, and actively promoting environmental stewardship within our community. This policy outlines our commitment to conserving biodiversity and includes actions we will undertake to support local ecosystems, encourage sustainable practices, and enhance community engagement.

2. Policy Objectives

- To enhance biodiversity within Dolgarrog and contribute to ecosystem resilience.
- To integrate biodiversity considerations into all council activities and decisions.
- To engage and educate the community about biodiversity and conservation.
- To monitor and report on biodiversity initiatives annually.

3. Key Actions

a. Habitat and Wildlife Protection

- **Native Planting:** Prioritise the use of native and pollinator-friendly species in all council-managed green spaces. Avoid the use of invasive species and implement removal strategies where necessary.
- **Habitat Preservation:** Protect existing habitats by limiting development in ecologically sensitive areas, such as riparian zones, woodlands, and meadows.
- **Wildlife Corridors:** Create and maintain wildlife corridors to support species movement and ecosystem connectivity, specifically within community parks and along pathways.

b. Community Engagement and Education

- **Public Awareness:** Provide workshops, guided nature walks, and community events to educate residents about the importance of local biodiversity and ways they can contribute.
- **Volunteer Programs:** Organise regular community clean-ups, invasive species removal days, and native tree-planting events.
- **School Involvement:** Partner with local schools to create educational programs on biodiversity, conservation, and sustainable practices to instill awareness and responsibility in younger generations.

c. Sustainable Land and Resource Management

- **Eco-friendly Maintenance:** Implement low-impact maintenance practices, such as reducing pesticide and fertiliser use and minimising habitat disturbance during maintenance activities.
- **Pollinator Support:** Develop wildflower meadows and install insect hotels to support pollinator species. Maintain and expand pollinator habitats throughout the village.

- **Tree Conservation:** Protect mature trees and implement a tree-planting program with an emphasis on native species that contribute to biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

d. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Data Collection:** Work with environmental organisations to conduct regular surveys on local species, habitat health, and overall biodiversity in council-managed areas.
- **Adapting to Climate Change:** Implement resilience strategies, such as increased tree cover and wetland preservation, to help mitigate the effects of climate change and protect vulnerable ecosystems.

4. Collaborative Efforts

- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with Natural Resources Wales, the North Wales Wildlife Trust, and local conservation groups to support regional biodiversity initiatives.
- **Grants and Funding:** Pursue grants and funding to support biodiversity projects, such as habitat restoration and community-led conservation projects.

5. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years to ensure it reflects current best practices in biodiversity conservation and the needs of the Dolgarrog community.