



# **Bargoed Town Council**

## **Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1**

**Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**

**November 2022.**



Bargoed Town Council serves approximately 12,900 residents of the geographic areas of Aberbargoed, Bargoed, Gilfach, and the Park Estate. The precept for 2022-23 is £129,585

- Town Council does not own or manage any land or buildings.
- The authority comprises of 13 elected Members, 6 Volunteers and 2 paid member of staff.
- Within the geographical areas served by Bargoed Town Council, residents benefit from many natural resources including Aberbargoed Grasslands, which is a National Nature Reserve, and Bargoed Woodland Park.
- Bargoed Town Council works in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council and supports their stated commitment to protect and enhance the environment for future generations by promoting sustainable practices and considering environmental, social and economic factors in all decision-making processes.

Provided grants and supported open days to create habitats and resilient ecological networks

Supported the ongoing development of a community orchard, planting herbs and fruit bushes on raised beds in the community. Our Public engagement led to an expansion of the community orchard through donation of memorial fruit trees

We have increased plant hanging baskets and planters and used native pollinator friendly flowers throughout. Additional baskets in the Park estate have been trialed this year. This continued expansion of the floral display programs across all four town council wards has been conducted using a mixed planting regime inclusive of native plants and flowering herbs.



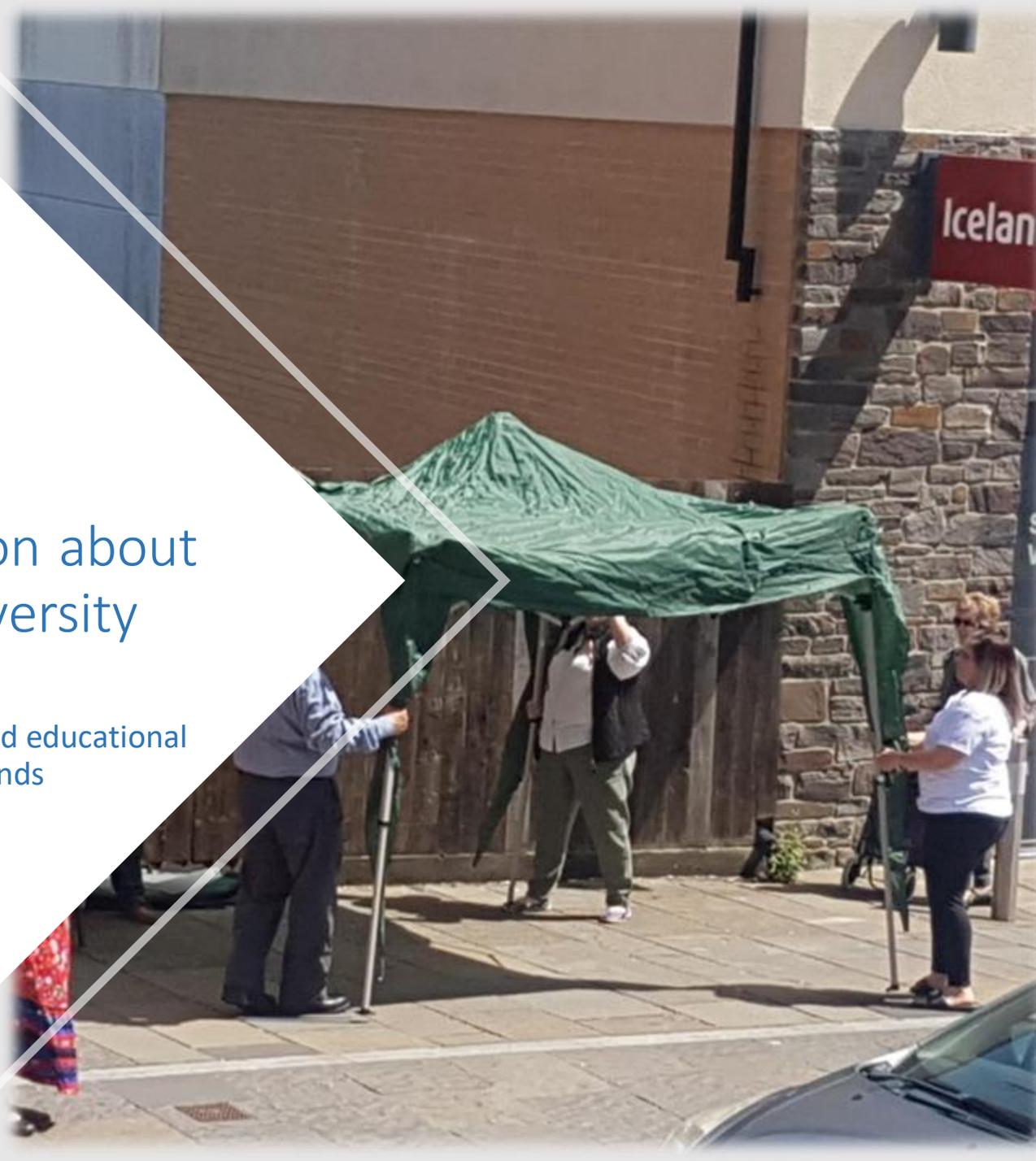
- Continued expansion of the floral display programme across all four town council wards, using a mixed planting regime inclusive of native plants and flowering herbs



# Raising Awareness

The Town Council has sought to raise awareness of the importance of our work through social media updates, interaction with the community through pop-up stands and wide distribution of posters. We have placed informative and educational posters throughout the town and established strong bonds with groups throughout the area interested in biodiversity and cultivation of green areas.





# Education about Biodiversity

Pamphlets and educational stands



Community  
engagement &  
Wales in Bloom

- We encouraged crochet flowers through town. Massively popular and effective at raising awareness of the advantages of enhancing the community with floral decorations
- Leading to the submission of entry to 2023 Wales in Bloom and a renewed enthusiasm to succeed

# Biodiversity in Town Centre



# Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement

We have prioritised considered biodiversity when considering planning applications, mindful of the impacts of developments on public rights of way, tree preservation orders and the safeguarding of SINC areas.

Council consideration of Environmental impact prior to development of any new projects or activities. For example, the Annual Fireworks display has been cancelled due to the impact on ecology, wellbeing and animals.

# Geocaching

To encourage interaction and appreciation of nature Bargoed Town Council has set two geocache routes through the Urban and Rural Parks.

Proving themselves popular we have plans to extend these routes further in cooperation with the Caerphilly Park Rangers and Caerphilly County Borough Parks Department.



# Education through Geocaching



- By successfully implementing two Geocache sites in the Four Ward areas we have raised the awareness of biodiversity in the area, increased the activity of residents and increased visitors to local parks.
- Inclusion of information on the environment in the 'Swag' boxes has raised knowledge of the local flora, fauna and wildlife as well as the history of the area

# What we said we'd do....and what we did

- Members work with schools and partner organisations to increase activity at sites such as the Aberbargoed Nature Reserve, Bargoed Country Park and the parks in town council areas.
- **Promoted the National Nature Reserve in Aberbargoed on the Town Council website and social media pages.**
- Supported litter picking events, including local schools and voluntary groups as an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the “reduce, reuse and recycle” ethos.
- **Council is engaging with the public to encourage participation in garden maintenance in town centre locations**
- Considered biodiversity when considering planning applications – made formal objections in relation to speculative applications from developers on green field sites, impacts of developments on public rights of way, tree preservation orders and the safeguarding of SINC areas.
- **Council will work on identifying additional opportunities to embed biodiversity and ecosystems into Council activities.**
- **Caerphilly Park Rangers and Caerphilly Parks Department worked in partnership to install hugely popular geocache routes at Bargoed Urban Park and Bargoed Woodland Park with additional plans to install in more parks in town council areas.**
- **Promoted all parks and reserve in Bargoed area on the Town Council website and social media pages.**
- Encouraged litter picking events, targeting local schools and voluntary groups.
- **Several groups are undertaking garden maintenance in town centre locations**
- **Continue to consider Environmental issues and biodiversity when considering planning applications**
- **Council continue to identify additional opportunities to embed biodiversity and ecosystems into Council activities.**

# And what we're doing next.....Action Plan!

- **Continue to ensure all purchases are sourced locally where possible**
- **Add planters to more locations throughout the four ward areas striving for recycled materials whenever possible**
- **Develop the use of communications technology and provide training to expand the knowledge of benefits that come from it**
- **Continue with remote and hybrid working using increased technology leading to reduced travel and reduced carbon footprint**
- **Embrace electronic documents reducing paper, ink, postage and energy consumption**
- **Encourage more organisations to develop environmental projects in the local area**
- **Expand the community food growing garden in Aberbargoed.**
- **Continue to work closely with Caerphilly County Borough Council Park Rangers and local wildlife groups and schools .**

## And what we're doing next.....Action Plan!

- **Town Council will continue engagement with primary schools to carry out wildflower bombing activities to encourage pollinators**
- **Expansion of the floral display programme across all four town council wards, using a mixed planting regime inclusive of native plants and flowering herbs**
- **Continue the development of the community orchard and further planting of herbs and fruit bushes on raised beds previously established in the community.**
- **Further expansion of the successful geocache project in additional two locations, encouraging wellbeing, environmental awareness and biodiversity understanding.**
- **Use public engagement to greater effect to lead to an expansion of the community orchards through volunteering.**

# And what we're doing next.....Action Plan!

- **Use the platform established from the Wales in Bloom competition to encourage increased community engagement with floral displays.**
- **Encourage visitors to Aberbargoed Grasslands National Nature Reserve on the Town Council website and social media pages.**
- **Work with Keep Wales Tidy and Town Council Youth Representatives to organise more litter picking events, raising awareness and promoting the “reduce, reuse and recycle” ethos.**
- **Explore grant opportunities to encourage community participation in garden maintenance in town centre locations**
- **Further work on identifying additional opportunities to embed biodiversity and ecosystems into Council activities.**
- **Continue to consider environmental impact prior to development of any new projects or activities**
- **Work with voluntary organisations and church groups to develop volunteer community gardening initiatives.**