



BARGOED TOWN COUNCIL

Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report & Action Plan 2025



Date Adopted by Council: 25th September 2025
Next Report Due: 2028
Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

CONTEXT

Bargoed Town Council consists of four electoral wards of Aberbargoed, Bargoed, Gilfach and Park, serving approximately 11,863 residents (census 2021).

The Council has thirteen ward Members, of which 9 are elected and 4 were co-opted. The staff team comprises two part-time officers [a Clerk/RFO and a Deputy Clerk/Deputy RFO].

Bargoed Town Council has no property of its own. It operates from within the old courthouse building housed within the Gwent Constabulary Police Station, on Hanbury Road in Bargoed Town Centre.

The Town Council annual precept for 2024-25 was £193,552.

The local area is very fortunate to have extensive access to green spaces and environmental projects including:

- Aberbargoed Grasslands national nature reserve
- Butterfly park
- Bargoed Woodland park
- Aberbargoed Common
- Bargoed Urban Park
- Aberbargoed Urban Park at Cwrt Coch and Yew Streets
- Gilfach Park
- Tarraggan Educational Gardens

The area also benefits from several outdoor play areas for families including sports fields, skateboard parks and smaller open spaces which are maintained and managed by the Unitary Authority - Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Bargoed Town Council works closely with CCBC and local community organisations to promote events and activities that increase footfall in local parks and green spaces such as geocache trails in Bargoed Woodland park, the development of community growing spaces in Aberbargoed Urban Park, and the provision of grant funds to support community wellbeing activities at Tarraggan Educational Gardens.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Ward areas include the following community groups that Bargoed Town Council strive to collaborate with on environmental projects:

ST GWLADYS (BARGOED) PRIMARY SCHOOL	GILFACH FARGOED & PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL*	ST PETERS CHURCH ABERBARGOED	TARRAGGAN EDUCATIONAL GARDENS	BARGOED GARDENING CLUB
CCBC EDUCATION SERVICE @ THE HANGAR	YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO SANNAN	UNITED WELSH HOUSING ASSOCIATION	ABERBARGOED HOUSE OF PRAYER	GILFACH YMCA
ABERBARGOED PRIMARY SCHOOL	CARTREF COMMUNITY HALL	ST MARGARETS CHURCH GILFACH	HEOLDDU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	BARGOED SALVATION ARMY
YSGOL GYMRAEG GILFACH FARGOED	ST GWLADYS CHURCH BARGOED	GILFACH BARGOED COMMUNITY CENTRE	ABERBARGOED COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM	ST GWLADYS CHURCH HALL

(*Gilfach Fargoed and Park Federated Primary School)

Bargoed Town Council also strives to work with all six of the allotment sites in the community as listed below:

Gilfach Fargoed
Margaret Street
East View
Ty Fry
Oakland Hall
Heol Fargoed

Town Council do this by providing grant funding and equipment, develop raised beds and planters, support with volunteers and work with Keep Wales Tidy to access top up packages for fruit and vegetables to be grown.

In 2024, working in partnership with CCBC, a new community orchard was started at Bargoed Urban Park; and in collaboration with both Keep Wales Tidy and the Hang@r Community Education Team the Community Food Growing Area in Aberbargoed Park was expanded with additional beds and fruit trees.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SINCE THE LAST REPORT

Action carried out to:	Examples of action taken or continue to be in progress:
Embed biodiversity into decision-making and procurement	Ensure that wherever possible goods and services are sourced locally.
	Expanded the use of communications technology and provided training to expand the knowledge of benefits that come from it
	Greater use of electronic documents reducing paper, ink, postage and energy consumption
	Installed planters made from recycled materials to more locations throughout the four ward areas
	Introduced fully hybrid working using increased technology to reduce travel and carbon footprint
	All renewed Christmas lighting is now with LED to reduce energy consumption.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Worked with Caerphilly County Borough Council Park Rangers, local wildlife groups and schools to set up geocache trails and carry out bulb planting activities
	Introduction of a year-round floral display programme across the town council wards, using a mixed planting regime inclusive of native plants and flowering herbs
	Delivered community wellbeing workshops on building bug barns and bird boxes
	Encouraged visitors to Aberbargoed Grasslands National Nature Reserve on the Town Council website and social media pages.



WHAT HAVE WE DONE SINCE THE LAST REPORT

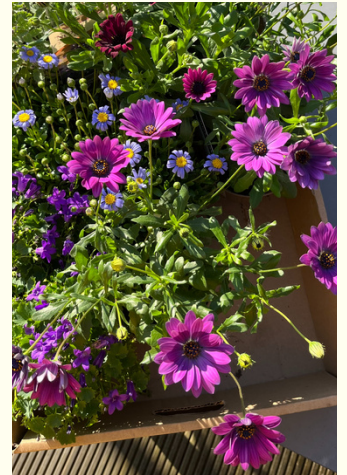
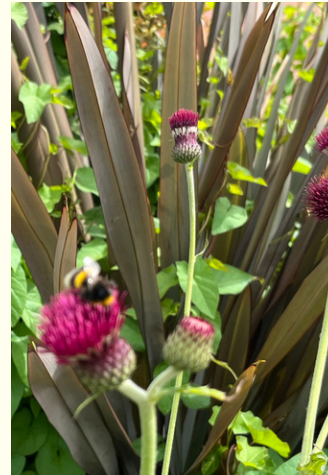
Action carried out to:	Examples of action taken or continue to be in progress:
Tackle negative factors: eg. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Expanded the community food growing garden in Aberbargoed.
	Further expansion of the community orchard and further planting of herbs and fruit bushes on raised beds previously established in the community
	Regular litter picking takes place in the community and is promoted through social media, raising awareness and promoting the “reduce, reuse and recycle” ethos.
	Petitioned the Unity Authority for increased management of weeds in the town centre
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Encouraged more voluntary organisations and resident groups to develop environmental projects in the local area
	Worked with voluntary organisations and church groups to develop volunteer community gardening initiatives including distribution of daffodil bulbs and food growing materials
	Promoted the town council small grants programme widely within all sections of the community



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY EXAMPLES

Bargoed in Bloom

A vibrant celebration of community spirit and creativity. From July 15th to July 26th, Bargoed Town Centre was transformed into a colourful display of floral artistry. Local businesses and residents came together to adorn the town with stunning flower arrangements, living displays, and intricate crochet and knitted floral decorations. The event featured a variety of activities, including a photo opportunity at the flower wall in Pop-Up Wales (the old Spar building). Bargoed in Bloom 2024 not only beautified the town but also fostered a sense of community pride and collaboration. It was a testament to the dedication and creativity of Bargoed's residents and businesses, making it a memorable event for all who participated and visited. Let's continue to celebrate the beauty and community spirit of Bargoed!



"I like the flowers in Bargoed town, there's lots of lovely colours"

Year-round Displays

In response to residents' feedback, Members opted to trial a NEW planting regime and offer Year Round Floral Displays in line with seasonal availability. Autumn/Winter saw the arrival of delicate pansies, cyclamen and primulas, and what followed was an array of multi-coloured spring bulbs, daffodils, tulips, crocus which brought extra colour to our town and lifted residents' spirits after those long Winter months



"The lovely array of colour on the flowers on Lowri Plaza brought a huge smile to my face when I walked by the Miners Heads this morning"

Local Parks Update

Bargoed Town Council, in partnership with the Caerphilly County Borough Council's Parks Department, is pleased to share some exciting updates to our local parks. These enhancements not only beautify our community but also foster togetherness and strengthen biodiversity resilience.

Yew Street Park Orchard

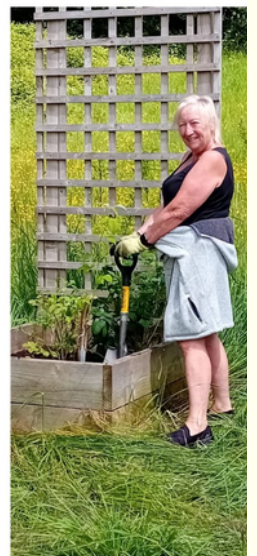
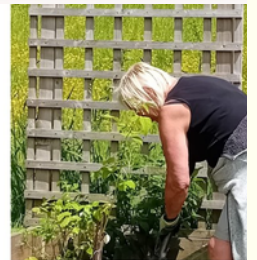
We've added new plantings to the Yew Street Park Orchard, giving it a fresh look and making it an even nicer place to visit. This project was significantly supported by our dedicated Councillors, who actively participated in the planning and planting processes throughout the year. The new plantings include a variety of fruit trees and native plants, which will provide habitat for local wildlife and contribute to the ecological health of our area.

New Orchard in Bargoed Park

We've also planted a new orchard in Bargoed Park. This new addition aims to create a peaceful and beautiful space for everyone to enjoy. The orchard features a diverse range of fruit trees, which will not only offer a serene environment for relaxation but also support local biodiversity by attracting pollinators and other beneficial insects.

Community Effort

These projects were made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, including our Councillors, whose contributions were invaluable. The collaborative effort of our community members has been instrumental in bringing these improvements to life. By working together, we have created spaces that promote social interaction, community spirit, and environmental stewardship. We invite all residents to come and see the changes for themselves. Our parks are now more inviting than ever, offering a place where people can connect with nature and each other. These enhancements are a testament to what we can achieve when we come together as a community, fostering a sense of belonging and resilience.



ACTION PLAN 2025-2028

Action carried out to:	Activity/Initiative
Embed biodiversity into decision-making and procurement	Continue to source goods and service locally wherever possible
	Continued provision of floral displays employing mixed planting and encourage the development of a "Bee Friendly Bargoed"
	Promote Wales Nature week in July each year
	Encourage greater volunteer numbers in local environmental projects through promotion of project opportunities on social media and website
	Maintain and expand the provision of fruit and vegetables in the food growing areas
	Further expand community orchard provision
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Promote the use of the LERC Wales App in the community to enable the recording and sharing of wildlife sightings in Wales
	Councillors and staff to undertake biodiversity training
	Develop greater website resources to better inform the local community
	Facilitate organised walks with local environmental organisations such as Gwent Wildlife Trust and RSPB for residents to "get to know your area"
	Engage primary schools in apple harvesting when the community orchards are mature enough to produce fruit
	Share information in the community on the National Bird Watch campaign

ACTION PLAN 2025-2028

Action carried out to:	Examples of action taken or continue to be in progress:
Tackle negative factors: eg. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Introduce Lone Bee Posts in the Community garden areas
	Promote schemes that encourage recycling, such as spectacles/batteries etc
	Develop further litter picking activities across the community and encourage a regular Community Clean Up activity
	Promote the Welsh Government "its for them" campaign
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Ensure budget availability to support environmental projects and provide greater grant access for such
	Promote the activities of Tarraggan Educational Gardens and Aberbargoed Grasslands Education Centre
	Engage Salvaged Creations and other Voluntary Organisations to deliver workshops on bug and bee mansions or hedgehog hotels.
	Work with Keep Wales Tidy to attract greater environmental funding to the community.

