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Community & Town Councils

Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2028

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Name of Community & Town Council:	**WHITFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Council type (Group 1, 2 or 3 for NRAP Aims):	**3**

Introduction and Context

Whitford Community Council is situated in Northeast Wales. The surrounding elevated countryside provides panoramic views toward the Clwydian Hills, Snowdonia, the Wirral, and the Lancashire hills

Within the Whitford Community Council area there are five villages; Carmel, Gorsedd, Lloc, Pantasaph, Pant Y Wacco and Whitford. The population of the area is 1,854 (January 2026 Register of Electors).

There are twelve Community Councillors and employ a part time Clerk and Financial Officer who works from home. The Council hold monthly meetings (apart from August and December) to which the public can attend. The meetings commence at 7.00pm and are held in St Paul's Church in Gorsedd. All meetings are publicly advertised.

The Council's Precept (budget) for the financial year 2026 / 2027 is £68,000.00 – with a Band D property charge at £57.58.

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NRAP Aim	Actions planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
1. Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.			**Councillors & Clerk (All below sections)**
	Manage landholdings for the benefit of nature and biodiversity, namely Pen Y Gelli Nature in Lloc and The Bryn in Carmel (wildflower area).	**On-going**	
	Laise with Flintshire County Council Bio-Diversity Officers and colleagues to continue to seek advise and assistance.	**On-going**	
	Maintenance of Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve and The Bryn (wildflower area).	**On-going**	
	Promote residential biodiversity enhancement. Encourage use of bird boxes, feeders.	**On-going**	
	Control invasive species, more pollinators planted.	**On-going**	
2. Safeguard species and improve their management.	Create new nesting habitats, in public areas and on private land.	**2027- onwards**	
	Evaluate use of all pesticide with Flintshire County Council.	**2027- onwards**	
	Evaluate mowing regimes of all grasslands (Whitford Community Council and Flintshire County Council).	**2027- onwards**	

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	New habitats for invertebrates.	**2027- onwards**	
	Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve and The Bryn. To continue to ensure the areas for enjoyment and preservation of natural habitat.	**On-going**	
	Support action on biodiversity threats, include control of invasive non native species, prevention of habitat loss.	**On-going**	
	Engage residents / land-owners / farm owners to better manage their land for bio-diversity and play a part in the community.	**On going**	
3. Tackle key pressures on species, habitats and ecosystems.	Support community climate action. Engage with the community, listen and assist in voluntary action.	**On-going**	
	Engage and assist the County Bio-Diversity Officers, including residents.	**On-going**	
	Save energy, be aware of light pollution and inform community how they can play a part in their own properties and how it affects nature and can also effect mental health.	**On-going**	
	Encourage residents to plant with more drought friendly plants and shrubs, pollinators.	**On-going**	
4. Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.			
	To investigate grants for biodiversity packages, schemes to assist with our action plan.	**On-going**	
	Review every 3 months to ensure the plan is fresh and at the forefront of the Community Councils responsibilities.	**On-going**	

5. Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.			
	Consider biodiversity in processes considering planning applications and reports to Council.	**On-going**	
	Support wider community understanding… Use Five Villages Chronicle and Facebook group to share information and encourage involvement.	**On-going**	
	Engage residents / land-owners / farm owners to better manage their land for bio-diversity and play a part in the community.	**On-going**	
	Engage with Ysgol Bro Carmel to learn about bio-diversity.	**On-going**	
	Engage with local groups or businesses when volunteers are required.	**On-going**	
6. Improve our evidence and monitoring.	Be involved with and promote national environmental recording scheme, like butterfly count, garden birdwatch.	**On-going**	
	Share information and evidence with local conservation groups and charities	**On-going**	
	Be involved with projects with Flintshire County Council and other Town & Community Councils in the County, including National Landscapes Wales (Clwydian Range and Dee Valley) and share information.	**On-going**	

Annual review of the Biodiversity Action Plan			
Date reviewed:	**08/10/2026**	**/ 2027**	**/ 2028**
What has worked well?	Planted a number of conker trees in Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve. Removal invasive plants and ferns. Completed Pen Y Gelli Nature Reserve annual ‘clean up’ to remove competing ferns and small saplings, including the control of persistent weeds. Seeked the advice and assistance of the Flintshire County Bio-Diversity Officers. Completed the annual cut of a wildflower area in late summer after the		

	flowers have shed their seeds - traditionally called a hay cut or an annual cut-and at The Bryn in Carmel. To further Bio-Diversity projects in the Pen Y Gelli Nature reserve.		
What have the barriers been?	Pen Y Gelli: People (generally dog walkers) not keeping to the footpath areas. The Bryn: Damage to the area by youths riding bicycles over the wildflowers. Invasive plant across the Community Council area The use of synthetic sprays (residents) that harm helpful insects, bees, and birds along with pests.		

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What will you change?	Signage to politely increase awareness to visitors to kindly not walk in the area of wildflowers – advising the damage to the roots and stops new flowers from growing next year. The area is an important food source for local wildlife. Keeping to the trail ensures everyone can enjoy the view." Educate the younger generation as to the importance to Bio-Diversity both currently and for the future. To continue to liaise with the Flintshire County Council Bio-Diversity Officers and other organisations, including residents in relation to the use of synthetic sprays. To both promote and by sharing practical garden tips, and educating neighbors on local wildlife. To make contact with a local gardening club for assistance. Keep referring back to the plan to regularly review and keep as a priority.		

Review approved:	**08/10/2026**	**/2027**	**/2028**
Next review:	**14/10/2027**	**/2028**	

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Table 1: Types of organisations and possible s6 actions relative to their functions

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP aim for Planning
1	• that own or occupy an office building only and • whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA, Health Boards	NRAP aims: 3, 4, 5
2	• that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, • whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or • that can influence those who own or manage land.	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales,	NRAP aims: 3, 4, 5 as above NRAP aims: 1, 2, 6 relating to own grounds
3	• that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP aims

NRAP Aim 3: Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.

NRAP Aim 4: Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.

NRAP Aim 5: Embed biodiversity through engagement a awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.

NRAP Aim 1: Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.

NRAP Aim 2: Safeguard species and improve their management.

NRAP Aim 6: Improve our evidence and monitoring.

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