

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

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

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council: Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry Community Council

Group: 1

Introduction and Context

Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry (DWR) Community Council is within the St. James Ward of Caerphilly County Borough. The Community Council represents and serves three rural communities in South-East Wales: Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry and has a population of approximately 1,400 residents. The precept for 2025/26 is £21,000.

DWRCC currently has 7 Community Councillors and employs a part-time Clerk. DWRCC does not currently own or manage any land or buildings.

The communities of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry sit within a distinctive rural landscape in Caerphilly County Borough, rich in biodiversity and heritage. Habitats such as ancient woodlands, commons and semi-natural grasslands support diverse flora and fauna.

Rudry Common, a 92-hectare Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, provides vital habitats for pollinators, birds and native plants, while surrounding woodlands managed by Natural Resources Wales strengthen ecological connectivity.

The villages also contain Conservation Areas that protect historic character, with features including lime kilns, WWII bunkers and mining relics.

The Ruperra Estate adds further ecological and cultural value, with Coed Craig Ruperra's recovering ancient woodland, an Iron Age hill fort, Ruperra Castle and structures supporting the protected Greater Horseshoe Bat. Community-led conservation continues to enhance both biodiversity and heritage.

Together, these features make Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry a vital part of Caerphilly's green infrastructure, supporting biodiversity, heritage conservation, and community wellbeing.

Action Report 2023 – 2025			
NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...		Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wherever possible, we prioritise the use of using local suppliers, reducing transport emissions. We would take extra consideration in the selection process to suppliers who have an interest in the local environment. In 2025, we selected an energy supplier for our first festive lighting and part of the consideration was the biodiversity commitments of each supplier. We minimise printing and rely on digital communication to reduce our paper waste. When commenting on planning applications, councillors consider the potential impact on local biodiversity and green spaces. One of our current projects is the planting of wildflowers, providing food and shelter for pollinators. To ensure this is sustainable, soil-testing is due to be carried out, to allow the selection of seed mixes suited to our local conditions. <p>These actions, although modest, reflect our commitment to integrating biodiversity awareness into routine council activity.</p>	<p>Councillors & Clerk</p> <p>Councillors & Clerk</p> <p>Councillors & Clerk</p> <p>Councillors</p> <p>Councillors</p>
	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have recently began posting updates on our website which will include raising awareness of biodiversity. A recent post was linking residents to Caerphilly County Borough Council's Recycle Right guide which encourages residents to check that they are recycling everything correctly. 	Clerk
4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our councillors remain vigilant in identifying and responding to activities which may harm local biodiversity. One example of this involved the unauthorised removal of around 100 trees protected by a 	Councillors

	solutions, address invasive species	<p>Tree Preservation Order (TPO). On of our councillors promptly alerted the local authority of this. Although legal action was not possible in this case, the fast response shows our councillors commitments to tackling negative factors for biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work closely with the local police team to tackle illegal off-road biking, which damages habitats and disturbs wildlife. This joint effort helps to protect our green spaces. • We also work with the police to tackle speeding, along with members of the community. This not only creates safer spaces for residents, but also for the wildlife. • We have arranged for additional dog waste bins to be installed in areas where dog fouling was a problem. 	<p>Councillors</p> <p>Councillors</p> <p>Councillors</p>
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of our Grants Policy, we ask if the grant will enhance or improve the local environment. The answer to this will contribute to the decision of approving or declining the grant. • We will maintain a relationship with One Voice Wales and the clerk will share emails with all councillors relevant to biodiversity. 	<p>Councillors</p> <p>Clerk</p>



Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

What has worked well?	While soil-testing has not yet been completed (scheduled for January 2026), once this is carried out, our verges will be planted with pollinator-friendly species which we hope will enhance local biodiversity. We have also strengthened collaboration with the local authority which enabled dog-fouling to be dealt with promptly and resolved the issue quickly, before any harm was done.
What have the barriers been?	In the case of the unauthorised tree felling, enforcement action was not possible which reduced our ability to deter harmful practices. While selecting an energy supplier, we considered the biodiversity commitments of each supplier, however, due to being a small customer needing an unmetered supply, most suppliers have refused to supply and therefore, our options are limited.
What will you change?	We will strengthen consideration of biodiversity in decision-making by carrying out research in advance and providing evidence with practical options, so that our commitments can be more easily built into council decisions.
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	We will regularly monitor our section 6 duty. A new biodiversity action plan will be written in 2026. The clerk is already booked onto the Biodiversity Action Plan Webinar with One Voice Wales which will help with writing this.