

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

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Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council:	Whitecastle Community Council
Group:	2

Introduction and Context

Whitecastle Community Council is a small council made up of volunteers from the local communities of; Whitecastle, Penrhos, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Newcastle and Rockfield & St Maughans.

The Council currently consists of 6 Councillors and the Clerk.

The population is circa 1000 residents.

The ward area is made up of 17,235 acres, however, the Community Council is responsible for and has ownership of less than 1 acre.

Precept for 2025/26 is £27,000.

The Community Council has influence over the land management as owned by Monmouthshire County Council. It potentially has indirect influence over local community groups and individuals through project funding, procurement, grant funding and environment.

The Council's assets are:

- The closed part of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Churchyard
- The War Memorial at St Cadoc's Church, Llangattock-Vibon-Avel
- The Churchyard of Church of St Michael and All Angels, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern
- Newcastle Village Green
- Llanfaenor Village Green
- The water fountain at Maypole
- A set of Antique Handbells
- Notice Boards at Llantilio Crossenny, Penrhos, Hendre, Newcastle, Maypole, Rockfield
- Various current and historical documents.

Action Report 2023 - 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...	Monitored by:	
1	Embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	Council have reviewed all processes and procedures within its work to ensure that biodiversity is considered within all decision making and discussions. In our role as	Biodiversity & environment council representative/ The Council

		a statutory consultee within planning matters, full Council is mindful of potential impact to the biodiversity of the area.	
2	Safeguard principal species and habitats	The Council is actively raising awareness of environmental impacts through participation in volunteer events and by sharing relevant information on its website and local noticeboards. It ensures the healthy maintenance of all areas under its ownership, including regular grass cutting and hedgerow upkeep. Non-native species are identified and removed where they pose a threat to the local environment. When biodiversity or environmental concerns arise on land outside of Council ownership, proactive steps are taken to engage with the relevant landowners to address the issues directly.	The Council
3	Increase the resilience of our natural environment	The Council has collaborated with groups focused on the awareness and protection of hedgehogs, bees, otters, and bats, and has also volunteered in local water quality monitoring initiatives. Additionally, educational activities such as "How to Build a Wormery" have been promoted. Efforts to raise awareness of the environmental impact of local actions are ongoing, with concerns being actively shared and addressed within the community.	Biodiversity & environment council representative
4	Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	The Council has provided free dog waste bags across the ward and installed	The Council

		<p>signage to guide where dogs are permitted, helping to maintain clear and accessible walkways. An old and unsafe bus shelter has been removed, with the land restored, and efforts are underway to replace deteriorating noticeboards. The Council continues to work with the County Council to address roadside hedge maintenance. Additionally, concerns regarding roadside conditions, including potholes and collapsed culverts, have been formally raised with the County Council.</p>	
5	Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	<p>The Council continues to use its website and noticeboards to share information and promote support for biodiversity and environmental initiatives. The Biodiversity Action Plan will be made publicly available once it is finalised.</p>	The Council
6	Ensure governance and support for delivery	<p>The Council remains committed to supporting local activities and community groups that have a direct positive impact on the environment, such as Young Farmers and Garden Clubs. It also continues to collaborate with the County Council and open space management teams to support and enhance activities across the area.</p>	The Council