

Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan Performance Report

6 monthly report 1st May – 31st October 2022

Action Area AA6

Natural Environment

Positive Change— working with others to help everyone to understand the importance of the natural environment and how it underpins how we live, work and play.

Positive Start— Creating and maintaining healthy, green, well-connected green spaces and habitats to deliver multiple benefits for well-being.

Positive People— Enhancing and promoting local natural environments, to help residents be more active and engaged.

Positive Places— Providing a network of connected green spaces to deliver multiple benefits for both individuals and nature.

Daniel Davies (Chair of Green Spaces Core Group) and Green Spaces Stakeholders

07/12/2022

Performance Levels

Performance measures where identifiable	Is there a risk this will not be achieved?
Improved access to green spaces in the local community	No
Improved knowledge of barriers to accessing green space	No

Quantifiable measures	Is there a risk this will not be achieved?
Improvement in access to green space in the local community to encourage greater use.	No
Improved knowledge and understanding to the barriers to accessing green space	No
Community involvement in protecting and enhancing the natural environment	No

Evidence

Priority	Comment
Priority 1: Targeted improvement of green spaces	A major tree planting and habitat improvement programme, that engages with residents and volunteers to maximise the carbon offsetting, biodiversity benefits and understanding of climate change issues.
Priority 2: Grow, cook, eat	Involving people in sustainable local food activity as a way to enhance connection to nature, promote sustainable behaviours and improve health, e.g., increasing allotment provision, involving volunteers, supporting community initiatives.
Priority 3: New Recovery Priority Flooding:	Flooding is a key issue in Caerphilly. Green Spaces group to feed into new LDP, Natural Flood Management to be explored alongside engineering works with multiple benefits of Green spaces to be integrated into development for people and biodiversity to benefit all. Policy Planning to be included in Green Spaces Group.

Key Tasks

Ref	Task	Progress
A	Deliver Tree Planting to contribute to 2030 carbon neutrality	Land asset reviews are underway which are identifying areas for tree planting in the second half of this planting season and future planting seasons. Primarily, planting opportunities for this season have been identified at Pen y Fan pond as well as further planting at Ynys Hywel Farm, Cwmfelinfach – where substantial planting will take place as one of three Covid Memorial Woodlands across Wales. A sub-group has been established to consider the planting of trees and/or hedgerows at schools across the borough, working in partnership to deliver a contribution to 2030 carbon neutrality, educational benefits for the community, and support sustainable drainage systems. A further sub-group has been established to consider the development of a tree nursery capable of producing thousands of trees enabling the delivery of planting projects at the scale and pace required for the 2030 target.
B	Targeted improvement of green spaces	Restoration work carried out at Abercarn picnic site situated to the north of Cwmcarn in Caerphilly, is reaping positive results, thanks to efforts from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officers and liaison with the local community. The overgrown picnic site, had not been used for nearly two decades and had become the target of anti-social activities, including the illegal use of off-road vehicles, which cause environmental damage to footpaths and features of the landscape, as well as disturbing habitats for wildlife. Local contractors were brought in by NRW officers to carry out restoration work that has helped to revitalise the site. Work was carried out to lift the tree canopy, which has helped to improve public access and safety, as well as helping to increase

		<p>light and diversity within the ground vegetation and promote natural regeneration. Cherry trees have been planted in the area to help increase biodiversity, vegetation has been cleared and stone walls and footpaths have been reinstated, to help encourage quiet recreational use of the site so it can once more be enjoyed by local residents. A small number of trees that had become infected with Phytophthora ramorum (more commonly known as larch disease) have been removed, and the timber will be used to create boundary fencing to help deter off road vehicles and keep visitors to the site safe. The timber will also be used to create bat habitat boxes and natural log seating. Surplus timber will also be used at some of NRW's other sites for natural water management using monk boards - a type of sluice gate used for regulating water level of pond structures - and to create leaky dams.</p>
C	<p>Implement actions to increase the contribution that the environment makes to the health and well-being of residents.</p>	<p>The GI Strategy continues to help us to spatially prioritise where next delivery should be. Nature Prescribing Initiative by ABUHB highlights the importance on access to nature, how to become active with what is on your doorstep, accessibility to green spaces and enhancing our environment with the group identifying activity opportunities to feed into local newsletter.</p>
D	<p>Identify and mitigate against flood risk in the county borough</p>	<p>Flooding is a key issue in Caerphilly. Green Spaces group to feed into new LDP, Natural Flood Management to be explored alongside engineering works with multiple benefits of Green spaces to be integrated into development for people and biodiversity to benefit all. Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) Team Leader is now part of the Green Spaces Group, and the group will be able to feed into the Flood Strategy. LLFA representative attended Green Spaces subgroup in September.</p>
E	<p>Identify the opportunities for PSB Partners to share resources, assets, and staff.</p>	<p>Core Group continues to work well in partnership and contribute funding to shared projects especially in relation to the Grow it, Cook it, Eat it project ensuring no overlap or duplication of resources across Local</p>

		Authorities and identifying opportunities for organisations to work together.
G	Grow, Cook, Eat	Expand existing provision and promotion of Grow, Cook, Eat initiative, support partners involved and link other initiatives such as Nature Prescribing to volunteering opportunities and supporting community initiatives.
H	Green Infrastructure opportunities	Seek out local opportunities to “Green” areas. Work continues in Parc Penallta in terms of developments funded by Welsh Government Discovery Gateway capital project and Guardians (run by Groundwork) operates from there.

Action Areas

Contribution to the 7 Well-being Goals: A prosperous Wales, A resilient Wales, A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, A globally responsible Wales.