



Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board



Heddlu
Gwent
Police



“Caerphilly Delivers” - Single Integrated Plan Highlight Report & Scorecard

Outcome: Greener Caerphilly

Priorities:

1. Improving local environmental quality
2. Reducing the causes and adapting to the effects of climate change
3. Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits

Date: January 2015

Context:

This report highlights the progress of the above Outcome & Priorities contained within “Caerphilly Delivers” – the Single Integrated Plan (SIP).

Section 1 is the report presented to the Leads Group on 13th February, 2015.

The LSB is requested to consider and comment on the following actions/recommendations:-

1. Note the contents of this report
- 2.
- 3.

Following consideration of the recommendations, the Leads Group will progress actions on behalf of the LSB:

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted	Partially Accepted/ Amended	Rejected & reasons stated
1.			
2.			
3.			

Section 1: Greener Outcome - SIP Highlight Report

General update

The Annual Report 2013/14 summarising the work of the Greener Caerphilly Outcome Theme Group has been approved and circulated. The report includes a section on the contribution that the work of the Greener Theme and partners are making towards the objectives of other Themes.



A full version of the Greener Caerphilly Annual Report 2013-14 can be found on the Caerphilly County Borough Council's Sustainable Development website, which also has a section on the work of Greener Caerphilly:

<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/sustainablecaerphilly/greener-caerphilly>

Information is provided below for highlights/exceptions against the 3 agreed priorities.

'What do we want to do?' (Priorities)	G1. Improving local environmental quality
Partners helping us to achieve this:	Caerphilly County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales, Fly-Tipping Wales, Groundwork, South East Wales Rivers Trust, Gwent Wildlife Trust
Report Author:	Paul Cooke

Where are we now?

Performance Indicators.

The “percentage of reported fly tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days” fell slightly from 99.33% in 2013/14 to 99.18% in the first 6 months of 2014/15. However this is above the target of 99.0% and is among the best in Wales. The other indicators under this priority are updated annually

What has worked well? (Successes)

Each year CCBC has provided funding, from its Community Schemes budget to the Greener Caerphilly partnership to be managed as a small grants fund to facilitate and stimulate partnership working. Projects should be undertaken by at least 2 partnership organisations, and should provide at least £1 for £1 match funding. The Greener Caerphilly Leadership Group has received £14,200 for projects in 2014/15.

For 2014/15 a total of 8 projects were awarded grants, all of which contribute to at least one of the priorities. One project supported was the “Rural Skills” project.

Rural Skills

The project has provided training courses on dry stone walling and hedge laying. A total of 12 one day courses were held.



Participants proudly showing off their "Welsh Border Style" hedge created on their training course.

Traditional skills such as dry stone walling, hedge laying and woodland coppicing have played an important role in the distinctive and unique landscape that we see around us today. Unfortunately, the change in land management practices over the past century has resulted in many of these features being left neglected and falling into disrepair. It is hoped that by gaining these skills through the taster sessions the farming community will be encouraged to maintain, restore and upgrade the rural heritage. Several attendees indicated that the course could assist their farming businesses with the possibility of diversifying into contract work.

Healthy Rivers

The Healthy Rivers and River Schools projects are partnership projects co-ordinated by Groundwork Caerphilly and involving the South East Wales Rivers Trust (SEWRT), Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and CCBC. The projects were established with the aim of removing the barriers to salmon migration up the River Sirhowy, engaging local people, and undertaking environmental improvement to the River Sirhowy to improve its Ecological Status under the Water Frame Work Directive (WFD). The projects have proved to be a huge success, and this was confirmed with the discovery of salmon nests north of Blackwood in 2014. This is the first time that this has occurred in over 100 years.



Installation of a pre barrage at Penmaen weir to enable salmon to pass upstream

Since then further work has been undertaken to remove barriers further upstream including extensive work at the Markham Colliery Tunnel. **The result of this work is that for the first time the whole length of the Sirhowy in Caerphilly county borough is now navigable for salmon.** This has resulted in the Ecological Status of the river being upgrade to “Good” for the first time since the classification was introduced.

What are the challenges/barriers?

Financial constraints are beginning to squeeze budgets for partnership working. Environmental work, which is generally discretionary rather than statutory, is under particular pressure. There is the potential for some decisions to impact on this priority.

From the 1st October 2014, new arrangements came in for residents who wish to use vans and trailers at household waste recycling centres (civic amenity sites). Residents using vans and trailers under 1.8 metres to deposit household waste must collect a free tipping permit from a council cash or Customer First office beforehand. To ensure that the sites are only used by Caerphilly county borough residents, proof of residency will be required, along with the vehicle registration document. Permits will be single use and must be handed in at the site. Residents will be entitled to up to six free van permits in a 12-month period. Luton vans, tippers and trailers, which are greater than 1.8 metres in length will no longer be able to access these sites. No commercial/trade waste will be allowed at any of the sites.

It is possible that these changes may result in an increase in fly-tipping incidents.

What actions are we going to take to improve? (Next steps)

The approved projects funded by the Caerphilly Environmental Quality Small Grants fund are making a significant contribution to partnership working against this priority. The challenge is to maximise the opportunities and benefits resulting from this work.

Two new funding streams are coming on line in 2014/15 – the Nature Fund and the new Rural Development Plan programme. Greener Caerphilly partners will be heavily involved in developing projects to ensure that the maximum benefit can be secured to improve the local environmental quality of Caerphilly county borough.

'What do we want to do?' (Priorities)	G2. Reducing the causes and adapting to the effects of climate change
Partners helping us to achieve this:	Caerphilly County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales, Carbon Trust, Groundwork, United Welsh Housing Association, Charter Housing, Partnership For Renewables, Constructing Excellence Wales, Cardiff University.
Report Author:	Paul Cooke

Where are we now?

Performance Indicators.

The percentage of schools with the highest (green flag) award under the Eco Schools programme. At the 31st December 2014, 64 schools (71%) have achieved an Eco School Green Flag award (15 schools – 1st flag, 10 schools-2nd flag, 24 schools – 3rd flag and 14 schools – 4th flag (Platinum award)).

The amount of energy generated (MW) from renewable sources in the county borough. In the 3rd quarter of 2014/15, ninety-two new photovoltaic (PV) systems were installed in the county borough bringing the total to 1,834. One new wind turbine (500kW) was installed. These new installations have increased the total capacity of renewable energy by 804kW to a total of 5.936 MW.

What has worked well? (Successes)

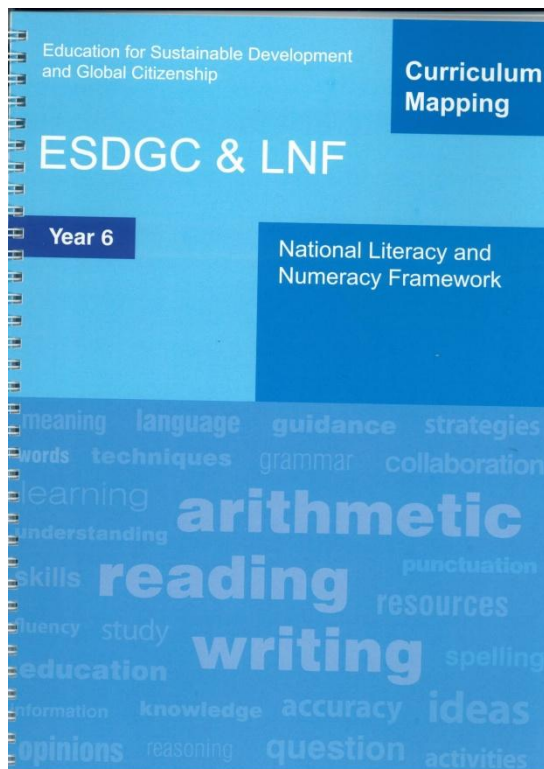
Mapping Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship against the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Officer for CCBC worked with the All Wales Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) Local Authority Officer group to map ESDGC against the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF), to identify how the areas can be taught using ESDGC.

ESDGC has been mapped against the LNF for years 2, 6 and 9, with suggested activities, website links and resources for each of the elements within the framework.

These documents will help schools embed the requirements of the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework within their curriculum planning, and include ESDGC as a theme for classroom teaching.

Within the Caerphilly county borough, every school has received a printed copy of the relevant version, plus they have received all versions by email.



Rural Green Doctors

Groundwork's, Rural Development Plan funded, Rural Green Doctors programme was successfully completed at the end of September 2014. The programme engaged with community venues and offered free energy saving advice to 77 venues in rural areas of Caerphilly. 68 of these venues followed the energy advice and implemented an energy saving measure.

As a result of the community venues being more efficient, they will be more attractive as a venue. For example, some venue users reported to the venue management that the space they hired was too cold for their use. In these instances, Rural Green Doctors supported the venue to change their heating controls to ensure the room was warmer when needed and the temperature was reduced when the room was not in use.



Providing energy advice to
Ebenezer Church Hall

Furniture Revival

The Furniture Revival is a community based social enterprise based in the Rhymney Valley whose core environmental aim is the diversion of waste from landfill, via the free collection of household furniture and electrical appliances within the Caerphilly Borough. The items collected are then made available for reuse and redistribution at affordable prices to those in need. In 2014 the project reused an estimated 160 tonnes of furniture and electrical goods.

In the past year Furniture Revival has expanded its reuse activities to include a Community RePaint Project aimed at the reuse of unwanted paint within the local community – it has reused over 7500 litres of paint with 20 Community Groups benefiting from free paint donations



The Furniture Revival has also formed partnerships with other social enterprises to increase the reuse of other products such as books through the Book Revival Project and carpets tiles through the Community Refloor Project, which has reused over 2040 tiles, to date

What are the challenges/barriers?

The current Rural Development Plan programme has come to an end. This included the Rural Green Doctors and the Council's Sustainable Energy project, which provided energy advice to farms and rural businesses. At present there has been no confirmation of any follow on funding to continue this work.

Cuts by central government to programmes to support energy projects for the hardest to treat homes, and to support the most vulnerable residents, will mean that there will be less funding for these projects in the next few years. There is some uncertainty as to the exact nature and content of the new European Programmes and which sustainable energy and climate change work will be eligible.

What actions are we going to take to improve? (Next steps)

Partners are working together to develop projects to secure funding from a variety of sources. A Local Delivery Strategy (LDS) has been submitted to Welsh Government for a further round of Rural Development Plan funding. This submission includes a sustainable energy element. Partners are also seeking to secure Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding from the main energy companies.

'What do we want to do?' (Priorities)	G3. Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits
Partners helping us to achieve this:	Caerphilly County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales,, Groundwork, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Communities First,
Report Author:	Paul Cooke

Where are we now?

Performance Indicators.

All indicators under this priority are monitored on an annual basis

Develop a better measure of whether people are accessing the environment for the benefit of their health.

A considerable amount of work is ongoing across the county borough, both as part of the Greener Caerphilly Theme and the Healthy Caerphilly Theme. There are strong links with the Well-Being Improvement Network (WIN), which leads on this within the Health Theme

What has worked well? (Successes)

Go Green for Health

With the support of partners Groundwork has been successful in securing £800,000 from the BIG Lottery for its Go Green for Health(GG4H) programme. The programme is a 'community prescription' of activity in the outdoors designed to prevent ill health and improve the management of chronic conditions. The GG4H programme combines using the natural environment with innovative technology and approaches to increasing a community's active levels. Although open to all community members, the programme is keen to support individuals with chronic conditions and assist them with techniques to manage these conditions and getting more active.

The GG4H programme will be piloted in the Mid Valleys West Communities First Cluster area in Caerphilly, encouraging people from Greater Bargoed, Gilfach, Cefn Hengoed, and surrounding areas to become more active their local green spaces.

The programme will have three distinct elements which include:

- one 2 one support for individuals with barriers to being active,
- technology to get all residents active in their local areas,
- volunteer led activity encouraging sustainability of the programme's message.

Increase the number of people taking part in healthy walking groups

Building on the success of the Council, Health Board and Let's Walk Cymru run pedometer challenges, a Community Pedometer Challenge has been established

with partnership work involving existing partners and local walking groups. Currently over 100 people have signed up.

Planning is ongoing for the Caerphilly Challenge Series 2015 Twmbarlwm Trek with volunteers planning all routes (for the first time). Islwyn Ramblers have planned the 10, 15 and 22-mile walks with some assistance from the countryside service and the stroller groups are currently planning the shorter walk.

What are the challenges/barriers?

Budget constraints are likely to impact heavily on this work. Environmental work is generally discretionary rather than statutory, and is therefore under particular pressure. Facilities such as country parks are particularly vulnerable.

Parking charges were introduced in car parks at the main country parks in the county borough, from Monday the 11th of August. The charges apply Monday to Sunday and Bank Holidays from 7 am – 7 pm. This has the potential to, at least initially, reduce the number of people using the country parks, including those using them as a starting point for the led walks programme.

This highlights a key issue with this area of work, in that potential savings available to one organisation may impact to a greater extent on another. The savings to the council may be considerably exceeded by future potential costs to the health service if it results in people becoming less active and less fit.

What actions are we going to take to improve? (Next steps)

The work on this priority has been slow to get started, however a task and finish group has now been agreed, based on the work being undertaken by Communities First and the newly approved Groundwork “Go Green for Health” project.

Monitoring the use of country parks and the number of people on the led walks that start at them, will be undertaken to understand the impacts of the newly introduced car parking charges.