

| 2019/20 Biodiversity Duty: Action spreadsheet | | main contact | on-going or project | started | progress 2017/18 | progress 2018/19 | progress 2019/20 | comments | completed | |
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| 1. Public engagement with biodiversity in RCT | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | LBAP partnership | Richard Wistow | on-going | 1997 | meetings held in April, July and Sept 2017 and Jan 2018 | meetings held April, July, Oct 18, Jan 19. 10 year review of Action for Nature commenced Jan 19 | meetings held April, July, planned for Oct 3rd. Slow progress with LBAP review due to delay in WG funding. | summary for 2018 produced and distributed Sept 19 | timetable for the review of the LBAP considered at J19 meeting, progress report to Ap and Jul19, engagement events summer 19. | |
| 1.2 | Recorders' Newsletter | Richard Wistow | on-going | 1997 | Recorders' Newsletter no 37b published | delayed due to other work pressures | | | | |
| 1.3 | council sites and community groups | Liz Dean/ Richard Wistow | on going | 1997 | Welcome to our Woods meetings and supporting action, SEWBRC bio-blitz at Maerdy Colliery in July. Use of Key Countryside sites by various groups including Coed Lleol | Welcome to our Woods meetings and supporting action, liasion with Wildlife Trust re community engagement at Llanharan quarry. | Pontyclun wildflower walk, Beddau Biodiversity Ramble, Aberdare Park moth and bat events, Dare Valley Country Park bird and student events, monthly summer childrens events at Dare Valley and Ynysangharad Park (Magnificent minibests, muddy masterpieces, beautiful butterflies, den building) | As part of partnership working in 2019/20 further discussions held with the Wildlife trust for South and West Wales to explore potential community engagement work on RCT 'Countryside' sites. The hope is to try to develop a initial programme for work on pilot sites in 2020/21 | | |
| 2. Biodiversity and the Planning System | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | implement current policy and guidance | Richard Wistow | on-going | 2011 | An ecological review has been undertaken for at least 1184 planning applications received by the Local Planning Authority, including the review of SewBrec data searches | An ecological review has been undertaken for at least 724 planning applications received by the Local Planning authority, including the review of SewBrec data searches | Up to September 2019 an ecological review has been undertaken for at least 396 planning applications received by the local planning authority, including the review of SEWBREC data searches | The description of ecological review covers the full range of ecological scrutiny practised in the planning process. This begins with initial shifting and consideration of ecological potential for the huge majority of planning applications, through to those sites requiring site visits, scoping of required ecological assessments, review and scrutiny of submitted ecological assessments to mitigation development and ultimately ecological recommendations in accordance with adopted planning policy. | | |
| 2.2 | monitor implementation of planning mitigation | Richard Wistow/Jen Wakeford | on-going | 2019 | | | PPW10 includes reference (6.2.12). Using existing S106 quarterly meetings and monthly biodiversity meetings to establish procedures. | | | |
| 2.3 | monitor the impact of development on SINC | Richard Wistow/Clare Hewitt | on-going | 2011 | During 2017-2018 two Site of Importance Nature Conservation (SINC) sites were affected by development. An application for a cycle track secured a mitigation scheme via conditions and a long term woodland management plan was secured through a s106 agreement for a small supermarket proposal | data regarding the impact of development on SINC and any mitigation is published in the LDP Annual Monitoring Report on 31st October 2019 | data regarding the impact of development on SINC and any mitigation is published in the LDP Annual Monitoring Report on 31st October 2020 | | | |

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| 2.4 | management of S106 agreements | Richard Wistow | on-going | 1998 | 23 S106 Agreements with long term habitat management requirements. Process co-ordinated through the RCT S106 Register meetings process. | Continued progress on S106 agreement delivery. Key actions in 208/19 included the delivery of peat bog restoration at Hirwau Industrial estate, similar peatland restoration on three windfarm sites, and action towards securing long-term habitat management of Pant Marsh. The S106 Register meetings provide vital Council lead/over view of this process. | to end Sept 19: outline management plans prepared for 5 sites (Parc Eirin, Cefn yr Hendy, Danygraig Heights, Pant Marsh and Llanharan Quarry) where land and funding is vested with the Council. Works have been undertaken at Cefn yr Hendy, Pant Marsh and Parc Eirin. On-going work at Penycymoedd (including Heritage Lottery bid, approved in August). Annual monitoring of 14 (developer) management plans by ecologist/tree officer. 24 agreements under negotiation/awaiting trigger points. | | |
| 2.5 | evidence relating to the multiple benefits of negotiated S106 agreements to inform the review of the LDP | Liz Dean / Richard Wistow | project | 2015 | contract let to Wildlife Trust to digitise S.106 agreements for biodiversity | further work with the Wildlife Trust to develop 'opportunity' mapping and associated management plans | Continued liaison with Wildlife Trust towards the completion of the 'opportunity' mapping project in accordance with LDP review programme | | |
| 2.6 | Ensure the new Biodiversity Duty is reflected in the review of the LDP | Liz Dean / Richard Wistow/ Owen Jones | project | 2018 | | brief discussion with Owen Jones 06/18, PPW10 published 12/18 reinforces current LDP policy and includes extensive references to Biodiversity Duty (6.2.2, 6.2.12, 6.4.2, 6.4.5, 6.4.9, box p136). | Report on LDP preparation to cabinet (18/06/19). Note prepared for the LDP Review Report (08/19). Welsh Government published the Development Plans Manual and the National Development Framework for consultation | | |
| 2.7 | and in the new Strategic Plan for the Cardiff City Region, City Deal and Metro proposals | Liz Dean / Richard Wistow/ Owen Jones | project | 2018 | | brief discussion with Owen Jones 06/18, PPW10 published 12/18 reinforces policy | Strategic Development Plan (regional) reported to Cabinet (06/19). Issue of Biodiversity Duty and SDP raised at Wales meeting in June. Welsh Government published the Development Plans Manual and the National Development Framework for consultation. | | |
| 2.8 | and in the new Strategic Opportunity Area proposals | Liz Dean/Sarah Mee | project | 2018 | SOAs to cabinet | brief discussion with Owen Jones 06/18 | nominated officers and a project board in Regeneration to lead on each. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cynon Gateway – Energizing the Region: Sarah Mee • The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, Heart of the Region: Debbie Pike • Pontypridd Town – Pivotal in the Region: Andrea Vlrgo • A4119 Corridor: Regional Rhondda Gateway: Rhian Jones • Llanilid on the M4: Driving the Regional Economy: Rhian Jones | | |
| 2.9 | use of sewbrec data | Richard Wistow Bethan Jenkins | on-going | 2009 | Planning have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBREC | Planning have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBREC | Planning have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBREC | | |
| 2.10 | Green Infrastructure Assessment | Liz Dean/ Clare Hewitt | on going | 2019 | | PPW 10 published 05/12/18 with requirement for GI assessment | brief note prepared, discussions with LDP team | | |
| 2.11 | Ensure new statutory nature conservation designations are mapped onto Corporate GIS systems - responsible body ITC | Michael Brutsch | project | 2019 | | | SSSI layer updated 30/04/19 | RCT Ecologist is the most likely consultee that NRW will contact when new SSSI are designated. | |
| 3. Biodiversity and land /estate management | | | | | | | | | |

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| 3.1 | cut and collect | John Spanswick/ Steve Owen/Gareth Henson/ Richard Wistow/Marie Fowler | on-going | 2016 | First full season of cutting using new 'Cut and Collect machine' primarily focused on pilot site network in Taff Ely area, with smaller number of Cynon Valley sites. Production of commissioned grass verge invertebrate survey report by Liam Olds assessing a sample of RCT conservation verges. | Expanded programme of mainly autumn/winter conservation grass verge and open space management using 'cut and collect' machine. Extended programme of sites in the Cynon Valley and new sites in the Rhondda. Discussions with Cemeteries department regarding extension of works to new cemetery sites. | Numerous meetings and training sessions with Streetcare, following the transfer of grasscutting. Visits, lists and mapping of additional sites in Cynon, Rhondda and Taf for 2020. Grassland notices for Cemeteries. | Re-organisation of service provision has seen the 'Cut and Collect' machine operation moved to the Streetcare Department. | |
| 3.2 | Transfer of management works from Parks and Countryside section to Streetcare to identify biodiversity training/information provision (as raised in 2017SSE), in particular with regard to the Wildlife Law aspects, such as protocols for nesting birds, sensitive areas (e.g. dormouse priority areas, SSSI) etc. | Richard Wistow/ Nigel Wheeler | project | 2018 | | meeting requested email of 26/06/18, 15min slot at senior management meeting in 27/09/18, 4 SSE covered (fleet, waste/streetcare, highways, transportation). Meeting with Steve Owen 23/10/18, tool box talks for supervisors. | meetings with team leaders held, site signs, notices etc. supplied, social media proposal for 2020 season in preparation. | grass verge management transferred from Parks to Streetcare in April 2018. Parks supervisors transferred from April 2019. | |
| 3.3 | Corporate Estates Department liaise with Council's Countryside section regarding occasional third party requests for positive biodiversity land management licences on Council owned land | Richard Wistow/ Richard Skinner | on-going | 2017 | | on-going working between Corporate estates and Countryside section, with ecological advice provided as opportunities arise. This led in 2018/19 to Corporate estates successfully identifying a new conservation grazing area at Cwm Fields, Beddau, which has been included in the Countryside Conservation grazing land portfolio. | ecological advisory role continued as opportunities and issues arise, including advice on potential grazing opportunities for 'rented' grazing sites. | | |
| 3.4 | Japanese Knotweed management on Council land | Ray Edwards | on going | | 266 sites treated | 321 sites treated, input to Wales wide Wildlife Trust led bid to WG for INNS funding from 2019. | Wildlife Trust grant bid approved. Council treatment data available end of April 2020 | | |
| 3.5 | Fly Tipping control/removal | Nigel Wheeler/ Tim Jones | on going | | 3731 flytips removed | 3150 flytips removed | data available end of April 2020 | | |
| 3.6 | Corporate estates department liaise with Council's Countryside section regarding biodiversity implications of land disposal, and building refurbishments, demolitions and new developments | various | on going | | on-going advisory role as issues arise. | on-going advisory role as issues arise. | ad hoc advice given for example Cwmbach school roof collapse and bat issues | | |
| 3.7 | Healthy Hillside/Grazing site work | Richard Wistow/ Kelly Daniels | on going | 2013 | As part of Healthy Hillside partnership project 4 RCT owned sites put forward for positive fire prevention management. Through partnership funding two of these received initial management. In addition grazing licences let for 4 RCT owned conservation grazing sites. | Healthy Hillside partnership developed an EnRaW Welsh Government grant bid to bring forward funded management on up to 5 RCT Council owned sites. Continued pilot management on 2 of these sites. Continued RCT Conservation grazing programme, and through planning agreement requirements secured conservation grazing on 2 other sites (Aberdare College and Hirwaun Industrial Estate). | Healthy Hillside EnRaW project successful, although details still in discussion with WG and project success not yet formally announced. 6 RCT conservation grazing sites and an additional planning related grazing scheme started. | Health Hillside project identified in RCT and Merthyr Community Safety plan as a multiple partnership project delivering best practice for grass fire prevention | |
| 4. Biodiversity and water management | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | ordinary water course consents | Liam Swanwick/ Richard Wistow | on going | 2012 | observations on 16 ordinary watercourse applications | observations on 36 ordinary watercourse applications | observations on 30 ordinary watercourse applications (to end Aug). | | |

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| 4.2 | introduction and operation of sustainable drainage (SUDS) regulations | Owen Griffiths | on going | 2015 | observations made (esp on relationship with planning) to Owen Griffiths in drainage who responded to WG | Sardis House training workshop led by Owen Griffiths and Liam Swanwick on SUDS introduction in Jan 2019. Similar presentation to be given to SLT and to members. Biodiversity a strong feature, Council responsibility for management for the lifetime of the development. SUDS in Council development eg Abercynon Park and Ride | no full applications to end August | see Park Lane School below | |
| 4.3 | Park Lane School SUDS | Richard Wistow / Darren Miller / Mark Powell | project | 2019 | | | email from RW to Owen Griffiths et al, agreed to marshy grassland approach suitable for 'cut and collect' 04/19, design in progress, draft text for Corporate Performance Report May19. Issues re space for proposed women's football pitches, design currently on hold. | objective to achieve flood risk reduction for the school, utilizing space between Aberdare Park and a redundant pitch. A marshy grassland site, which can be 'cut and collect', provide outdoor education space for the school and contribute to the rhos pasture network for the marsh fritillary butterfly. | |
| 5. Biodiversity and education | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 | walk to the wild | Liz Dean | on going | 2014 | 6 school engagements at Aberdare Park Primary (Aberdare Park), Cilfynydd Primary (Albion tips), Ponty High (Albion tips and school grounds), YGG Llyn y forwen (Darren Park), Ynysboeth (former school grounds) and one INSET day for teachers held in Pontyclun. Additional projects through WG funding at Ponty High and Ferndale comprehensive | delay in WG grant, delay in letting the contract. Inset day held at Dare Valley Country Park in Sept. 6 school engagements undertaken at Alaw primary (Garth Park), Gwaunmeisgyn primary (school grounds), Penygawsi primary (school grounds), Cwmbach Church in Wales primary (Brodeg woodland Cwmbach), oaklands primary, Parc Lane Special School (Aberdare Park). Additional works with Ponty High and Ferhill Comp with WG funding. Funding ceases March 2019. Input to regional bid for outdoor learning funding. | Grant funding ceased. Regional bid for outdoor learning failed. Training meeting and AGM of the RCT and Merthyr Outdoor Learning Group held at Ynysangharad Park Pontypridd, 4th July. Activities led by Rhian Vale, 12 mostly teachers attended. New chair elected (Ian Timbrell Cwmbach Community School). | Ambition to continue 'Walk to the Wild' if funding can be identified and to publish the resources generated to date on the website. | Mar-19 |
| 6. Biodiversity and advice to the public | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Biodiversity and corporate planning | | | | | | | | | |
| 7.1 | Service Self Evaluation of Biodiversity | Lesley Lawson/ Liz Dean | on going | 2017 | service self evaluation for biodiversity prepared, issued in Oct 17, responses collated and priority actions for 2018/19 identified | action plan updated, question for autumn 2018 SSE included, best practice note prepared for WG. Input to corporate performance report for 17/18 | Action plan updated, Input to corporate performance report for 18/19 | | |
| 7.2 | Biodiversity Duty Plan | Richard Wistow/ Liz Dean | on going | 2016 | one page information report to CwmTaf PSB mar/apr 17. Draft Biodiversity Duty Plan prepared, presentation to Senior Leadership Team Nov 17, Scrutiny Committee report in Dec 17 | meeting with Alan Netherwood July 18, action plan updated | Action plan updated, report to scrutiny 10th Oct and Cabinet 21st Nov to allow submission to Welsh Government by December 2019. | legal duty to report to WG in Dec 19 | |

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| 7.3 | Procurement Services continue to address biodiversity within its service provision and consider in policy reviews and associated documentation and processes. | Liz Dean/ Steve Vaughan | | 2018 | initial contact re ethical procurement policy. Policy under review, documentation on WG website. Discussion about single use plastics (05/07/18) | Through consultation with relevant service areas and suppliers, the Council's Procurement Service is in the process of implementing a robust approach to the reduction of single use plastics. The approach adopted to date, aligns itself with the 'Plastics Recycling Route Map' for Wales. | | | |
| 8. Working with neighbouring authorities and other statutory bodies | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.1 | input to area statements | Liz Dean / Richard Wistow | | 2017 | initial expression of interest completed and circulated to other Council staff | attended workshop at WBP conference 09/18, NRW presentation to RCT LBAP meeting in Jan 19, NRW ecosystem meeting on 21 feb 19 | attended workshop on 8 May, submitted paperwork. Submission re data gaps (natural regeneration of woodland, soil carbon). Agreed to participate in Audit Commission review of AS process. | | |
| 8.2 | WG ENRaW grant bids | Richard Wistow/ Liz Dean | project | 2018 | | attendance at Wales LBAP meetings, S wales co-ordination meetings from Jul18, input to bids for Rhos pasture, Healthy Hill-sides, pollinators, outdoor learning, Wales wide LNPartnerships, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Bridgend Green Spaces, KWT community Officers, Groundwork skills development, Ramblers Wales wide, Vale led bridleways. Various bids submitted by 3rd Dec deadline. | Successful bids for Rhos Pasture (Butterfly Conservation), Healthy Hill-sides (Wildlife Trust), LNP partnerships (WCVA/WBP), Hirwaun Ind Estate (RCT), KWT, Pollinators and freshwater Invertebrates (Buglife), bridleways (Vale). | | |
| 9. Other | | | | | | | | | |