

Dewch i  
siarad RhCT  
Let's talk  
RCT



**DRAFT TREE AND WOODLAND  
STRATEGY 2022-32**

# Consultation Report

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC

**November 2022**



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- This section provides a summary of the main findings from the Let's Talk Trees project and the Snap Survey consultation carried out in 2022.
- The consultation was conducted in-house and ran for 8 weeks from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- The following methods were used to consult with stakeholders: online survey using Snap XMP and other engagement tools via the Let's Talk Trees website; social media posts and email invitations to take part. These are explained in Section 3 Methodology.
- A total of 68 responses were received from the Snap XMP survey, with 5 engaged visitors on the Let's Talk site (Celebrate Our Woodlands).
- 4 emails relating to the consultation were received, including responses from Friends of the Earth, Pontypridd (See appendix 1)
- 94% of respondents agreed that the Council is right to focus resources on protecting and managing existing trees, especially the older and larger trees which store the most carbon and provide the greatest climate mitigation benefits for residents.
- 98.5% of respondents agreed with the Council's draft tree strategy which proposes that the Council consider the long-term benefits of trees and other natural habitats in tackling the Nature and Climate emergencies.
- 96.9% of respondents agreed that the strategy should focus on tree planting in areas where people live and work, especially where there are not many trees.
- 94% agreed with the 6 aims in the Executive Summary of the strategy document (1-6).
- 73.1% agreed with the 25-Point Action Plan as stated in the Executive Summary of the strategy document.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy 2022-32 Snap XMP Survey and the Let's Talk Trees consultation.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background to the consultation process.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 provided the results from the consultation activities carried out on the Let's Talk Trees website.
- 1.5 Section 5 details the findings from the Snap XMP survey.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In November 2019 Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council (RCTCBC) established a Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group to address the climate emergency and subsequently the nature emergency, declared by Welsh Government. In November 2020 the Steering Group received a report on 'Natures' Assets' which set out the Council's natural environment priorities with regard to addressing the climate and nature crises.
- 2.2 As a Council we are committed to investing in our green spaces and to delivering natural carbon storage solutions such as those provided by trees, peat bogs, marshy grassland and other natural habitats across the County Borough to enhance air quality and reduce the impact of greenhouse gasses.
- 2.3 The focus of this strategy is to actively protect Rhondda Cynon Taf's Trees and Woodland – the green infrastructure of parks, gardens, woods, trees in streets, footpaths, green spaces, trees and hedges that all benefit our environment so significantly. The strategy also sets the framework for the Council's commitment to the largest tree planting programme in a generation adopting the right tree, right place, right reason approach.

- 2.4 The strategy looks at the next ten years specifically but with an eye on the longer-term of 50 plus years. The strategy was subject to an eight-week period of public consultation.
- 2.5 Consultation and public engagement on the Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy 2022-32 is vital due to increases in biodiversity emergencies; it's vital to communicate Council Policies and to understand and address public concerns. A wide range of individuals and groups have important roles and interests in the County Borough's trees and RCT knows it cannot achieve the vision of this strategy alone. In developing and delivering this strategy the Council wants to bring people along with it. Working with Natural Resources Wales and other woodland managers in RCT will be an important part of this.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

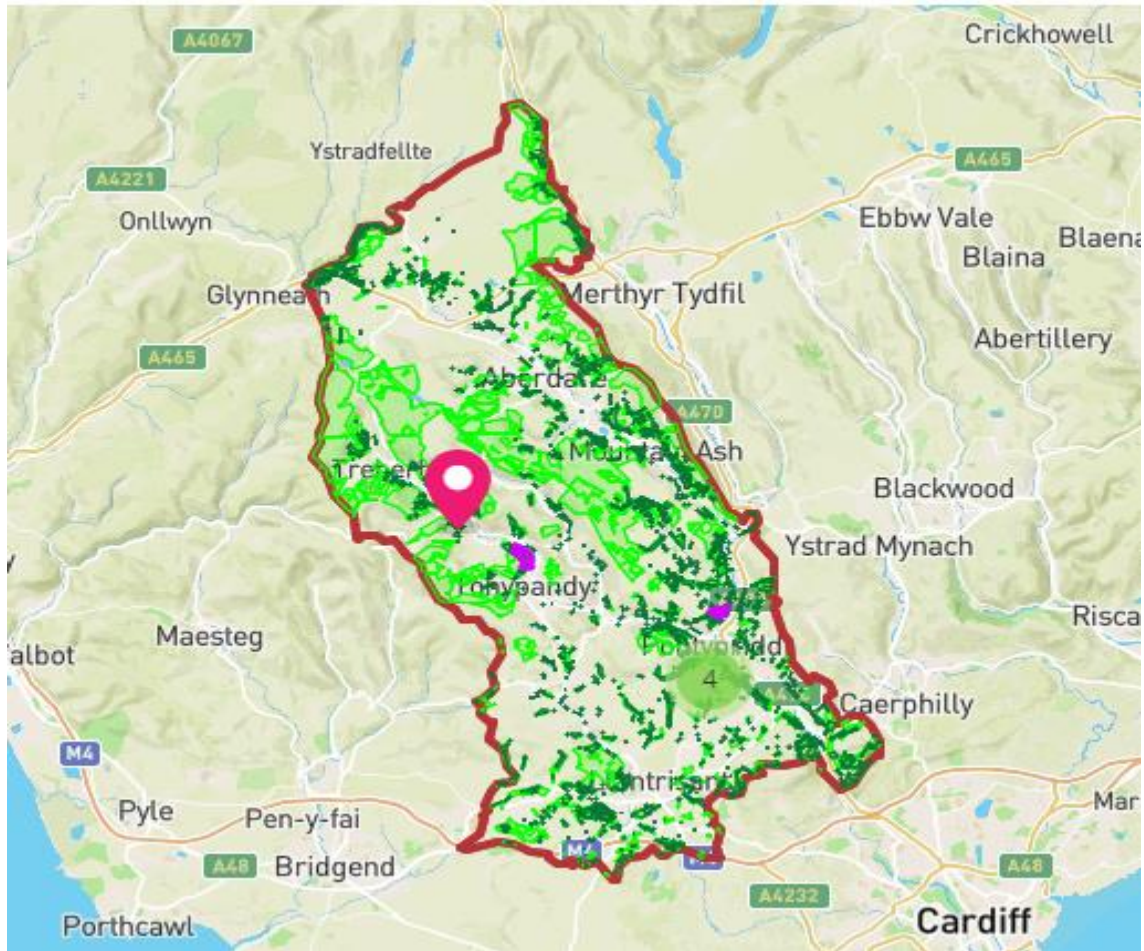
- 3.1 The Let's Talk Trees project was conducted in-house and ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022. This section presents the results from the exercise run on the Let's Talk website. The report will be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet to consider the feedback received.
- 3.2 The consultation approach used on the Let's Talk engagement platform provides a user friendly and interactive form of engagement with the public. The Let's Talk Trees project provided key documents, and articles to provide further insight; in addition, an engagement map was used to allow respondents to drop a pin on their favourite woodland or trees area in RCT and to leave a comment telling us what they love about it.
- 3.3 A Snap XMP survey was launched and uploaded onto the Council's consultation webpage. The survey aimed to gain public feedback on the proposed Draft Trees and Woodland Strategy 2022-32.
- 3.4 Social media and the Council's consultation webpage were utilised in order to communicate with the public and encourage engagement and feedback regarding the Strategy.
- 3.5 An email was sent to a range of key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation on the Let's Talk site and the Snap XMP survey.
- 3.6 As with previous year's "digital by default approach" we continued to consider those having reduced or no access to the internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods.



- A telephone consultation option was in place for all Council consultations, through the Council's contact centre. This option allows people to discuss their views or request consultation materials.
- Individual call backs are available on request.
- A consultation Freepost address was available for postal responses.

## **4 Let's Talk Trees**

- 4.1 The following section outlines the results from the Let's Talk Trees and Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy 2022-32 consultation published on the [Let's Talk Site](#). The site will remain live for the foreseeable future to continue the conversation on our trees and woodlands.
- 4.2 Visitors were able to engage on the Let's Talk Trees page by completing an interactive task which involved dropping a pin on a map of their favourite woodland or tree area in RCT and commenting what they loved most about it (as shown in figure 1). A total of 5 responses were received.



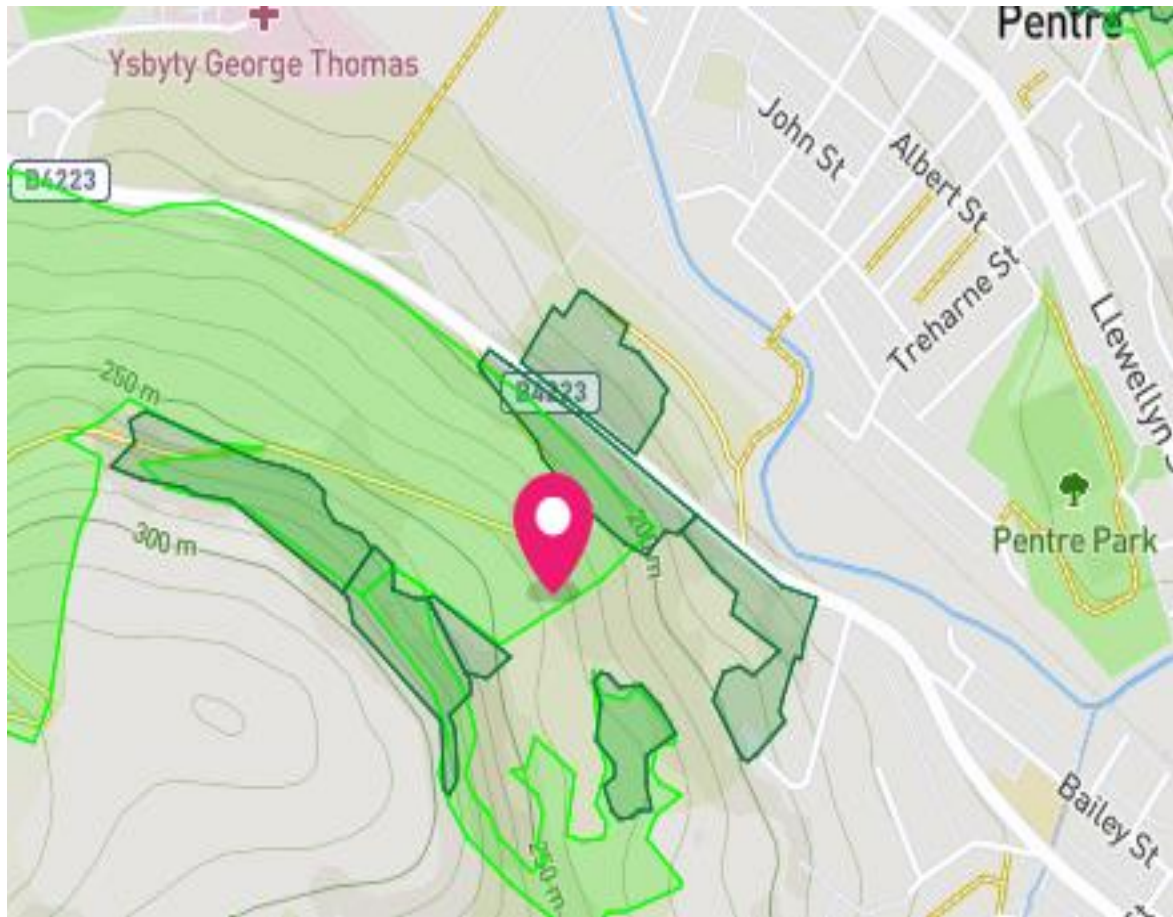
**Figure 1 – Map of respondent's 5 pin drops**

4.3 Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 provide a breakdown of each individual pin location.

4.5 The comments included:

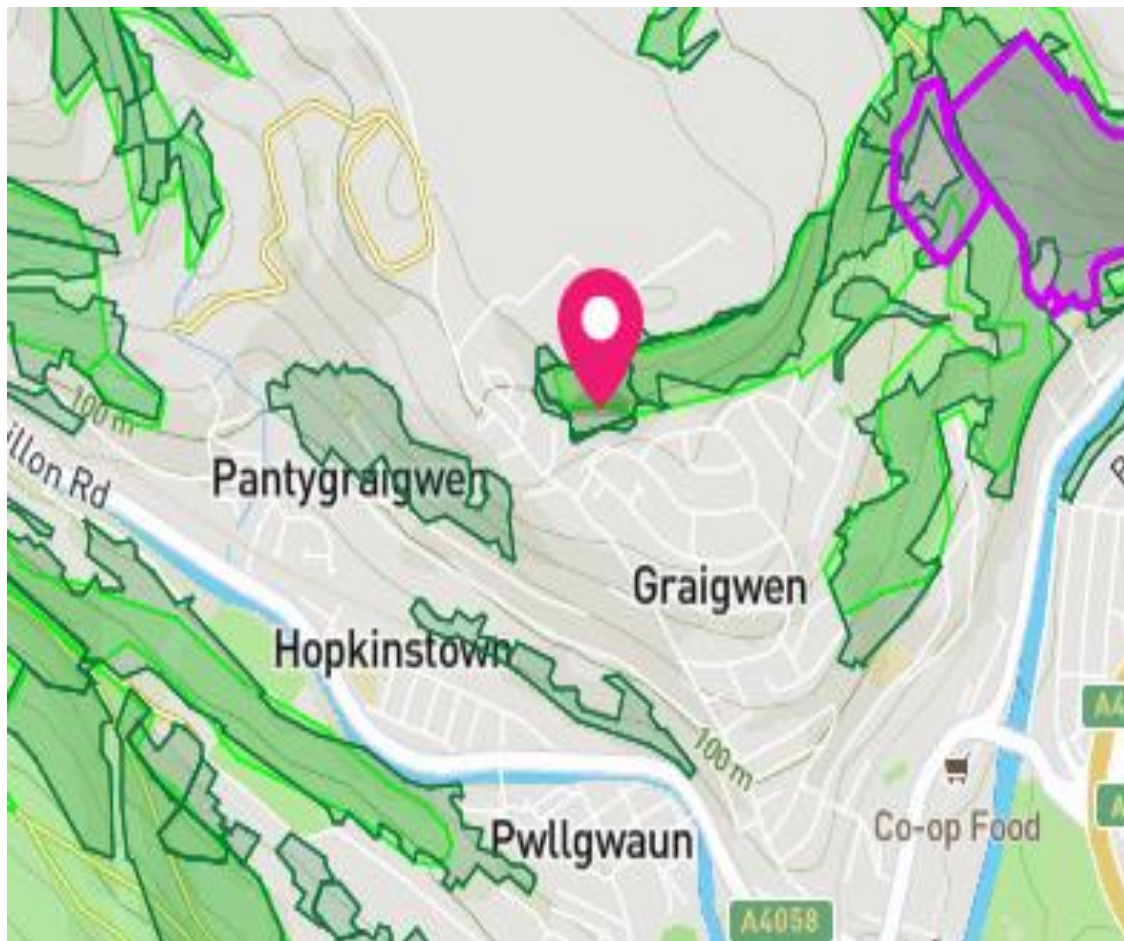
**Pin 1** – *“Reintroduction of the children’s park on the maindy would be great for children to enjoy the beautiful woodland. We go for walks there but it is very overgrown, and the paths are muddy.”*





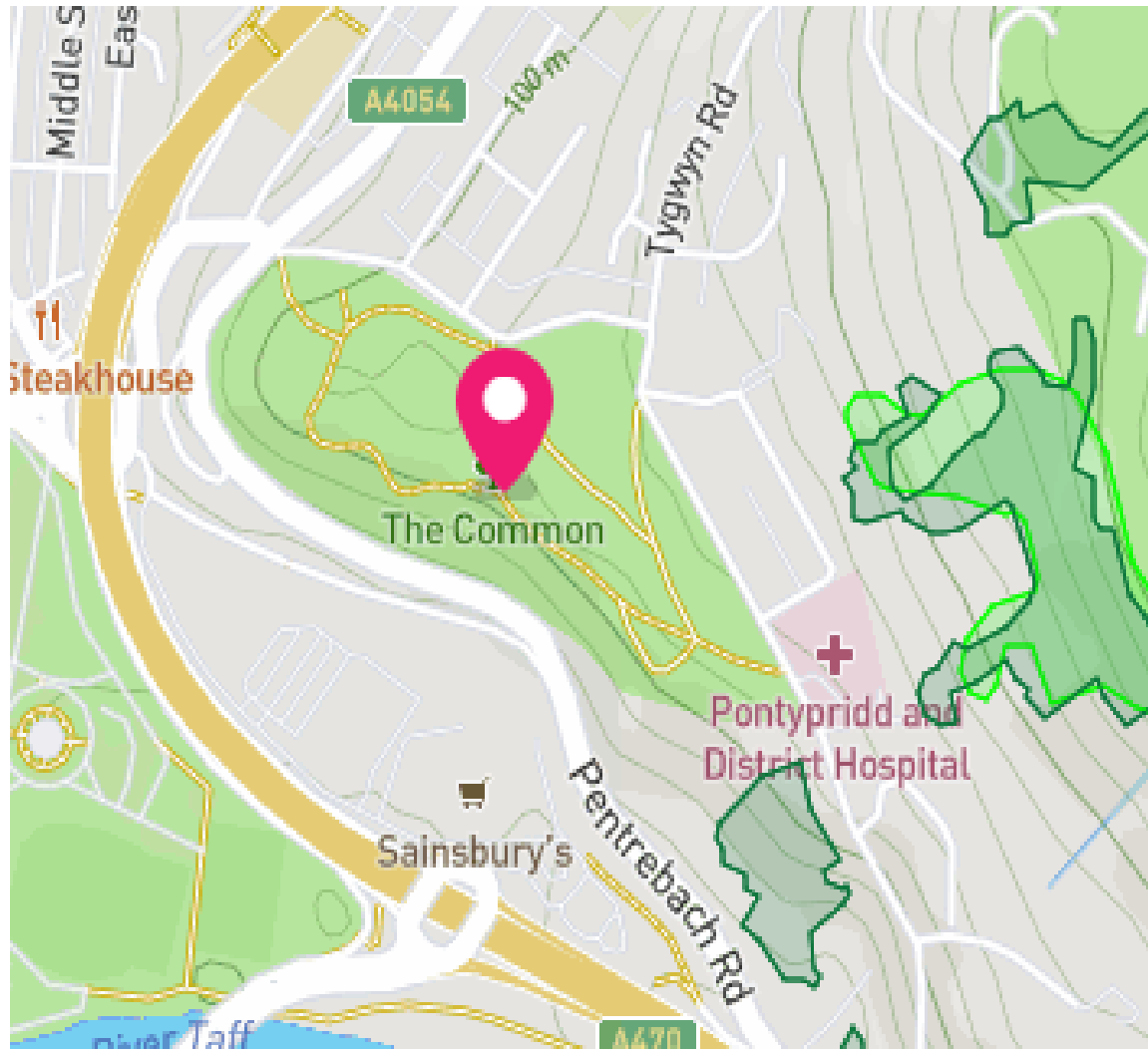
*Figure 2 - Pin 1 location*

**Pin 2** - *“friends of graigwen community woods”*



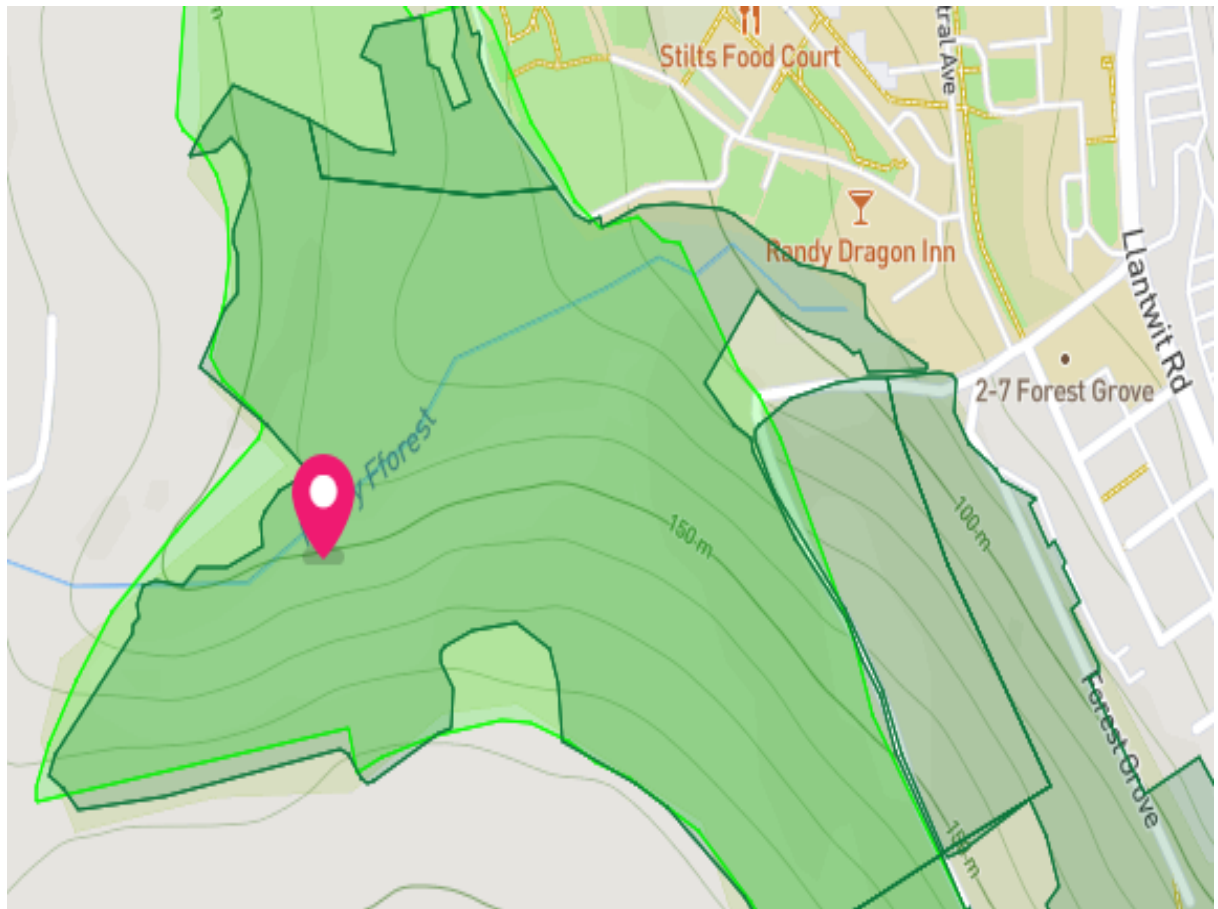
**Figure 3** - pin 2 location

**Pin 3** - *“Lovely tree and wild bush coverage up Pontypridd common, perfect for dog walks and chatting with friendly residents”*



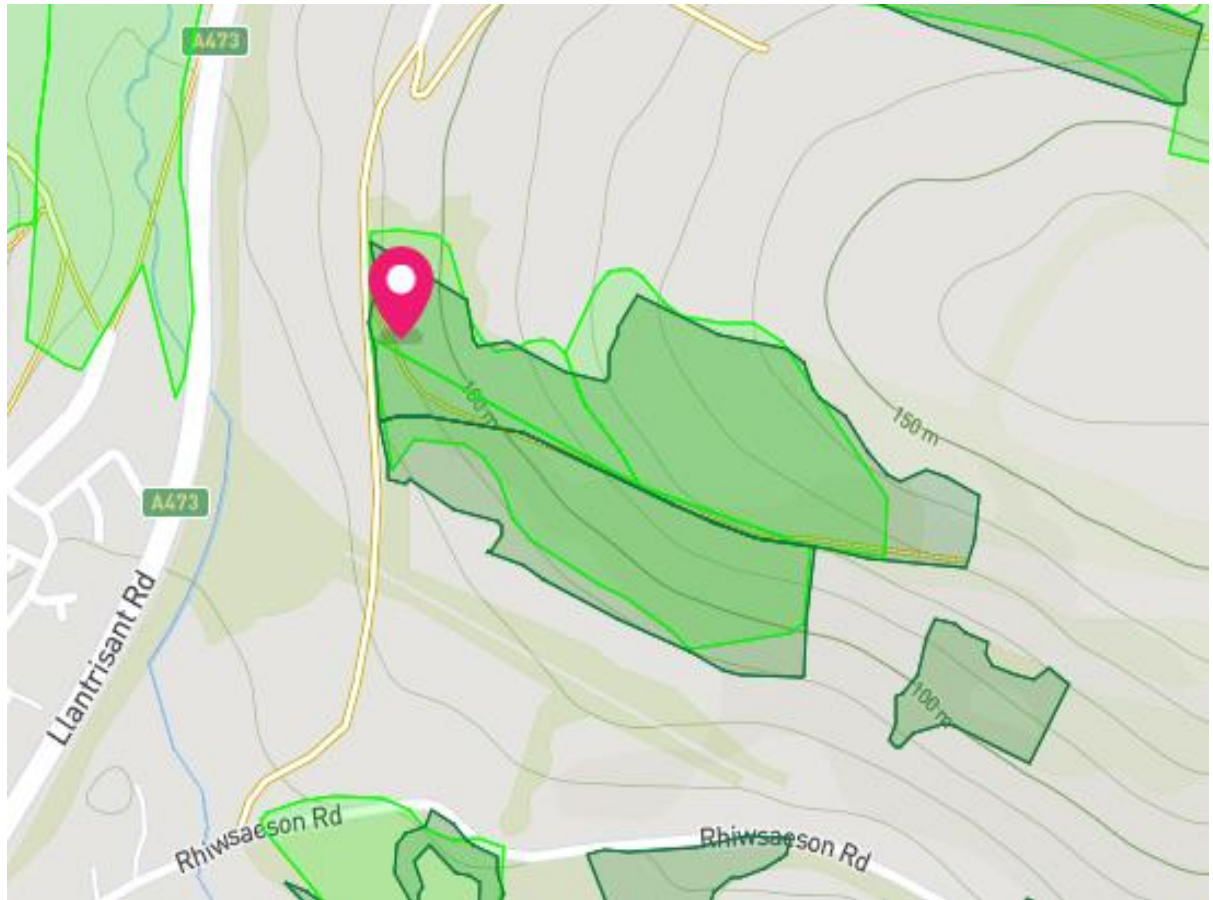
**Figure 4 - Pin 3 location**

**Pin 4** - *“Lovely unspoiled woodland, very peaceful and calming”*



**Figure 5** - Pin 4 location

**Pin 5** - *“Lovely woodland with stunning native bluebells.”*

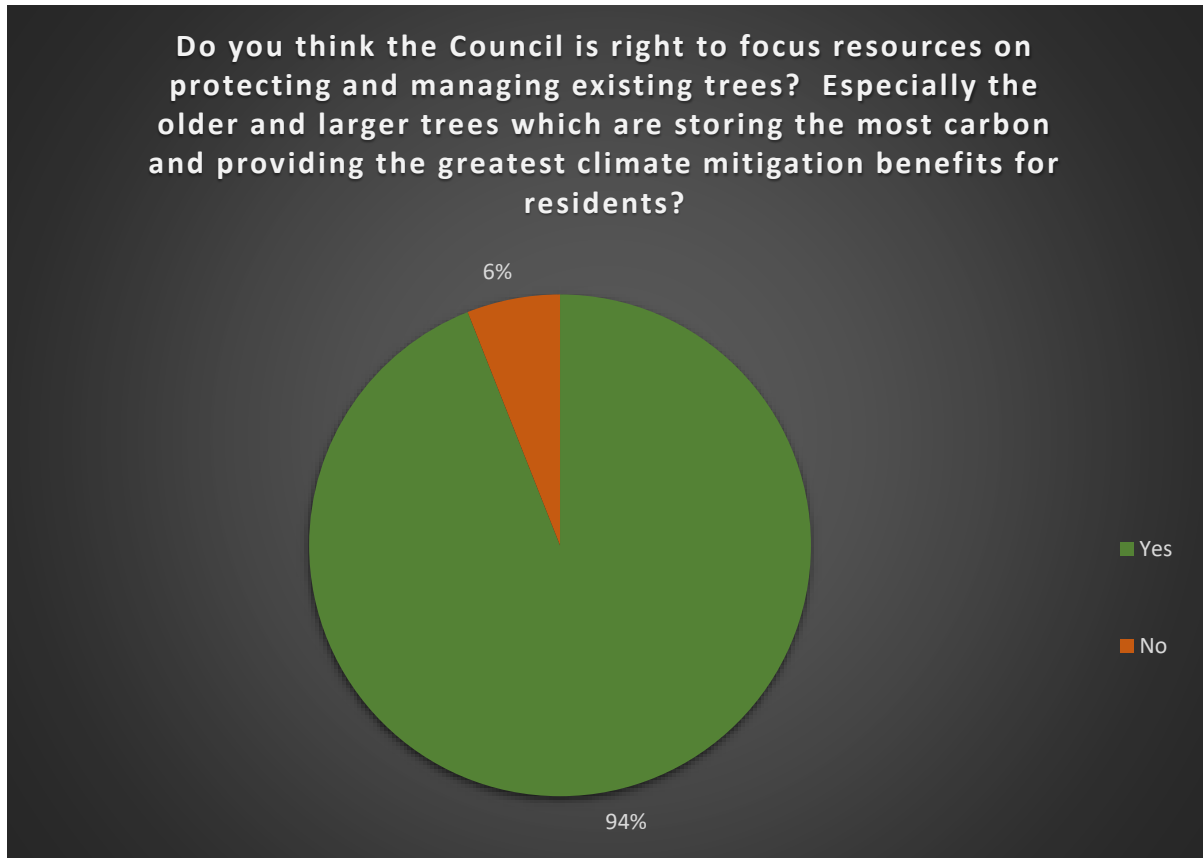


**Figure 6 - Pin 5 location**



## 5. DRAFT TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY SURVEY RESULTS

- 5.1 A total of 68 responses were received from residents in regard to the Councils Executive Summary and Draft Tree Strategy survey.
- 5.2 94% of residents agreed that the Council should focus on protecting and managing existing trees, especially the older and larger trees which store more carbon and provide the greatest climate mitigation benefits. Figure 7 shows the percentage of respondents who said Yes and No.



**Figure 7 - Respondents agreement with Council's approach to focus on protecting and managing trees.**

Some of the comments for people who said “yes”, included:

*“It is very important to protect and maintain our older larger mature trees. I definitely want to see those trees cared for. The council has been far too quick to cut down mature trees in the past – not adequately considering alternatives. I would like to see the council consult far more with local residents where the future of any tree is in question. I appreciate that tree maintenance has a cost, but every tree lost is deeply felt in the local community affected and that loss cannot be made good by planting young saplings”*

*“Yes - protecting what is most irreplaceable in what you already have is a sensible priority - large and old trees, especially veteran and ancient, ancient hedgerows and ancient woodlands whatever their condition.”*

*“Old growth is so important; you can't just replace them all with new young saplings and think that'll be fine. So, yes, support this approach.”*

*“As you say RCT is heavily populated with trees. The majority appear to manage themselves very well in areas were clumped and crowded together. Can RCT say that the budget is replacing new for old/dead trees as and when required? I understand that RCT have planted 10,000 trees at a cost of £50,000 which equates to 2.3 trees for every square mile. I think concentration should be a mix of both old and new but much more focus on reforesting whole areas with new trees to absorb carbon.”*

*“Long term planning for woodland essential. It takes many years for trees to mature, and we have lost woodland due to industry and war over a long period”*

5.3 Those who responded “No” provided some of the following comments:

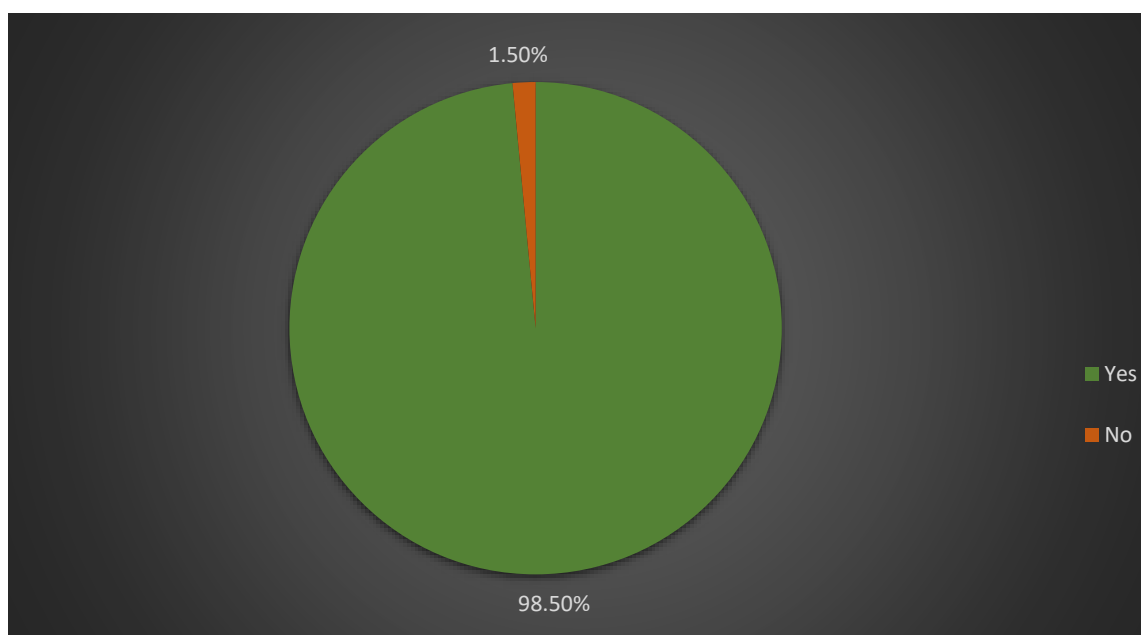
*“Lots of trees cut down unnecessarily”*

*“I think the woods have looked after themselves! Why interfere now”*

5.4 98.5% of respondents agreed that the Council should consider the long-term benefits of trees and other natural habitats in tackling the Nature and Climate emergencies. Figure 8 shows the percentage of respondents who said Yes and No to the following question:

“Councils have a lot of responsibilities regarding trees, not only for the trees on Council land (like parks and schools), but also for roadside trees, trees on development sites and protected trees. The draft Strategy proposes that the Council should consider the long-term benefits of trees and other natural habitats in tackling the Nature and Climate emergencies

Do you agree that the council should take this approach?”



**Figure 8 – Respondent’s agreement to the Councils long-term approach**

Some of the comments from the people who said “Yes”, included:

*“Despite the many benefits they deliver trees are often neglected, overlooked and undervalued because they just grow naturally.”*

*“Must act now for our future generations”*

*“Full lifetime eco services, and their monetary value of these trees services should always be considered with any planning application”*

*“Yes, roadside tree, trees on development sites and protected trees are extremely important, as well. They clean the air we breathe in our homes, as we walk and drive to and from work, the shops, etc. Just as importantly, roadside and other non-park-based trees add immensely to our mental health and sense of wellbeing. They are beautiful and beauty matters a great deal in our lives. A council employee said to me one day, “Oh, those trees are only goat willow. They’re weeds.” But weeds are just trees or plants someone objects to. Goat willow is a lovely, lively addition to the natural landscape. I hugely regret and deplore the council’s decision - on which no consultation was taken – to clear healthy trees along the river between Trallwn and Cilfynydd and erect fencing in their place. A very beautiful walk - much used and enjoyed by the public - has been completely ruined along that stretch. To specifically address your question - yes, the long-term benefits of these roadside and other non-park-based trees is vital to tackling the Nature and Climate emergencies. I heartily agree that the Council should protect them.”*

*“Absolutely, in particular we suggest trees and woodland cover is a means towards delivering health & well-being objectives and many other objectives Wrexham Council CEO Ian Bancroft will be speaking of their experience on this at the Wales Biodiversity Partnership conference on 5th October. Trees and woodland are an effective means to many ends as well as ends in themselves”*

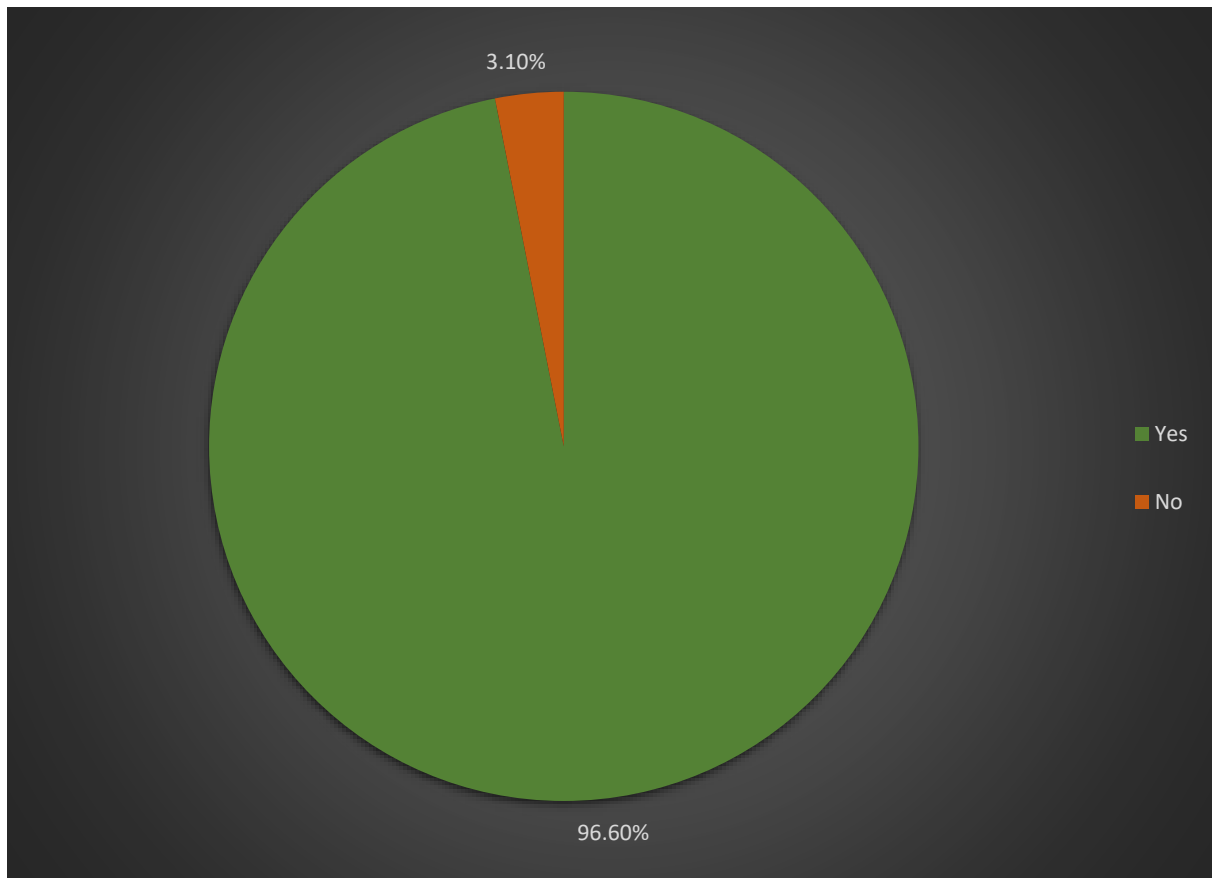
5.5 Those who responded “No” commented the following:

*“There’s too much interference from WG as it is”*

5.6 96.9% of respondents agreed that the Council should focus on tree planting in areas where people live and work especially where there are not many trees already. Figure 9 shows the percentage of respondents who said Yes and No to the following question:

“The draft Strategy suggests we should focus tree planting initiatives in the built-up areas. This would provide the greatest Climate, Nature and Well-being benefits for local people and businesses. Areas where there is less than 15% existing tree cover should be a priority.

Do you think the Council should focus tree planting in the areas where people live and work and especially where there are not many trees already?”



**Figure 9 – Respondent’s agreement with Tree Planting responses**

Those who responded “Yes” comments included:

*“The environment on the doorstep is the most important one to the people living there.”*

*“Trees in streets would reduce surface temperatures and allow some defence against flooding.”*

*“Tree equity is vital. Mapping planting opportunities with communities and private landowners. Mitigating the heat island effect, screening pollution, integrating with SuDs retrofit, retrofitting street trees utilising them as sleeping policemen to manage 20mph areas, to increase wellbeing inclusively.”*

*“Will improve the wellbeing of the community”*

*“Certainly, so long as young trees are not planted at the expense of maintaining existing trees. I’m aware that the Welsh Government has set tree planting targets and no targets on maintaining existing trees. We cannot let that factor distort policy. While I welcome tree planting schemes, our main focus has to be on protecting and maintaining existing trees.”*

5.7 The respondents who responded “No” commented the following:

*“No! As it is the WG are taking over farms to plant trees to the regret of proper farmers”*

*“I think the context and appropriateness of tree planting should be considered on a case-by-case basis”*

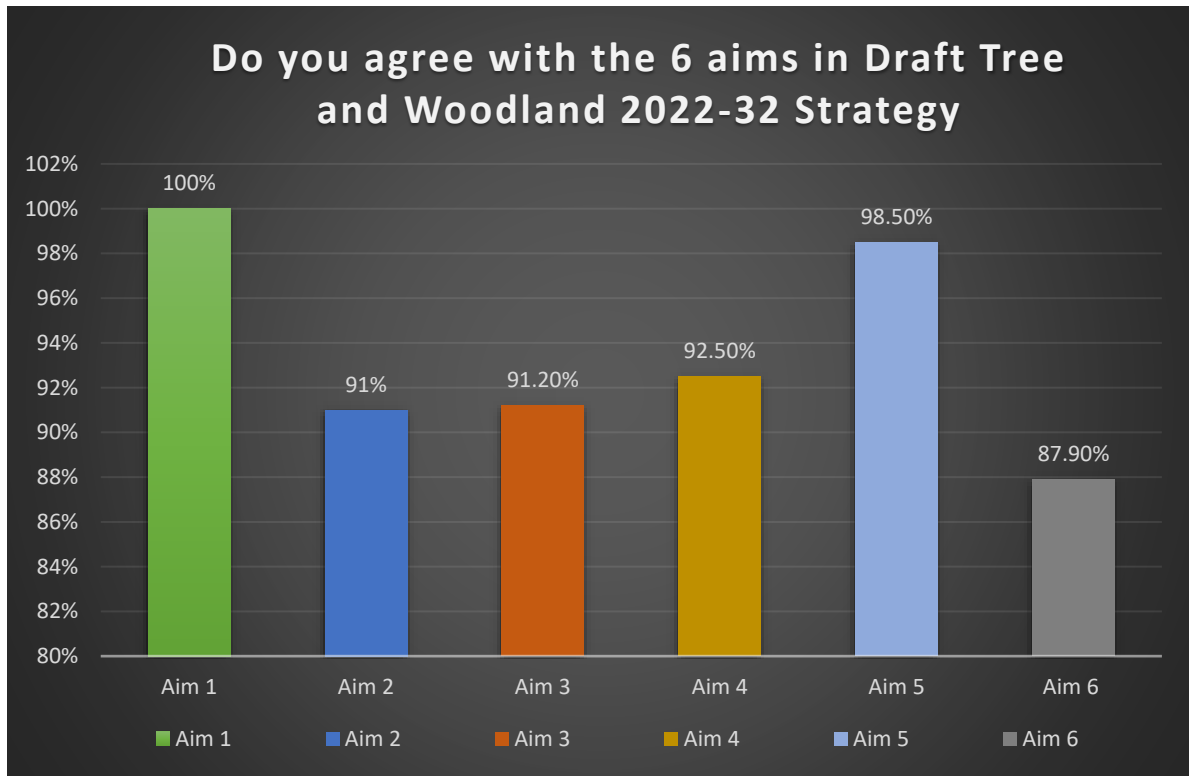
5.8 Within the Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy there are 6 overarching aims, these are:

1. To protect, regenerate and care for Rhondda Cynon Taf’s existing trees and woodlands.
2. To encourage the natural regeneration and colonisation of trees as the most sustainable way of increasing canopy cover.
3. Encourage new tree and hedgerow planting in appropriate areas to benefit well-being, pollution, climate change and pride in our surroundings.
4. Where urban tree cover is below 10% to plant more trees on the principle of the ‘right tree in the right place’.
5. To recognise the ancient hedgerow heritage of RCT, to restore and maintain the valuable ecological and historic asset, and where new hedges are planted ensure, they do not compromise this heritage.
6. To provide a framework for decision making and establishing a prioritised action plan for 2023 – 2033.

5.9 Figure 10 shows respondents’ level of agreement with the 6 aims in the Strategy.

As shown in Figure 10, a high majority of respondents agreed with each of the overarching aims, with 100% agreeing with protecting, regenerating and care for Rhondda Cynon Taf’s existing trees and woodlands.



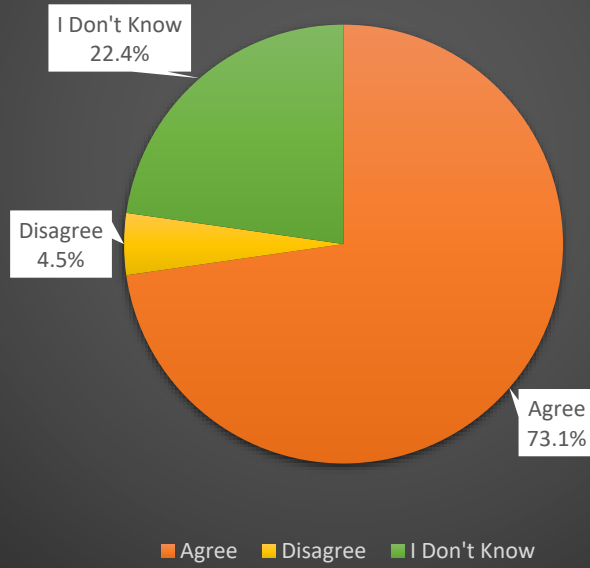


**Figure 10 – Agreement with the 6 aims of the strategy**

5.10 As part of the Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy 2022-32 the Council has produced a [25-point Action Plan for 2022-23](#). Figure 11 shows that 73.1% of respondents agreed with the 25 Point action plan.

The draft Strategy has a 25 point Action Plan  
(see Executive Summary).

Do you agree with the 25 point Action Plan?



**Figure 11 – 25 Point Action Plan Results**

## **APPENDIX 1: RESPONSE FROM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH PONTYPRIDD**



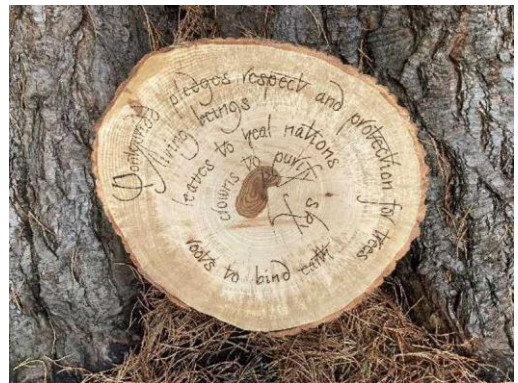
### **Friends of the Earth Pontypridd Response to RCT CBC Draft Tree Strategy: October 2022**

**'Pontypridd pledges respect and protection for trees, living beings, leaves to heal nations, crowns to purify skies, roots to bind earth.'**

Rights of the Trees developed during Pontypridd Green Week 2022

- 1. About a third of RCT is already wooded. This is very unusual for a heavily populated area. Even our towns have more trees than most towns in Wales.**

**Do you think the Council is right to focus resources on protecting and managing existing trees? Especially older and larger trees which are storing the most carbon and providing the greatest climate mitigation benefits for residents?**



Yes, we are happy that the Council aims to focus resources on protecting existing trees, especially older and larger trees. Friends of the Earth Pontypridd wrote to RCT CBC earlier this year, on behalf of our members, regarding care for established trees across RCT. Our members are extremely concerned about the protection of established trees and consider the scale of the tree felling that has taken place in the borough in recent years to be excessive.

In the Pontypridd area, for example we would point to the felling of trees in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, alongside roads, rivers and railways and before the inspection of the White Bridge on Berw Road (despite written assurances that no tree felling would be needed there).

Residents of the Rhondda and Cynon Valleys have mentioned the same concerns. Looking forward, the decision RCT Councillors took on the Cynon Valley bypass will result in a road that passes through Tir Mawr a Dderi, Lwydcoed SSSI and impacting an area of Ancient Woodland which contains trees covered by a Tree Protection Order. We cannot allow developments of this kind to take the lives of ancient, protected trees within and around an sssl.

Too often planners and developers fail to consider the value of standing trees on development sites. The Local Development Plan must ensure that development plans on sites with standing trees are modified to incorporate the trees into the design of the site. It is not good enough to cut down standing trees and plant saplings in their place. Where

trees are incorporated in paved areas they must have access to structured soil. During construction of developments or maintenance work, extra steps must be taken to protect trees from damage.

Our tree monitors note with grave concern that many apparently healthy trees have been marked with an orange X for removal. We would like to see a holistic Tree Care Plan for RCT which includes care for all established trees. It will take very many years for newly planted trees to sequester significant levels of carbon and the science shows that a tree's carbon absorption rate accelerates as it ages.



As well as impacts on biodiversity, the natural landscape, carbon sequestration, air quality and oxygen generation, felling trees impacts on the ability of land to absorb the increased rainfall that we expect to see as a result of climate change. That means felling trees increases the likelihood of flooding.

Friends of the Earth Pontypridd want to see all options considered before any tree is cut down. Policy needs to shift, so that our local trees are seen as a natural resource that we need to preserve. During the pandemic, people have spent much more time close to home and they have come to value the local environment as never before. It's important that you listen to their concerns. Trees, in particular, greatly improve our quality of life.

Many of the trees that have been felled were loved and enjoyed by local people, bringing benefits to mental health and wellbeing and a close connection to nature. In certain instances, a tree may need to be felled, for example where the tree becomes storm damaged and is therefore a risk to public safety. Otherwise, the presumption should be that our mature trees will be cared for.

We want to see local people involved in and informed about decisions on tree felling (unless the tree poses an immediate risk to public safety).

- 2. Council's have lots of responsibilities regarding trees, not only for the trees on Council land (like parks & schools), but also for roadside trees, trees on development sites & protected trees. The draft strategy proposes that the Council should consider the long term benefits of trees and other natural habitats in tackling the Nature and Climate emergencies.**

**Do you agree that the Council should take this approach?**

Yes, the long term benefits of trees and other natural habitats should be considered and these are not limited to the nature and climate emergencies. RCT CBC is yet to officially recognise and declare a Nature and Climate Emergency. This would be a first step in enacting the proposal outlined here. We would also recommend that RCT CBC adopt the principles outlined in the recent Friends of the Earth report on trees in the UK. <sup>1</sup>

There is a temptation to use tree-planting schemes and forested land to "offset" the ongoing failure to end dependence on fossil fuels. Yet carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels will remain in the atmosphere for hundreds or thousands of years, whereas carbon locked up in forests is less permanent due to losses from pests, fires, storms and human activities. In other words, you cannot offset fossil fuel emissions with tree planting. And attempting to do

so risks higher cumulative emissions and provides an excuse to further prolong the use of fossil fuels.

- 3. The draft strategy suggests we should focus tree planting initiatives in the built up areas. This would provide the greatest climate, nature & wellbeing benefits for local people and businesses. Areas where there is less than 15% tree cover would be a priority.**

**Do you think the Council should focus tree planting in the areas where people live and work and especially where there are not many trees already?**

Yes, it seems logical to prioritise areas of low tree cover but this must be undertaken following discussion with local people and businesses. It is essential to engage the community in tree planting initiatives, especially in built up areas to understand where the best locations for tree planting may be and any concerns residents may have. Engaging with the community is essential to gain buy-in and engender care for establishing trees. On new developments, the Woodland Trust recommend a target canopy cover of at least 20 per cent will be pursued through the retention of important trees, appropriate replacement of trees lost through development, ageing or disease on a 'two for one' basis and by new planting to support green infrastructure.<sup>2</sup> Perhaps a minimum of 20% cover could be considered for all built up areas, not least to support cooling during heatwaves.

A street tree planting programme offers opportunities to look at integrating other infrastructure at the same time for example Electric Vehicle Charging on streets. Where urban trees are planted in paved areas they must have access to structured soil and sufficient canopy space. Thought must be given about how any trees planted will be cared for, including watering in dry weather. This could be achieved through development of rainwater harvesting systems from nearby buildings to store water for use in times of drought.

- 3. Do you agree with the 6 aims in the draft strategy?**

### ***Protecting existing trees & woodland***

All new development should integrate important existing trees. Development which would result in the loss of ancient woodland, aged trees or veteran trees should not be permitted. For trees at risk, can RCT CBC provide a map of high risk trees in the borough and use it to begin a conversation with residents about the trees, the benefits they bring and the risks they pose? The purpose of having these proactive conversations is to prepare communities for necessary safety works and to highlight to the council instances of special value or opportunities to do work differently. In addition, we would like the strategy to include detail on how RCT CBC will protect existing trees and woodland on a global level through its supply chains and investments — see recommendations below on how this can be supported through Size of Wales Deforestation Free Procurement Toolkit.

### ***Encouraging natural regeneration or colonisation to increase tree cover***

We welcome the encouragement of natural regeneration but this approach cannot be relied upon for growing timber. The strategy needs to include detail on how RCT CBC will work with local landowners and the community to grow timber sustainability to reduce reliance on imports for construction and heating.

In terms of increasing woodland cover without affecting existing semi-natural habitats, is it possible for RCT CBC to pro-actively approach land-owners to see if they are prepared to



sell their land or enter into schemes that deliver woodlands for a range of benefits? Currently, engaging landowner to increase tree cover is not being done adequately.

### ***Increasing urban tree cover especially where below 15%***

It seems logical to prioritise areas of low tree cover but this must be undertaken following discussion with local people and businesses. It is essential to engage the community in tree planting initiatives, especially in built up areas to understand where the best locations for tree planting may be and any concerns residents may have. Engaging with the community is essential to gain buy-in and engender care for establishing trees. On new developments, the Woodland Trust recommend a target canopy cover of at least 20 per cent will be pursued through the retention of important trees, appropriate replacement of trees lost through development, ageing or disease on a 'two for one' basis and by new planting to support green infrastructure- <sup>3</sup> Perhaps a minimum of 20% cover could be considered for all built up areas, not least to support cooling during heatwaves.

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### **Looking after ancient hedges**

#### ***Providing a framework for decision making***

We would like to see a transparent framework for decision making that involves local people and proactively informs communities about decisions on tree felling and tree planting.

#### ***Forestry guidance on ash die back***

We are concerned by the numbers of seemingly healthy ash trees being felled across RCT. Forestry Commission guidance states that 'with the exception of felling for public safety or timber production, we advise a general presumption against felling living ash trees, whether infected or not. This is because there is good evidence that a small proportion will be able to tolerate *H.fraxineus* infection'. <sup>4</sup> Trees with a natural immunity to ash die back or able to recover from an infection will undoubtedly be important in helping the ash population to recover in future. This is why the widespread felling of entire ash trees over recent months is so concerning.

## **5. The draft tree strategy 25-point Action Plan**

### **Do you agree with the 25-point Action Plan?**

**Action 1: Create a cross-disciplinary working group.** We would like to see community representation in the monitoring of the action plan and the Cross-disciplinary working group. There are many different community groups with different areas of expertise that it would be good to bring into this working group.

**Action 11: Develop and adopt a Tree Risk Assessment Management tool for making decisions about tree felling, pollarding, pruning and coppicing.** Members of Friends of

the Earth Pontypridd would also like this to include detail on the use of EcoPlugs and in particular their impact on the health of neighbouring trees. As indicated previously, this could include a map of high risk trees to enable proactive conversations with local communities.

**Action14: Establish a robust partnership and community engagement programme.**

This action is key to successful delivery of the strategy and offers significant opportunity. Many people have a special relationship with trees, especially mature trees which act as landmarks or have heritage or cultural significance. As detailed elsewhere in this response, more needs to be done to engage local communities to foster a better understanding of trees and woodland, their importance to our wellbeing and how best to care for them. There is a significant opportunity to engage the community in seed saving initiatives, community tree nurseries, accessing land to support sustainable growing of timber, food, supporting biodiversity. This could be supported by organisations like Llais y Goedwig <sup>5</sup> and Coed Lle01 <sup>6</sup> for example.

**6. Any other further comments or suggestions regarding the draft tree and woodlands strategy, please write below:**

**Growing timber**

Less than 20% of wood consumed in the UK is homegrown, the rest is imported making the UK a major global importer of timber and wood products. Wood is used for a wide variety of purposes, from housebuilding to furniture-making to paper manufacture. RCT CBC can ensure it is helping to protect trees and rainforest on a global level through it's supply chains and investments for example by implementing recommendations in the Size of Wales Deforestation Free Procurement Toolkit. In addition, RCT can work with local landowners and the community to grow timber sustainability to reduce reliance on imports for construction and heating and to support agroforestry and biodiversity. There are excellent local examples of community woodland initiatives, for example Welcome to our Woodsy

We urgently need to grow more timber and deepen our woodland resources. While natural regeneration of trees is welcome, it cannot be relied upon to grow timber. Working with Natural Resources Wales to make best local use of the public forest estate is also an important action in this regard.

**Global impact**

At COP26, Welsh Government Minister for Climate Change made a commitment for Wales to become a deforestation free nation. To deliver on this commitment would require public bodies in Wales to do all they can, within their decision making ability and power, to eliminate imported deforestation from supply chains and investments. In practice, this means:

- Ensuring all public procurement is deforestation free.
- Ensuring that all investments, including pension funds do not contribute to deforestation overseas.
- Introducing sustainable food policies and practices that do not contribute to overseas deforestation (addressing the use of soy in animal feeds in particular). <sup>8</sup>

## Doughnut economics four lenses

In order to highlight some of the considerations needed for a more globally responsible tree strategy, we have used doughnut economics tools. Doughnut climate economics offers a vision of what it means for humanity to thrive in the 21st century and supports the mindset and ways of thinking needed to get us there. The Doughnut acts as a compass for human prosperity in the 21st century, with the aim of meeting the needs of all people within the means of the living planet.

The Doughnut consists of two concentric rings: a social foundation, to ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials, and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries<sup>9</sup> that protect Earth's life-supporting systems. Between these two sets of boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is both ecologically safe and socially just: a space in which humanity can thrive. Unrolling the doughnut provides a framework for thinking about how to ensure the Tree Strategy delivers maximum benefits across each of the 4 lenses created. Doughnut economics four lens approach (see appendix) asks us to reflect on:



- How [the draft tree strategy] supports the wellbeing of the people that live [in RCT] so that we are all able to thrive? (local social foundation)
- How can [the draft tree strategy] be as generous as the wildland around us in supporting nature to thrive? (local ecological ceiling)
- How can [the draft tree strategy] respect the wellbeing of all people? (global social foundation)
- How can [the draft tree strategy] respect the health of the whole planet? (global ecological ceiling)



### Local ecological ceiling:

*How can we best support trees in their generosity?*

Litter pick around them — trees need a clean environment Don't cut them down  
Trees need clean soil, water & sun  
Implement rainwater harvesting systems to water street trees during periods of drought.  
Coppice as a way to store & use carbon  
Use felled trees for biomass/ hugelkultur to grow food  
More street trees to provide shade & lower temperatures  
Trees along polluting roads, around schools and hospitals to clean the air  
Forest gardens to maximise tree cover & food production  
Support people to access woodland to develop a positive relationship with & respect for land and nature Pontypridd is a Nature Reserve and trees are wildlife sanctuaries PONTYPRIDD  
Look after trees throughout their life-course both below NATURE RESERVE SANCTUARY and above ground.



### Global ecological ceiling:

*How can we best protect trees in other parts of the world?*

Ensure the things we buy do not impact on trees in other parts of the world e.g. palm oil, beef, soy, cacao, coffee, timber, paper & pulp  
Don't use palm oil products (they come from chopping down trees)  
Commit to deforestation free supply chains following steps in the Deforestation Free Procurement toolkit<sup>10</sup> Only use FSC certified timber throughout supply chain  
Examine the financial risks that deforestation presents to the investments of the Wales Pension  
Partnership and explore the potential for engagement with or divestment from companies driving deforestation on the basis that this presents an investment risk to the pool.  
Develop concrete, timebound and ambitious action plans and policies that commit to ensuring any investments are free from deforestation, conversion and social exploitation.  
Grow more trees for timber locally - not least because we must reduce timber and timber products imported from countries that pose a high risk to global biodiversity Welsh timber imports use a land area two and a half times the size of An lles 1 1



**Local social foundation:**

*Trees are part of our community— what gifts do they offer us?*

Trees give us breathable air, shade  
Explore relationships with trees across different demographics including woodland access issues

Online mapping of trees — food/ heritage/ seed/ benefits to people/ nature/ climate Live data on felling & planting  
Balance tree planting with food growing & biodiversity  
Orchards & forest gardens  
Access to land for community to benefit from being able to grow timber, biochar, biomass, food  
Engage & empower the entire community to develop community seed saving initiatives, a community tree nursey  
Support skills & jobs — farming/ treecare/ nursery/ housing/ woodland skills Can RCT CBC provide a map of high risk trees in the borough and use it to begin a conversation with residents about the trees, the benefits they bring and the risks the pose?



**Global social foundation:**

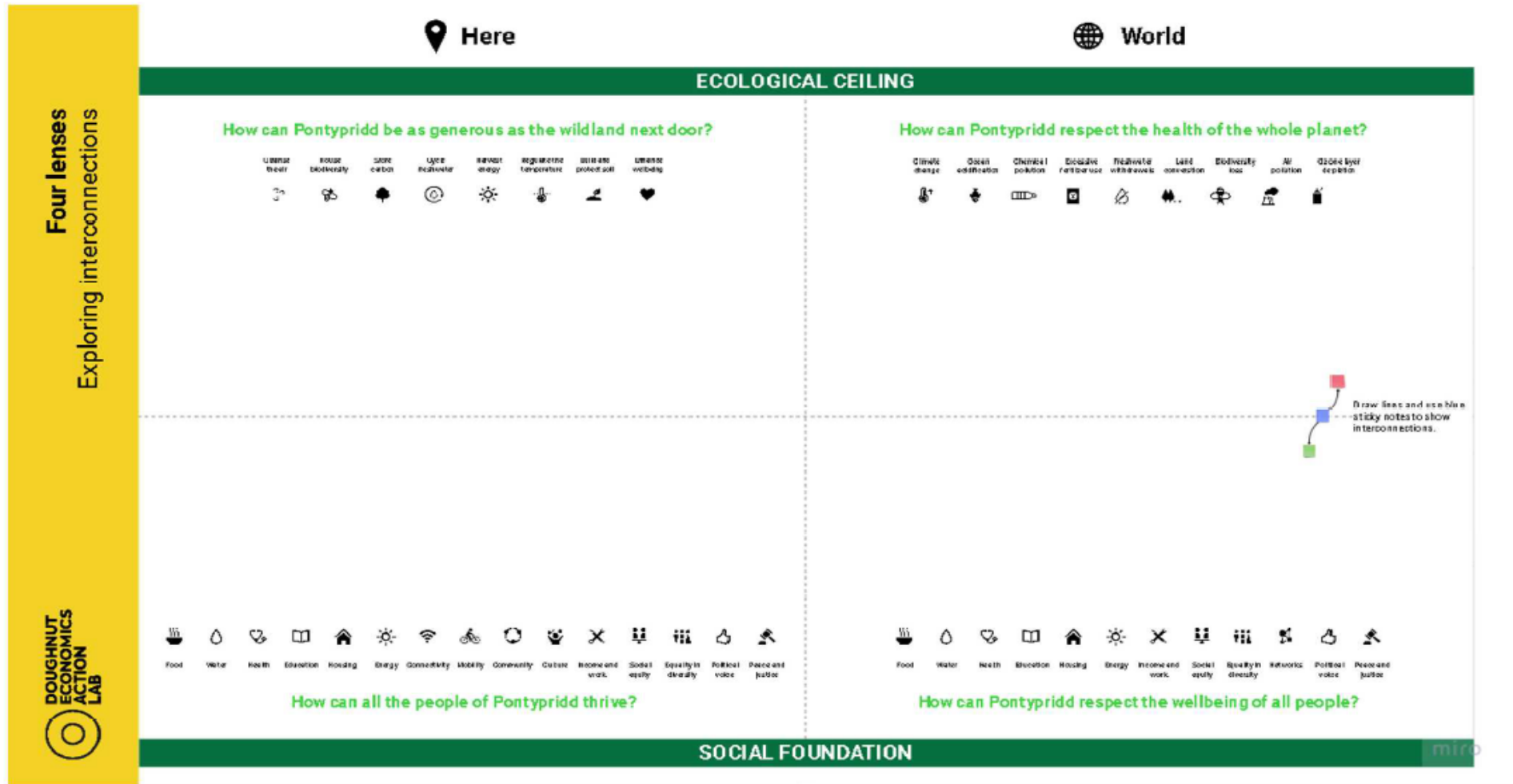
*How can we help people in other parts of the world protect their trees?*

Hold corporations accountable, call them out.  
Buy & source resources ethically e.g. Fair Trade Show people what happens when you don't look after trees in other places e.g. to indigenous communities who lose their homes, language & that we lose their protection of land & wildlife Celebrate the love, connection & knowledge of land, nature heritage by indigenous communities  
Ensure vulnerable countries and communities suffering the effects of climate change, nature loss and deforestation are supported to help them adapt and prosper as part of Wales' ambition to be a globally responsible nation through the Wales and Africa programme.  
Support PONT-Mbale's tree planting projects in Uganda. <sup>12</sup>



# Appendix

## Doughnut economics four lens



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- <sup>1</sup><https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06/Trees%20Report%Final%20220622.pdf>
  - <sup>2</sup> <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1762/10cal-authority-tree-strategies.pdf>
  - <sup>3</sup><https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1762/10cal-authority-tree-strategies.pdf>
  - <sup>4</sup><https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/>
  - <sup>5</sup><https://laisygoedwig.org.uk/>
  - <sup>6</sup><https://www.smallwoods.org.uk/en/coedlleol/>
  - <sup>7</sup><https://welcometoourwoods.org/>
  - <sup>8</sup>[https://cdn.sizeofwales.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/11/Eng\\_deforestation-free-nation\\_Final.pdf](https://cdn.sizeofwales.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/11/Eng_deforestation-free-nation_Final.pdf)
  - <sup>9</sup><https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html>
  - <sup>10</sup><https://cdn.sizeofwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/DFN Toolkit- Final 2021 Eng.pdf>
  - <sup>11</sup><https://pont-mbale.org.uk/what-we-do/environment/>
  - <sup>12</sup>[https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/wwf\\_risky\\_business\\_wales.pdf](https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/wwf_risky_business_wales.pdf)