



Van Community Council

Biodiversity Policy

Date Adopted	Minute	Review
V1 30 th October 2025	4.3	2029

1. Introduction

Van Community Council recognises the urgent need to protect and enhance biodiversity and is committed to embedding environmental sustainability into all aspects of its work. This policy outlines our approach to fulfilling our statutory duty under the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*, Section 6.

2. Legislative Context

Under the Act, public authorities must:

“Seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales and, in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”

3. What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth, including all species of plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms. It underpins ecosystem services that are vital to human wellbeing, such as:

- Clean air and water
 - Food production
 - Climate regulation
 - Flood protection
 - Cultural and recreational benefits
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4. Vision and Objectives

Van Community Council aims to be a leader in local biodiversity action by:

- **Protecting and enhancing** local habitats and species
- **Embedding biodiversity** into all decision-making processes
- **Engaging the community** in biodiversity awareness and action
- **Collaborating** with partners to deliver measurable outcomes

5. Key Actions

To achieve these objectives, the Council will:

Planning and Development

- Support developments that deliver **biodiversity net gain**
- Oppose proposals that would result in the **loss of priority habitats or species**
- Promote **green infrastructure** and wildlife-friendly design

Land and Property Management

- Manage Van Community Council-owned land using **nature-positive practices**
- Reduce or eliminate the use of **pesticides and herbicides**
- Implement **wildflower planting, pollinator corridors, and tree planting**

Procurement and Operations

- Prioritise **sustainable and locally sourced materials**
- Include biodiversity criteria in **grounds maintenance contracts**
- Reduce the Council's **carbon footprint** through greener operations

Community Engagement

- Run **biodiversity-themed events**, workshops, and campaigns
- Support **citizen science** and community-led conservation projects
- Provide resources such as **plant-your-own kits, bird boxes, and pollinator guides**

Partnerships

- Work with **Caerphilly County Borough Council, local schools, businesses, and environmental groups**
- Support and participate in **Local Nature Recovery Strategies** and **Species Conservation Strategies**

6. Monitoring and Review

- A **Biodiversity Report** will be published every **three years**, and an **Action Plan** to outline progress and future priorities
 - Annual updates will be shared via the Council's **website, social media, and newsletters**
 - The policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if required by legislation or local priorities
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