

# Public Document Pack

## Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

### Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.  
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich  
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please  
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#### Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Tuesday, 26 July 2022

Dear Councillor,

#### **TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM**

A meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum will be held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on **Monday, 1 August 2022 at 16:00.**

#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 8  
To receive for approval the Minutes of 07/02/22
4. Cwm Taf Nature Network - Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being Grant 9 - 16
5. Urgent Items  
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Rule 4 of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Please note: Due to health and safety reasons this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk) or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

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Councillors:

S Aspey  
C Ball  
H T Bennett  
E L P Caparros  
G Chappell  
HJ David  
C Davies  
C L C Davies  
B Doughty  
DK Edwards

Councillors

M J Evans  
P Ford  
J Gebbie  
RM Granville  
J Holmes  
R Howells  
P W Jenkins  
M R John  
M Jones  
L Lewis

Councillors

E Richards  
R J Smith  
I M Spiller  
L Teahan-Dyer  
JH Tildesley MBE  
MJ Williams  
E D Winstanley  
T Wood

Including a representative from  
each Town & Community  
Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD  
REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

S Aspey	JPD Blundell	G Chappell	C L C Davies
P Davies	S Dendy	DK Edwards	T Giffard
RM Granville	JE Pratt	KL Rowlands	DA Unwin
KJ Watts	RE Young		

Apologies for Absence

T Lyddon, C Reeves, CE Smith, JH Tildesley MBE and CA Webster

Officers:

Rhodri Davies	Development & Building Control Manager
Julie Ellams	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Deborah Exton	Deputy Head of Finance
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development

221. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr JP Blundell declared a personal interest in item 6, Community Asset Transfer Update, as he was a member of Laleston Community Council which had community asset transferred (CAT) Bryntirion Community Centre and was in the process of submitting expressions of interest in other community projects.

Cllr P Davies declared a personal interest in item 6, Community Asset Transfer Update, as he was the Deputy Chairman of Caerau Development Trust and there was a lease currently running on the Community Centre and negotiations were on going with regard to a CAT transfer. He was also a member of Nantyllyllon RFC which was involved in the CAT transfer of Caerau Welfare Park.

Cllr R Granville declared a personal interest in item 6, Community Asset Transfer Update, as he was involved in discussions regarding the transfer of the football field to Cornelly Community Council.

Cllr Chappell declared a personal interest in item 6, Community Asset Transfer Update, as he was associated with Kenfig RFC and they had recently applied for an asset transfer.

Cllr Huw David declared a personal interest in item 6, Community Asset Transfer Update, as he was a member of Kenfig Hill Rugby Club, Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club and Cefn Cribwr Bowls Club and these clubs had all been involved in the CAT process.

Cllr R Young declared a personal interest in item 6, Community Asset Transfer Update, as he was a member of Coity Community Higher Council and an application had been submitted for a CAT transfer on Great Western Avenue and other playing fields.

222. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 29 November 2021 be approved as a true and accurate record.

223. NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION AND TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services presented a report advising Town and Community Council members of the statutory process of notifying neighbours and consulting with Town and Community Councils in the planning application process.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services explained that where a valid application for planning permission had been submitted, there was a statutory obligation for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to undertake publicity and consultation. LPAs had discretion over how they informed communities and other interested parties about planning applications, although there were minimum statutory requirements. He explained that at Bridgend County Borough Council, they went beyond the minimum statutory requirements for notifying neighbours. On simple applications for a house extension, whilst the Order stated that they should give requisite notice by site display in at least one place on or near the land to which the application related for not less than 21 days; or by serving the notice on any adjoining owner or occupier, they tended to do both and also tended to extend the notification to a wider range of neighbouring properties. They also went beyond the minimum 14 day deadline for receipt of representations from Town and Community Councils by allowing 21 days. If the Town or Community Council could not meet that deadline, they regularly agreed extensions of time.

The Group Manager Planning and Development Services reported that individual Community Councils and the Town and Community Council Forum had proposed that the LPA should send copies of neighbour objections to them for the Councils to ascertain the strength of local feeling. He explained that unfortunately, they were not able to forward any neighbour comments on to the Town and Community Councils (TC)/Community Councils (CC) as that would be a breach of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Even if they had the neighbour's consent to forward their representation on to the TC/CC, they did not have the time or resources to redact each submission of personal information before doing so. In addition, the consultation and notification processes were undertaken concurrently, and they could not delay the process due to the statutory targets for determination. He suggested that Town and Community Councils could approach and advise their residents that they could, if they wish, send a copy of their representation on any planning application to the Community Council at the same time as they respond to the LPA.

A member referred to the LPA extending notification to a wider range of neighbouring properties and asked if there was a definitive distance. The Group Manager Planning and Development Services replied that there was no set distance and it was discretionary. They were only compelled to consult with the adjoining landowners or neighbours but they tried to consult further depending on the type of application. They would also use site notices in a location close to the development. They would prefer to get it right the first time and allow everyone the opportunity to comment rather than have to restart the process at a later date.

A member explained that he understood both why Town and Community Councils wanted to know what residents were saying and the issues with GDPR. He asked if it would be feasible for the LPA to advise the consultees that Town and Community Councils were engaged in the process and that they could make their concerns known

to the LPA and also to their Town and Community Councils as a statutory consultee. The Group Manager Planning and Development replied that they had to take care when providing information to residents and the wording of the consultation was indicated in statute. The Town and Community Council were not part of the decision-making process and it was not a function of the LPA to advise residents to contact Town and Community Councils to hear their grievances or air their views. Any comments made by external bodies were taken on board and addressed when the officer wrote his report.

A member referred to the 3 week consultation period and asked if it could be extended in light of the fact that most Town and Community Councils met every 4 to 5 weeks. The Group Manager Planning and Development Services replied that 21 days was a reasonable period taking into account the LPA only had 8 weeks to determine the application and if they failed within that period, the decision would be taken out of their hands. He understood the issues and explained that if there was a genuine reason to extend then this would be considered. Larger schemes clearly took longer than 8 weeks to determine but this had to be agreed with the applicant.

**RESOLVED:** The Town and Community Council Forum received and considered the report.

224. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022-23 TO 2025-26**

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) presented to the Town and Community Council Forum, a copy of the report that went to Cabinet on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2025-26 on 18 January 2022, for information.

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) explained that due to the delay in the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2021, the Welsh Government did not publish its draft budget until 20 December 2021, or the Provisional Local Government Settlement until 21 December 2021. This was in line with the previous year but still approximately 2 months later than normal. As a result of the delay in announcements, the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy was not presented to Cabinet until 18 January 2022, prior to being submitted for scrutiny by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The final Medium Term Financial Strategy would be presented to Cabinet and Council on 22 and 23 February 2022, respectively, for approval. The proposed council tax for 2022-23 would also be presented to Council for approval on 23 February 2022.

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) explained that in seeking to continue to meet the Council's identified priorities and protect its investment in Education and early intervention, Social Services and Wellbeing, and prioritise the most vulnerable in our society, they were proposing a number of changes in the 2022-23 budget. She referred to opportunities to raise additional income, alternative delivery models to ensure greater sustainability and efficiency, efficiency and property savings and changes to service provision.

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) explained that the Council's MTFS was set within the context of UK economic and public expenditure plans, Welsh Government's priorities and legislative programme. The MTFS articulated how the Council planned to use its resources to support the achievement of its corporate priorities and statutory duties, including the management of financial pressures and risks over the next four years. She outlined the Welsh Government Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022-23, the settlement implications for 2023 to 2026, transfers into and out of the 2022-23 Revenue Settlement and specific grants.

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) explained that there were a number of significant cost pressures they needed to fund within the increase, including additional funding to meet the teachers pay deal for the remainder of the current year and for next year, to meet the new requirements in relation to National Insurance contributions and to fund the introduction of the real living wage for care workers. During the current financial year and last year, the Council received monies from Welsh Government via a hardship fund which helped the authority to meet the additional costs and lost income experienced as a result of the pandemic. This grant would no longer be available in 2022/23, so the budget that was set would need to take account of any additional spend that they may still have in relation to the pandemic.

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) concluded that the report was considered by cabinet on the 18th January and had now been to all of the scrutiny committees during January. The final budget proposals would go to cabinet on the 22nd of February and then to Council for final resolution on the 23rd of February.

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) thanked the Town and Community Councils for forwarding their agreed precepts for the coming financial year as requested. These would be included as part of the final report to Council at the end of February.

A member referred to appendix B to the report, COM2 which related to the cessation of the tourism contract with AMA Associates who promoted Bridgend with a range of publishers. He said that it appeared that news coverage about Bridgend would reduce with potential implications for visitor numbers and the local economy. He asked if this was the only way tourism in the area was promoted and the impact at a time when staycations had increased by 40%. The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer) replied that the Council used a number of ways to promote tourism and this was just one aspect. Work was ongoing to ensure Bridgend was promoted as much as possible both internally via the website and externally. This was having a positive impact and there were now more visitors coming to Bridgend.

A member was concerned that there was very little promotional material around South Wales, including in the train stations and in service stations on the M4.

The Leader confirmed that this was one strand of work that was undertaken to promote Bridgend as a tourist destination and they would continue to use the others. The number of tourists visiting Bridgend had reached record high levels over the last 12 months and the contribution to the Bridgend economy had reached a record high as well.

**RESOLVED:** The Town and Community Council Forum received and considered the report that went to Cabinet on 18 January 2022 on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2025-26 (Appendix 1).

225. **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE**

The Community Asset Transfer (CAT) officer presented a report providing the Forum with an outline of the changes to Bridgend County Borough Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy and the support and opportunities currently available to Town & Community Councils (T&CCs) to work with the Council and community groups to achieve the best management arrangements for public sector assets and services.

The CAT officer explained that the updated CAT Policy was approved by Cabinet in July 2019 and took account of the recommendations of the CAT Task & Finish group. The

main changes to the policy were the priority of assets; priority 1 sports pavilions, playing fields and Community centres, priority 2, playgrounds, free car parks and allotments and then priority 3 covering everything not included in priority 1 and priority 2. He explained that the document introduced a fast track system as one of the biggest criticisms they had received was the length of time it took to complete CATs. Where previously they required detailed business plans, now they only asked the submission of income and expenditure projections for a minimum of a 5-year period for the majority of CATs (but detailed business plans would still be requested for more complex projects, e.g. new builds).

The CAT officer outlined the position regarding CAT funding and resources and added that in October 2020 a Business Case for support under the Council's Change Management Fund of £266,461 was approved by the Corporate Management Board (CMB). This included the creation of three new fixed-term posts required to progress multiple CATs and to achieve the financial savings under the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). He explained that paragraph 4.12 of the report outlined in summary, the progress made particularly during the last two years of the COVID pandemic and Appendix B, also provided detailed information on the transfers that were being progressed. Details of eight transfers completed to date were included in the report and a further one had completed since the report was published.

The CAT officer explained that one of the most pleasing aspects of the Community Asset Transfers during the pandemic was that 10 out of 12 bowls clubs agreed to undertake the self-management of 11 bowls greens from 1 November 2020 while long-term leases were being progressed.

The CAT officer outlined progress on the strategic review of the 3 major parks. The first phase of the review was completed in May 2021. The remit for the Second Phase Review should be developed in consultation with Just Solutions to take account of the principles agreed by Cabinet / CMB and enable appropriate frameworks for individual strategies for Newbridge Fields and Maesteg Welfare Park to be progressed.

The CAT officer explained that the CAT staff resources had increased in the last few months and there had been a corresponding increase in progress made in that short period. Sadly, one member of staff resigned at the end of December and they were in the process of trying to recruit a replacement. In conclusion, they had had very good experiences of working with Town and Community Councils and looked forward to increasing partnership working going forward.

The Leader said that he was really pleased to see the progress that had been made and thanked the small team that was working on this for what had been achieved by working so closely with clubs and the Community Councils.

A member said that a Town Council had requested oncosts for various aspects in relation to Welfare Park but nothing had been forthcoming. There was a company looking at a way forward but they were unable to progress without the oncosts. The CAT officer replied that working with the Town Council would be a positive step forward however it would be difficult to provide oncosts and as a way forward they were looking at the cost of maintaining each particular aspect. Consultants were already discussing with Tennis Wales, resurfacing the tennis courts. They were looking to provide meaningful information going forward.

A member stated that Bridgend Town council had 5 lease arrangements for allotments and asked if it was the intention to transfer rights to the Town Council for those not subject to a lease agreement. The CAT officer replied that they were not looking to change the existing ones.

The Leader concluded that it was recognised that the team were working incredibly hard and he asked that a further report be submitted to the Forum in 6 to 12 months as this was a topic of particular interest to the Town and Community Councils.

**RESOLVED**

That Members of the Town and Community Council Forum noted the Council's:

- Revised CAT Policy designed to simplify the process and reduce delays.
- Associated funding under the CAT Fund that has been set aside to encourage and support the transfer of Priority 1 assets.
- And recognised that community owned and managed models of delivery could reinvigorate community assets and could be devolved to the local level in which they operated. The success of CAT was dependent on the proactive participation of willing participants – T&CCs and community groups - together with their ability and capacity to manage the asset.
- Commitment and willingness to engage with T&CCs and community groups to progress CATs.

226. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

The meeting closed at 17:10



## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

1 AUGUST 2022

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

#### CWM TAF NATURE NETWORK – ENABLING NATURAL RESOURCES AND WELL-BEING GRANT

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum regarding the Cwm Taf Nature Network Project which is an initiative funded by the Welsh Government as part of the Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being Grant (ENRaW) and, to provide updates as to project progress and impact during phase 1 of project delivery.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Nature Network Project (CTNN) has been successful in obtaining a grant from Welsh Government's Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing (ENRaW) Fund. The Cwm Taf Nature Network aims to form a collaboration of organisations in the Cwm Taf Health Board region to manage the green infrastructure of the region for the benefit of people, businesses, and communities. The project is split into three themes that align with the Cwm Taf and Bridgend Well-Being Plans with the themes of action for the ENRaW Scheme. The CTNN project will focus on:

- Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure;
- Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment; and

- Developing resilient ecological networks, areas and nature based solutions.

- 3.2 The grant focusses on delivering the cross cutting ambitions of Prosperity for All and the Natural Resources Policy. It encourages collaboration from the outset with new partners *outside* of traditional areas (e.g. business, health, tourism, etc.) and the project based funding is for two years. It is focused on outcomes and multiple benefits across the well-being goals and WG are looking for continuous improvement in light of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) and Environment Acts.
- 3.3 The project aims to use the opportunity of Bridgend joining the Cwm Taf Health Board as a catalyst to share green infrastructure good practice across the Public Service Boards (PSBs) brought together by this merger. Building on the Bridgend PSB and Cwm Taf PSB Well-being Plans, and other evidence bases, such as the Local Biodiversity Action Plan / Nature Recovery Plan, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Forward Plan and green infrastructure mapping, the Cwm Taf Nature Network aims to form a collaboration to better manage the green infrastructure of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board Region. BCBC will be the lead body delivering the project across Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) and Merthyr (MCBC) County Borough Councils.
- 3.4 There has been considerable consultation and outreach to develop this collaboration. This started in 2018 during the first ENRaW round, where Local Authority officers from Biodiversity Action Groups across South Wales were meeting to coordinate ENRaW projects as they were developed to avoid conflict or duplication. There were three green infrastructure projects being developed across South Wales, a South West project, a pilot project for South Central in Bridgend and a South East project. At the time of that first ENRaW window there was only capacity to apply for a pilot in Bridgend looking to the wider collaborative working across the South Central area in the future. Since then the Bridgend PSB and Cwm Taf PSB have been working together to develop a new bid for a pilot that takes in the whole Cwm Taf Region.
- 3.5 At a local level, partner organisations involved with the Public Service Boards (PSB) have been engaged to bring cross sector organisations into the collaboration.

#### 4. **Current situation/proposal**

- 4.1 Cwm Taf Nature Network aims to form a collaboration of organisations in the Cwm Taf Health Board region to manage the green infrastructure of the region for the benefit of people, businesses and communities. The project is split into three themes that align with the Cwm Taf and Bridgend Well-Being Plans with the themes of action for the ENRaW Scheme.
- **Enable** - Increasing access to green infrastructure.
  - **Empower** - Improving environment quality for thriving communities.
  - **Unite** - Creating a connected network of green spaces.

##### **Enable - Increasing access to green infrastructure**

- 4.2 This focuses on ENRaW Theme 1 - Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure through nature based solutions. The project aims

to develop, regenerate and increase access to 20 high quality green spaces across the Cwm Taf region.

- 4.3 This aligns with the well-being plans aim of: “Working with communities we will seek to further strengthen and expand our community infrastructure to improve support for children, families and communities, with the long term aim of improving wellbeing and resilience to deal with the challenges of life”.
- 4.4 The project will improve access to green space for all. An audit of Local Nature Reserves and other significant green spaces will be undertaken and used to implement access improvements across those sites.
- 4.5 Four flagship sites will be developed, and each of these sites will be themed as an example of best practice in unlocking green space. These themes will be:
- Increasing access for parents with early years’ children.
  - Increasing access for older people.
  - Providing a space for mindfulness.
  - Increasing access for the partially sighted.
- 4.6 Focusing on “the best start if life” aim within the well-being plans, the project will look to improve access to green infrastructure for children in the “first 1000 days” of life. The aim is to improve the educational outcomes for these children and improve their early years’ experience. The project will signpost schools and nurseries to local green space and the resources that will be developed for education in that space.

#### **Empower - Improving environment quality for thriving communities**

- 4.7 This focuses on ENRaW Theme 2 – Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment. It will align this theme with the well-being plans’ objectives of supporting “Thriving Communities” to be “safe and cohesive”, contributing to: “We will work with communities to help them improve the local environment and increase opportunities to come together to promote a sense of ownership and security”.
- 4.8 This theme will contribute to the following well-being goals:
- Communities place a greater value on their environment and more people get involved in local issues and recognise the importance of green space in wellbeing and as a prevention factor.
  - Recognising that communities are becoming more diverse. Addressing barriers that some groups have in feeling part of communities.
  - Diverse, confident communities are resilient to change. Promotes a better knowledge of different cultures and a better knowledge of the local environment.
- 4.9 This will be done by engaging community members to use their local green space, develop a sense of ownership of that green space and foster behavioural change so people have less negative impact on our green space.
- 4.10 The project will promote educational activities, recreational activities and countryside volunteering. It will include consultation with local communities and working with them to improve their green spaces. Friends groups for our Local Nature Reserves

will be formed and work will be undertaken with the and countryside volunteers in habitat management to promote biodiversity and create high quality green space that will maximise our natural resources and contribute to the wellbeing of our communities.

- 4.11 The well-being plans state that “Collectively public sector PSB member organisations account for around a third of working people. Improving the lifestyles of our workforces and promoting a healthy workplace would not only benefit them and our business, but also encourage healthier lifestyles in their families”. It aims to “investigate how we can act to improve workplace culture to promote better health for staff. We will learn from our investigation to enable a programme of coordinated health and wellbeing activities at the workplace and in communities to improve the health of the public sector workforce and their families”.
- 4.12 This project aims to contribute to this programme by developing a 30 minute green space walk from key PSB buildings so that staff can do a health and well-being walk during their lunchtime.
- 4.13 This theme will contribute to the well-being goal of “Healthy active people in resilient communities, volunteering, keeping young people in the local area, reducing travel to work, increased use and awareness of green spaces”.

**Unite - Creating a connected network of green spaces.**

- 4.14 This focuses on ENRaW Theme 3 - Developing resilient ecological networks and Nature Based Solutions. It will look at the 20 green spaces improved in theme 1, as a connected network of green space across the Cwm Taf Health Board Region. The 20 sites within the project will be uniformly spaced across the region to achieve three goals:
- All residents will have access to a high quality local green space.
  - The sites will form an ecological network focused on biodiversity connectivity through the movement of birds and managing the spaces as meta-population sites for bumblebees and butterflies.
  - The sites will be improved to form a network of green spaces that can be accessed easily on foot or by bike encouraging active travel.
- 4.15 This theme will address the steps outlined in the well-being plans to encourage healthy choices in a healthy environment. These steps include:
- We will build on the evidence base, e.g. the Cwm Taf counties’ Nature Recovery Plans, to identify opportunities to improve the quality and extent of natural assets available and develop a programme to take forward these opportunities in collaboration with local communities and business.
  - We will improve the public estate and green spaces, in urban areas, by encouraging award of green flag status and through community involvement.
  - We will promote the use of the Welsh language when accessing our natural, cultural and historic assets.
  - We will promote awareness and understanding of the multiple benefits of the use of these assets by making sure that people know where they can go and what they can do to use these assets and encourage them to use footpaths and cycle paths to get there (active travel) which is good for them and for the environment.

We will explore how we can use these assets to provide opportunities for GPs and others to direct people to activities that will help improve their health and wellbeing (social prescribing).

4.16 This will in turn contribute to the following well-being goals:

- Protect assets that support rural businesses and tourism.
- Preserve and protect habitats, promote sustainable management of green spaces, prevent loss of assets. Mitigate against climate change, biodiversity decline and flood risk.
- Promote physical activity, social and supportive networks, reduce car use to reduce carbon air emissions.
- Provide safe and accessible cultural and green assets for older people, carers, disabled people, young families and children.

4.17 The project will promote walking and cycling as well as exploring safer cycle storage for people visiting our green spaces. This will encourage a lower carbon economy.

4.18 The project will focus on sustainable management of green space to reduce invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam to protect habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce soil erosion and flood risk from the fast runoff associated with these species.

4.19 It is currently anticipated that the following sites in Bridgend County Borough will be supported:

- Frog Pond Wood
- Tremains woodland
- Brackla Hill
- Maesteg Welfare Park
- Ogmere Washeries
- Aber Fields/Planka
- Craig y Parcau
- Parc Calon Lan
- Park Ti'r Iarll
- Wilderness Lake
- Bedford Park

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There is no effect upon the Council's policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on

socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal at this stage.

## 7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report.

- **Long Term** – The project will foster a longer term understanding of green space and well-being, as well as a sense of ownership between communities and green space. The habitat management works will also enable the green spaces to be more resilient to long-term change.
- **Prevention** – The aim of the project is to promote use of outdoor space and well-being by focussing on access to and management of green space under the themes of Enable, Empower and Unite. All of these themes are based upon the well-being plans in Bridgend and Cwm Taf with a view to tackling and preventing identified problems with health, community cohesion and the environment.
- **Integration** – The project will contribute to the well-being goals:
  - Protect assets that support rural businesses and tourism.
  - Preserve and protect habitats, promote sustainable management of green spaces, prevent loss of assets, mitigate against climate change, biodiversity decline and flood risk.
  - Promote physical activity, social and supportive networks, reduce car use to reduce carbon air emissions.
  - Provide safe and accessible cultural and green assets for older people, carers, disabled people, young families and children.
- **Collaboration** – The project will bring together a wider stakeholder group to lead the project, with a smaller steering group of core partners that will manage the project. Local Authority officers from Biodiversity Action Groups across South Wales have been meeting to coordinate ENRaW projects as they are developed to avoid conflict or duplication.
- **Involvement** – the project has been developed in close partnership with a wide range of local stakeholders including a number of bodies with an interest in well-being goals including members of both PSBs. These are widespread across the three counties, and the range of sites currently suggested for inclusion in the project include a relatively equal spread of rural and non-rural areas. The stakeholder groups will be involved in monitoring and supporting the delivery of activity during the project.

## 8. Financial implications

8.1 The project started in September 2021 and will be ending in June 2023.

8.2 Grant funding of £580,585 has been approved by Welsh Government, at a rate of 100%. A breakdown of the funding package, as currently agreed, is presented below.

Capital	£229,600
Revenue	£350,985
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£580,585</b>

8.3 All procurement processes will be in line with BCBC policies and procedures, and support will be provided by BCBC procurement department.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum notes the report

**Janine Nightingale**  
**Corporate Director, Communities**  
**1 August 2022**

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