

**Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan**  
**Six Monthly Performance Report**

**PSB Agenda Item 03-AA5**

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Action Area: Natural Environment**  
**Contribution to the 4 Well-being Objectives:**

Positive Change— working with others to help everyone to understand the importance of the natural environment and how it underpins how we live, work and play.

Positive Start— Creating and maintaining healthy, green, well-connected green spaces and habitats to deliver multiple benefits for well-being.

Positive People— Enhancing and promoting local. natural environments, to help residents be more active and engaged.

Positive Places— Providing a network of connected green spaces to deliver multiple benefits for both individuals and nature.

**Contribution to the 7 Well-being Goals:**  
A prosperous Wales, A resilient Wales, A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, A globally responsible Wales.

Performance measures where identifiable	Is there a risk this will not be achieved?
Improved access to green spaces in the local community	No
Improved knowledge of barriers to accessing green space	No
<b>Quantifiable measures</b>	
Improvement in access to green space in the local community to encourage greater use.	
Improved knowledge and understanding to the barriers to accessing green space	
Community involvement in protecting and enhancing the natural environment	

**Evidence**

- Green Spaces Core group up continues and actively seeking to widen membership.
- Draft Green Infrastructure plan for the county borough complete; final version to completed in coming months
- Green Active Travel project at Tir y Berth ongoing – launch event in the autumn (date tbc)
- Ystrad Mynach mapping project (looking at use of green space and future opportunities) – report being finalised ready for circulation.
- ENRaW Grant Applications – Collaborative bids from partners in the South East Wales area have been successful in receiving funding from Welsh Government - ‘Gwent Green Grid’ (£2.1m) and ‘A Resilient Greater Gwent’ (£1.5m). Start date July 2019.

Ref	Key Tasks	Progress
A	Create, complete and implement an integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy is ready. CCBC working with consultants (TACP) to finalise. Final version of GI Strategy will be delivered in the coming months with an integrated action plan and this will be presented to the PSB for input/action.
B	Establish a funding group of PSB organisations to share knowledge and identify opportunities for collaborative projects and funding bids.	<p>The Green Spaces Core Group continues to meet (last meeting was June 2019). Group is actively seeking to widen membership (eg. recent invitation to local Friends of the Earth contacts).</p> <p>Members of this group are currently part of other local and regional funding bids. Several bids have been submitted under the Welsh Government ENRaW (Enabling Natural Resources &amp; Well-being) programme, the most significant of these being the Gwent Green Grid Project (GGGP), Resilient Greater Gwent (RGG) and Local Nature Partnerships. These schemes are proposed to run for 3 years. The GGGP involves regional Green Infrastructure (GI) planning and delivery, assisting production and delivery of the Area Statement (required under the Environment Act) and delivery of CCBC's draft Green Infrastructure Strategy. The proposals include regional GI and Access plans, recruiting staff including a Regional Health and Wellbeing co-ordinator, an access training programme, countryside ranger support and assistance for existing staff, I-Tree, pollinator and recycling initiatives and wider environmental works. This is supplemented by a capital implementation programme. The cost of this initiative is some £2.1m.</p> <p>Resilient Greater Gwent (RGG) consists of two main workstreams. The Resilient Ecological Network work stream will create an evidence-based strategic plan to direct nature recovery action in Greater Gwent that will support biodiversity and resilient ecological networks. In collaboration with the Local Nature Partnership Cymru project, we will develop State of Nature reports and Nature Recovery Action Plans, working with Local Environmental Record Centres on a common methodology and report format. Action will be taken against the five drivers of biodiversity loss; climate change, pollution, habitat change and loss, invasive non-native species and exploitation.</p> <p>The RGG project will trial outputs of the Wales NRAP Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience sub group which will include: monitoring &amp; reporting developments against the Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity and Adaptability (DECCA) Framework; incorporating the latest thinking in to land management; the use of communication tools to increase ecosystem resilience understanding and developing examples of best practice to be shared.</p> <p>The RGG Sustainable Communities work stream will take a community and place-based approach, engaging with communities and seeking to add value. This will be through team building, social activities, mindfulness in nature and deepening connections to their local places. New community and volunteering groups will also be created. This will build on the increasing trend for the amount of time people spend volunteering</p>

to assist in conservation in the UK: People will be increasingly connected with and appreciate nature and sustainable lifestyles. This will support their physical and mental well-being.

This culture change will put biodiversity at the heart of decision making. Using evidence from Area Statements, a collaborative approach to co-create and deliver Local Development Plans and Well-being Plans will demonstrate the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The behaviour change for well-being officer role will focus on behaviour change and empowering communities. This work stream will ultimately aim to increase positive environmental behaviours.

Both work streams are closely interlinked; resilient ecological networks create benefits for healthy, sustainable communities who then contribute to the creation, maintenance and stewardship of the resilient ecological networks. Specific outputs and outcomes for individual activities under each work stream are available on request.

The costs for this project are some £1.5m.

The main elements of the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) scheme are to:-

- Establishment of a Wales-wide network of LNPs covering all LA and NPA areas supported by expert input from an Advisory Group and support to broaden and diversify the participation and reach of each LNP at a local level
- A needs-led capacity-building programme  
Coordinated by WCVA but co-designed with partners to upskill LNP Coordinators in areas such as communications, engagement, volunteering, partnership-building, fundraising and volunteer management that will help deliver project objectives
- Informed and targeted action at a local level  
Coordination of local NRAPs and accompanying action plans that encourage and enable actors from all sectors to help implement nature recovery, including those from non-traditional audiences
- Building the evidence base  
Utilising expert evidence from LERCs to help LNPs drive more targeted action and in turn contributing to data-growth regarding local ecosystem resilience. Also piloting an integrated reporting mechanism, informed by Advisory Group partners, to try to capture more fully the multiple benefits of nature recovery.
- Advocacy and Influencing  
Providing evidence and narrative to encourage greater recognition on nature recovery within local and national strategies, including those of non-nature driven organisations
- Succession planning  
Capacity-building and coordination to help equip LNPs to build support for a more secure and integrated funding model and to develop

		<p>appropriate legacy and exit strategies</p> <p>In terms of staffing after the initial phase, there is funding within the bid for 2 dedicated FTE posts to manage and coordinate the project, ideally to be located in Rhyl and Cardiff. Total Grant Request for Caerphilly is £27,645.95 and the total grant request is £32,551.44 (these figures do not include the match finding).</p> <p>These projects have all been approved in principle and authorised to proceed at risk whilst some details are finalised. Start dates for GGPP and RGG are given as 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.</p> <p>The Gwent area performed well in relation to the share of funding secured from the above sources as it also did in relation to the Valleys Regional Park.</p>
C	Map existing delivery, assets, opportunities and gaps of our green spaces and identify opportunities for change.	<p>NRW provided £5k funding for a piece of 'community engagement' work in Ystrad Mynach, looking at the use of local green spaces by people. CCBC, Groundwork and NRW steered the project and a draft report has been received from the consultant. It links closely to the borough-wide GI Strategy, exploring provision in detail in one locality. The report will be finalised and distributed in autumn 2019.</p> <p>Work of RDP project on Caerphilly Landscape Strategy. The partnership has recently employed a dedicated community ranger to develop links for communities of Caerphilly basin to the wider countryside. The Strategy, prepared by WYG, has been completed and a delivery group, consisting of some 16 local organisations has been established and are active in awarding the funding allocated to the project through a process of grant assessments. These are covering a wide range of issues and access improvements feature strongly.</p>
D	Implement actions to increase the contribution that the environment makes to the health and well-being of residents.	<p>NRW, CCBC, Public Health Wales and Groundwork Wales are working together on a 'green active travel' project in Tir y Berth. The site was chosen as a 'community hub' and the project involves an existing travel route along the river Rhymney. Local people have been involved in enhancing the site so that it is better-used as a resource at the heart of the community - linking homes, schools and work places to improve health, well-being and connection to nature. An interpretative map of the site is being finalised (with input from the local community/schools) and there will be a launch event in autumn 2019.</p> <p>Other relevant work also being delivered by PSB partners, eg. various works at country parks and NRW-led work to resurface Cwmcarn Forest Drive and update/renew visitor infrastructure which the intention to re-open the Forest Drive in spring 2020.</p> <p>Three sites within the County borough have been identified as 'Gateways' for development under the Valleys Regional Park and indicative funding allocated. Penallta Country Park, where a visitor centre is proposed to meet the needs of existing and additional users has the largest allocation. The centre is aimed at being developed as a Health and Wellbeing hub and would be constructed to showcase the use of local materials, primarily wood. It is hoped to extensively utilise the experience of both the Rural Development programme team and others involved in the sourcing and supply of local materials. Other grants have been awarded to Cwmcarn and Caerphilly Castle. The indicative allocation for these projects is some £1.4m.</p>

		<p>Sustainable Commons and Upland initiatives – including the Adventure Triangle linking Cwmcarn and Pontymoile Canal Basin across Mynydd Maen Common and the SMS Resilient Uplands Scheme, Tirwedd y Comin on Gelligaer Common. Ongoing.</p> <p>Involvement in the Planning System – Strategically by influencing and contributing to the formulation of policies and strategies, as well as site specific through the Development Management process on individual Planning Applications. Currently assembling a team to work with Forward Planning on the creation of a new Caerphilly Local Development Plan.</p>
E	Implement actions to increase volunteering in the outdoors	<p>Opportunities to link the Green Spaces and Volunteering Action Areas have been identified, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter and fly tipping – support and resources for people who want to tackle this in their local area</li> <li>• Community flood planning and flood wardens for areas at risk of flooding</li> <li>• Looking after green spaces – opportunities for people to work together to improve their local environment e.g. improve access, provide services, improve quality.</li> </ul> <p>Nat Env Action Area Lead will be attending next meeting of Volunteering Action Area to discuss further and agree joint actions.</p> <p>Caerphilly Challenge Series Volunteers – working with the Ramblers, Caerphilly Adventure Group and others, training volunteers and providing opportunities to learn new skills and enjoy the natural environment along with surveying the Rights of Way Network. Some 400 walkers entered the Challenge this year, which took place in the Caerphilly area. The event was very well supported by volunteers.</p> <p>The Caerphilly Local Access Forum, which is comprised of volunteers, has recently completed another three year meeting cycle and a new Local Access Forum will be established later in the year. William Lindsay is worth particular mention and thanks for his role as chair for the past four cycles of this Forum and his willingness to attend supplementary National meetings across Wales.</p> <p>Parc Cwm Darran has recently been awarded the prestigious ‘Winner’ in the Community Outreach category for the 2019 HMPPS Wildlife Awards. The staff have been highly praised for the work that they undertake with the Probation Service at this site.</p>
F	Identify the opportunities for PSB Partners to share resources, assets and staff.	<p>Supporting Valleys Regional Park including shared environmental ranger service, developing a high-quality user and visitor experience with excellent facilities and amenities, including exemplary environmental standard and encourage and support active lifestyles to improve health and wellbeing. WG are currently establishing a project management and implementation team which are to be based in Tredomen. Support for projects is outlined above and this ties in with the ENRaW proposals.</p> <p>ENRAW – Two linked collaborative grant bids submitted to Welsh Government covering Regional GI Strategy for Gwent, Strategic Access Plan, GI Improvement Works, Evidence based strategic approach to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Working with partner authorities throughout South East Wales. <b>Updated above.</b></p> <p>INNS – Caerphilly CBC acting as a lead partner in the delivery of ‘Managing Invasive Plant Species’ Project/s across the region which is run as a partnership and directed through a collaborative steering group that is made up of representatives of all the key partner organisations. This</p>

		initiative continues and is being used as a template by other organisations. The Invasive Species Officer has recently been to Ireland to inform their civil service as to the establishment of successful programmes and methods of work. The CCBC led project includes the RCT and Merthyr areas as well as Gwent. Within Caerphilly there is in excess of 1000 sites being treated and the programme also assists NRW with the management of their sites beyond the project area.
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