

Action Area: AA5

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
Quantifiable measures	
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 and running, next meeting is 6th March. There is also a wider network of people and organisations interests.
- Draft Green Infrastructure plan for the county borough completed.
- Partners working together on a Green Active Travel project at Tir y Berth, which will be completed by spring 2019
- Partners have commissioned a 'mapping project' in Ystrad Mynach – looking at use of green space and future opportunities.
- ENRaW Grant Applications – Collaborative bids prepared by partners in the SouthEast Wales area, primarily Gwent, two separate applications submitted which are inextricably linked, 'Gwent Green Grid' and 'A Resilient Greater Gwent'. Programme due to start in April 2019, if successful.

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 and there will be further stakeholder workshops. Final version of GI Strategy will be delivered by spring 2019 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.	Green Spaces Core Group established – first meeting was in Dec 2018 and next meeting is 6 th March. Members of this group are currently part of other local and regional funding bids. This information is shared through the Green Spaces Core Group and wider network to ensure that everything is joined up. For example, members involved in current bids to WG ENRaW fund (Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing).
C	Map existing delivery, assets, opportunities and gaps of our green spaces and identify opportunities for change.	<p>NRW has 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 are steering the project but it will involve widespread engagement with the community and other organisations. It links closely to the borough-wide GI Strategy, exploring provision in detail in one locality. The focus is to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The provision of green space within the community 2) The maintenance of the community green space 3) The use of that green space by the community and community interaction with it 4) The future opportunities for that green space, including opportunities for greater community participation and involvement <p>This work will be delivered by April/May 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.</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. The aim is to involve people in enhancing the site (seating, biodiversity, litter picking, interpretation, improvements to the physical access) 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. Engagement with local schools and voluntary groups has already started and work will be ongoing over the next few months. £20k has been put forward for the project (from NRW and Public Health Wales).</p> <p>Other relevant work also being delivered by PSB partners, eg. infrastructure at Cwmcarn, various works at country parks.</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.</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.</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"> • Litter and fly tipping – support and resources for people who want to tackle this in their local area • Community flood planning and flood wardens for areas at risk of flooding • Looking after green spaces – opportunities for people to work together to improve their local environment e.g. improve access, provide services, improve quality. <p>Action Area lead and PSB champion meeting with Martin Featherstone in March to discuss how to take these opportunities forward.</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.</p>
F	Identify the opportunities for PSB Partners to share resources, assets and staff.	<p>Green Space Core Group partners involved in ‘Lived Experience of Climate Change’ project in Caerphilly – focus is on last year’s forest fires at Cwmcarn. Workshop organised by external consultants for 15th March.</p> <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.</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.</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.</p>

Guidance sought from the Public Services Board

The Green Spaces Core Group seeks advice from the PSB about suitable performance measures for the Action Area. The group has aspirations that actions will deliver a range of positive impacts such as:

- **Increased use of local green spaces**
- **Increased and greater diversity provision of activities outdoors, contributing to increased health, wellbeing and cohesion (social prescribing)**
- **Increased community involvement in the provision, maintenance and enhancement of green spaces**
- **Increased rates of 'green' volunteering**
- **Increased area of 'quality' green spaces in the county borough**
- **Increased percentage of people travelling actively (walking and cycling)**
- **Increased biodiversity across the county borough**

However, data for these measures is not routinely collected at the current time and it is difficult to prove causality.

Exception Report attached on This report is presented to the PSB to