

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

Agenda Item 08-AA5

Date: 24 Jun 2021

Action Area: AA5 – 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
Quantifiable measures	
Improvement in access to green space in the local community to encourage greater use.	No
Improved knowledge and understanding to the barriers to accessing green space	No
Community involvement in protecting and enhancing the natural environment	No

Evidence

- Green Spaces Group met last in Feb 2021. The Group has agreed three delivery priorities for 2021. These are: -
 - **Priority 1: Targeted improvement of green spaces** - A major tree planting and habitat improvement programme, that engages with residents and volunteers to maximise the carbon offsetting, biodiversity benefits and understanding of climate change issues.
 - **Priority 2: Grow, cook, eat** - involving people in sustainable local food activity as a way to enhance connection to nature, promote sustainable behaviours and improve health, e.g. increasing allotment provision, involving volunteers, supporting community initiatives.
 - **Priority 3: New Recovery Priority Flooding:** Flooding is a key issue in Caerphilly. Green Spaces group to feed into new LDP, Natural Flood Management to be explored alongside engineering works with multiple benefits of Green spaces to be integrated into development for people and biodiversity to benefit all. Policy Planning to be included in Green Spaces Group.
- The Green Infrastructure plan for the county borough has been approved.
- Green Active Travel project at Tir y Berth ongoing – launch event was planned for the spring (new date tbc)
- Ystrad Mynach mapping project (looking at use of green space and future opportunities) - report being finalised pending publication of GI Strategy.

Ref	Key Tasks	Progress
A	Create, complete and implement an integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Green Spaces Group were involved in early stages of GI Strategy development in 2018 and item regularly discussed at Green Spaces Group meetings since. Work on the Strategy is led by CCBC. Latest update is that Strategy will be going to Council in September 2020. This is a key document that will outline assets and opportunities at a strategic level and inform future work programme of this Action Area.
B	Establish a funding group of PSB organisations to share knowledge and identify opportunities for collaborative projects and funding bids.	Members of Core Group feed into existing Gwent-wide partnerships - Resilient Greater Gwent (ENRaW funded) and Gwent Green Grid Partnership (hoping for ENRaW funding). Also Resilient Uplands project and have fed into G-SWAG and Area Statement work so the work in Caerphilly is aligned with that across Gwent and benefitting from shared learning and approaching delivery at the right scale.
C	Map existing delivery, assets, opportunities and gaps of our green spaces and identify opportunities for change.	GI Strategy is key here. To complement that strategic look at green space, NRW funded (£5k) a place-based look at assets and opportunities in Ystrad Mynach, to help bring the GI Strategy to life on the ground. Groundwork carried out this work and it is finished but not yet used. The focus was engagement with the community to look at how they did/didn't use green spaces, what they valued, what the barriers and opportunities were to using green spaces to be a greater part of people's daily lives. Intention is to use this as part of the comms when the GI Strategy is rolled out. Also link here to PSB Assets Action Area and mapping of green assets (CCBC Tracy Evans attends that group and feeds back to Core Group). No action yet with regard to green public assets.
D	Implement actions to increase the contribution that the environment makes to the health and well-being of residents.	Delivered an active travel project in Tir y Berth with NRW and ABUHB funding. Engagement with local community about improvements to a neglected route alongside the River Rhymney. Enhancements to interpretation, promotion (map of route and linkages to active travel network), biodiversity enhancements and improvements to the route infrastructure. It was planned to launch the revamped route in spring 2020, but COVID delayed this. Have linked to Volunteering Action Area and reps from that work area attend Green Spaces Group. Community group involved with Tir y Berth project. Volunteering identified as key in one of the delivery themes for 2021. Hope that GI Strategy will help us to spatially prioritise where next delivery should be. David Llewellyn (Caerphilly Integrated Wellbeing Network lead) has now joined the Core Group to help ensure that delivery joined up with ABUHB's priorities.

E	Identify and mitigate against flood risk in the county borough	Flooding is a key issue in Caerphilly. Green Spaces group to feed into new LDP, Natural Flood Management to be explored alongside engineering works with multiple benefits of Green spaces to be integrated into development for people and biodiversity to benefit all. Policy Planning to be included in Green Spaces Group.
F	Identify the opportunities for PSB Partners to share resources, assets and staff.	Core Group has worked well in partnership and contributed funding to shared projects.
This report is presented to the PSB		