

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Second Reporting Round (Dec 2022)

Overview

Kerry Community Council covers the three villages of Kerry, Dolfor and Sarn. The population was determined to be just over 2000 in 2018, now estimated to be circa 2300, over an area of 88.4 km².

This is the second part of the Section 6 plan from KCC, with the first being submitted around May 2021.

A report titled 'Kerry Area Biodiversity' with sections on the current status, initial improvements, near-term outlook and future ambitions, was presented to KCC in October 2022. This report builds on some of the points made in the presentation and outlines 10 actions that can be taken to maintain and improve biodiversity in the area.

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Reviewed by: David Jones, KCC Chair; Carmen Seal, KCC Co-Chair

Action 1

Obtain a licence from Powys County Council to maintain the road siding along the A489, in the centre of the village, opposite the village shop.

Current Status

The area is generally quite unkempt. Although it's acknowledged that long grass is beneficial in certain areas, it is not appropriate at this location. An initial discussion with PCC proved valuable. It was the PCC contact's suggestion that KCC are licensed to maintain the area. A KCC councillor has a contact that could be utilised for maintenance.

Potential Outcome

Considering the location and space available, it is suggested that small (< 10 metre mature height) fruit trees are planted in the area, providing valuable food for birds and insects when bearing fruit. Furthermore, if the grass is kept at a reasonable length, the flowers planted by the WI should thrive.

This has the added bonus of making the area more aesthetically pleasing, especially during blossom season.

Potential Challenge(s)

Resistance from community councillors or county council staff.

Comment(s)

The WI (Womans Institute) regularly plants bulbs in the area but have noticed that some do not return when expected, possibly due to a battle for sunlight among the long grass.

Action 2

Position planters around Kerry village.

Current Status

A KCC councillor has engaged with Brynlywarch School to build the planters. One location has been determined, other potential locations require further discussion.

Potential Outcome

Increased flora in Kerry village, potentially Sarn & Dolfor also. Aesthetically pleasing.

Potential Challenge(s)

There were earlier discussions regarding planters along the A489 and concerns regarding proximity to traffic. However, there are compromises that can be made with respect to the exact location and the size of the planters.

Comment(s)

Investigate potential locations in Sarn & Dolfor also.

Action 3

Maintain and potentially improve the butterfly garden and bird feeders.

Current Status

It is noted that the plants are growing from a compost bag, rather than from the ground itself, having a rather temporary look.

The bird feeders are in very heavy use ... a good sign. It is noted that there is an anti-squirrel mechanism on each feeder so we can be confident they are being used as intended.

Potential Outcome

The butterfly garden becomes a more permanent feature and birds thrive by using the feeders.

Potential Challenge(s)

Minimal to none.

Comment(s)

It is not known at this time which flowers grew at the site and which will return next spring. Some might need to be replaced.

Action 4

Plant flowers to attract pollinators.

Current Status

There's a clear shortage of pollinator plants in public spaces. However, multiple toad flax and buddleia plants are available, both of which are excellent for attracting pollinators.

Potential Outcome

An increase in the number of pollinators in the area. The primary benefit is clear, with the secondary benefit of providing insect food for birds.

Potential Challenge(s)

Minimal to none.

Comment(s)

The churchyard and adjoining cemetery would be ideal locations to start.

Action 5

Determine appropriate locations and plant 7 x available saplings.

Current Status

The following saplings are available from Kerry residents:

2 x Weeping Willow, 2 x Cherry, 1 x Grey Willow, 1 x Rowan, 1 x Hazelnut ... potentially more.

Potential Outcome

Multiple trees planted in the Kerry, Sarn, Dolfor area; several of which provide fruit/nuts for wildlife.

Potential Challenge(s)

We are limited with respect to public land in the Kerry-Sarn-Dolfor area.

Comment(s)

It is expected that the two smaller trees (cherry) will be planted on the verge along the A489 as mentioned above, leaving 5 saplings to be planted elsewhere.

Action 6

Correspond with local landowners to make use of privately-owned areas for planting additional trees and flowers.

Current Status

Locations have been suggested. Land-owners yet to be contacted.

Potential Outcome

Locations found for saplings that will grow into larger (> 20 metre) trees plus a location for a village meadow.

Potential Challenge(s)

There might be no incentive from the perspective of the landowners.

Comment(s)

As mentioned elsewhere, Kerry, Sarn and Dolfor are limited with respect to public land, hence the need to potentially utilise private land.

Action 7

Increase the number of bird boxes in the villages. Investigate appropriate locations for bat boxes.

Current Status

There are a few bird boxes in the area around the churchyard.

Potential Outcome

An increase in the number and variety of migratory/nesting birds.

Potential Challenge(s)

Access to appropriate locations.

Comment(s)

A local hobbyist builds bird boxes and feeding tables.

Action 8

Acknowledge the part that some residents play in maintaining gardens, planters outside their homes, and hanging baskets. Increase general awareness of biodiversity and environmental issues.

Current Status

Multiple residents, especially in the historical centre of Kerry, have very varied and beautiful planters and hanging baskets outside their homes.

Potential Outcome

The continued use of planters and hanging baskets, with a potential to increase in number and variety.

Potential Challenge(s)

None

Comment(s)

Although it's understood that the primary reason for residents maintaining planters and hanging baskets outside private homes, is for the visual impact, they are also helping with biodiversity. The simple gesture of posting compliment slips could go a long way towards acknowledging input from residents whilst potentially offering further encouragement. Utilise the KCC (Kerry Community Council) website and notice board to increase general awareness of biodiversity and environmental issues.

Action 9

Clear an area of the Afon Miwl (behind Willans Drive, which has become an area known for fly-tipping) to reduce pollution and encourage natural water-flow.

Current Status

Multiple items have been dumped in the Afon Miwl behind homes in Willans Drive.

Potential Outcome

An increase in water flow, cleaner water, an increase in water-borne life.

Potential Challenge(s)

Engagement from others.

Comment(s)

This would need to be a team effort, with access to appropriate transportation for rubbish removal. Residents of Willans Drive should be made aware of the clearance effort, plus the impact of fly-tipping.

Action 10

Consider applying a TPO (tree protection order) to select trees in the Kerry, Sarn and Dolfor area.

Current Status

It is currently unknown which, if any, trees in the Kerry/Sarn/Dolfor area are protected (it is assumed that the [Brimmon Oak](#) is protected, but this is within the Newtown area).

Potential Outcome

Select trees are protected against felling without good reason.

Potential Challenge(s)

Resistance from the Community and/or County Council.

Comment(s)

This is especially important for very old trees in the area (ref. the Brimmon Oak story).