

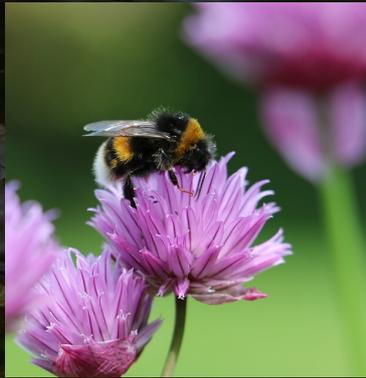
ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

PART 1 - SECTION 6

BIODIVERSITY & RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

Town & Community Councils are subject to the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Under this Act, all public authorities must, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what they have done to comply with this duty. This report aims to outline how Barry Town Council supports biodiversity in its functions.

Barry Town Council is responsible for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Porthkerry Cemetery, Philadelphia Cemetery, Pioneer Hall, Cemetery Approach Gardens and are Planning Consultees. Our primary commitments to biodiversity fall within our green spaces.



Barry Town Council only permit biodegradable materials to be used within the Cemeteries and most recently, halted the use of Bios Urns.

The Bios Urns were introduced as an alternative method of burial, allowing loved ones of the bereaved to purchase a biodegradable pot embedded with seeds of their choice; with the idea being that a Tree would grow in time. It was reported that the transport of the Bios Urn from South America placed a heavy imprint on our carbon footprint and so it was decided that a new, environmentally friendly alternative would be implemented. The concept of the Bios Urn is still the same. However, the Council now purchases native tree saplings locally which has greatly reduced our carbon footprint.

Information boards can also be found throughout the Cemetery which detail the various wildlife and biodiversity that can be discovered.

Leaves and flowers are left to decompose and used as compost.

Logs are kept and used as a habitat for a variety of insects and recycled throughout the community.

55

Acres of green space at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery

59

Species of wildflower (Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery)

700

At least 700 trees

INTERESTING FACTS



Did you know that Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery is also home to five bee hives?



The entrance to Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery sees a unique and wonderful biodiversity pond rich with wildlife.

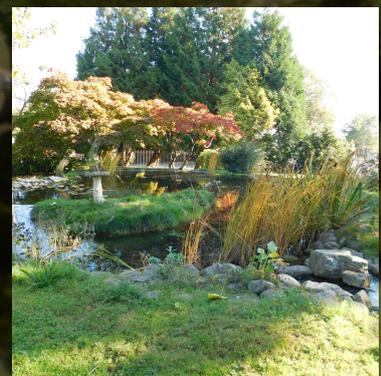


Tree work from March until August 31 is prohibited to protect nesting birds throughout this period.



Bird and Bat Boxes are in place throughout the Cemetery.

Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery is an important habitat for wildlife and is a valuable green sanctuary in the heart of the town. As part of Barry Town Council's commitment to increasing biodiversity, the grass in older parts of the Cemetery is being deliberately mown less frequently. Left a little longer, lawns have the potential to become a resource for a wide range of organisms. The roots of the plants are quietly doing their busy work of nutrient recycling. Small insects such as ants, aphids and beetles busily scurry up the plant stalks. Preying upon those small insects are a variety of predators—larger insects, spiders, birds, frogs, lizards, and small mammals. Those predators are themselves prey to even larger animals, like raptors and large mammals. All these can be found in one small patch of unmown space. Walk through Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and count the sounds you hear and the signs of life you witness. Thousands of interactions are taking place among the flowers and grasses.

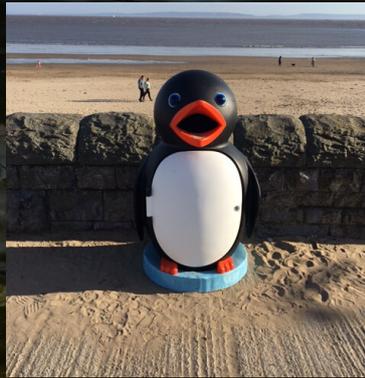


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Barry Town Council introduced (through public consultation) a free Litter Picking Equipment Loan Service. The service has proved a huge success and allows businesses/organisations the opportunity to conduct their own litter picking events using our equipment free of charge. In 4 months, the service has ensured 60 bags of rubbish have been collected across the town and further protecting biodiversity in our coastal community.



Barry Town Council has also installed Talking Bins at Barry Island. The bins have been a huge hit with young people and have further ensured that our beautiful beaches and wildlife are protected from the dangers that litter brings.

Barry Town Council is proud that Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery is recognised as a Green Flag space. In order for a green space to achieve green flag status, great importance is placed on the way in which biodiversity is protected and encouraged as well as its impacts upon the environment. Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery has maintained green flag status for three years.

To ensure biodiversity throughout the town, this Council has introduced floral planters at Holton Road which are not only a colourful addition to the town, but also provide a small piece of biodiversity in the heart of the town. As part of this project, a wild flower area was also created on the roundabout at Broad Street.

Our small business loans placed particular value on projects that could prove they had the environmental concerns of Barry at heart and this was reflected in not only the application process, but all the administering of these grants.

Barry Town Council has also worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to deliver a workshop to residents explaining the changes to recycling, the issues the town were facing and ways in which people could reduce their plastic usage.

We have begun considering our environmental effects on a wider scale and started to look at the events we host as a Town Council. This year, at the Annual Santa Fun Run we will see less paper waste (due to an online registration portal), wooden medals and cartoned water.

Keystreams of work will include the production of a baseline audit of the Council's current impact in terms of biodiversity and the environment, as well as commitment to a Green Strategy which will be developed alongside.

Barry Town Council has recently introduced a Sustainable Barry Working group which has responsibilities to review the management and performance of the Council's operations and commitments to Sustainability under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, Biodiversity under the Environment Act and the Town Council's own goals for a Resilient and Globally Responsible Barry under the Council's Corporate Plan.

Under the Environment Act and the Town Council's commitment to consider the effects to biodiversity in all that it does, the Town Council has now made it a requirement that all planning consultations received will now consider the impacts to biodiversity that developments may have. If detrimental impacts are found, this Council as Planning Consultees will ensure these concerns are fed back to the Unitary Authority.

Barry Town Council also administers community grants annually and has provided financial assistance to community groups wishing to tackle environmental/biodiversity issues within the community.

