

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Name of Town or Community Council: ROGIET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

- Rogiet Community Council area encompasses the densely populated village of Rogiet and the rural areas of Llanfihangel Rogiet and Common-y-coed.
- Rogiet village developed around the railway industry in the 19th and 20th centuries, particularly after the building of the 'Severn Tunnel'. Severn Tunnel at one time boasted a large marshalling yard, but today just the train station (Severn Tunnel Junction) remains.
- The population of these communities at the 2011 census was 1845 individuals
- The 2022/2023 Precept for Rogiet Community Council was £54,734
- Rogiet Community Council owns an area of open playing fields which includes two football pitches, a multi-use games area, and a sports pavilion building. The playing fields site also hosts a small play park which is owned and maintained by Monmouthshire County Council. Rogiet Community Council also owns and has responsibility for a lane which accommodates a public footpath.
- Within the Rogiet Community boundary is a parcel of land owned by Magor with Undy Town Council, known as the 'Common-y-coed Plantation which is rich in plant, wildlife and invertebrates.
- Rogiet Countryside Park is a valuable site within the village, owned by Monmouthshire County Council and is supported by several members of Rogiet Community Council through volunteering.
- Other areas of note in the Rogiet and Llanfihangel Rogiet areas are woodland and fields owned by other organisations such as the Woodland Trust and Gwent Wildlife Trust. Public footpaths run along many of these areas, past the remains of the Rogiet Windmill, around the Ifton Quarry to the north of Rogiet, and the Wales Coastal Footpath at the sea wall to the south, overlooking the Severn Estuary and traversing the Gwent Levels.
- The area, in particular the main village of Rogiet and the neighbouring hamlet of Llanfihangel Rogiet is affected by pollution (air quality and noise) from the busy B4245 which runs through them and from the M4 and M48 motorways (the main routes between Wales and England via the Prince of Wales Bridge and the

Severn Bridge respectively), which pass either side. The main Swansea to London railway line also passes in close proximity to the village of Rogiet.

Action Report

Action carried out or planned to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Council are currently implementing a 5-year plan which will include the enhancement of the playing field site to create a more diverse habitat	Formation of a 5-year plan to drive council actions in biodiversity
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Council have promoted the use of the playing fields and the countryside park, in particular educational activity sessions at Rogiet Countryside Park through social media and village newsletter	Attendance at activities, community fun days, and interactions following information distribution.
-safeguard principal species and habitats	Thorough research and advice are needed to draw up a policy to address this. Raise awareness of invasive species to residents. In 2022/2023 GWT removed trees with Ash Die-back from the Lower Minnetts Field. They also undertook management of overgrown brambles and bracken to prepare wildlife meadow for cutting and collection of seed in late 2023. Subject to mending fences the field may be grazed by ponies during winter 2023/2024. A similar activity has taken place at the Rogiet Poor land.	Input from a biodiversity and Ecology officer and production of a policy in the foreseeable future Feedback from GWT Nature Recovery Manager.
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Rogiet Community Council has been liaising with Monmouthshire County Council for advice on planting of wildflowers and trees (including fruit trees), to encourage new habitats. Village planters have been planted up with pollinator friendly perennial plants GWT have undertaken work to restore wildlife meadow following neglect during Covid -19 lockdown.	Making clear aims and actions in the 5-year plan for the playing fields site. Feedback from GWT Nature Recovery Manager

<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>This is work in progress. Where possible the Community Council will use nature-based cleaning solutions within the HUB/Pavillion. Council will also encourage the use of litter bins, and the removal of dog faeces from outdoor spaces by dog owners. When identified, the Community Council will address any problems arising from invasive species eg. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, and the recent threat of the Asian Hornet. The Council will also be conscious of invasive tree species such as Sycamore and reportable species such as Ragwort and the Asian Hornet. The Rogiet Wildlife Friendly Village RWFV group have run several courses in respect of the use of willow in the area to assist with mitigating flooding. GWT have undertaken management of diseased Ash trees and removed brambles and bracken to restore meadows.</p>	<p>To improve education of residents with regards to nature-based products, the use of litter and dog waste bins.</p> <p>To raise awareness of invasive species and educate how these can be reported.</p> <p>Feedback from the RWFV</p> <p>Feedback from GWT Nature Recovery Manager</p>
<p>-use improve and share evidence</p>	<p>Work in Progress. The Council will update residents on its actions in relation to biodiversity and environmental issues via its social media sites (Web & Facebook) and via its Windmill Post newsletter publication and via the RWFV Groups Facebook page.</p> <p>GWT, at the Lower Minetts Field and Poor Land sites undertook two botanical surveys as well as butterfly and bumblebees transect recording. These are to be restarted in 2024</p>	<p>Use of social media sites and windmill post to update residents on all biodiversity and environmental issues within the community.</p> <p>Feedback from GWT Nature Recovery Manager</p>
<p>-support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>Work/liaise with the local Wildlife Trust, Monmouthshire County Council, The Woodland Trust, the Rogiet Wildlife Friendly Village group.</p>	<p>Monitored via feedback to Full Council.</p>

Review of s6 duty

- What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?

Council have lacked a lead on this work, and has been dependent on the leader of the Rogiet Wildlife Friendly Village group, who themselves have lacked the support to take initiatives forward.

Council recognise that they need to take a more active part in delivering projects in the future, and will build this in to their five year development plan

- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

Council will review their section 6 duty at the same time as they review and update their Five Year Development Plan.