

Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership Community & Town Council Nature Recovery Grants 2024/25

End of Project Report Please return by Monday March 7th

As a condition of your funding, we ask that you provide a final report at project completion. We would appreciate the following, to help us tell the story of the nature recovery taking place in the National Park:

- *High quality photographs, e.g., before and after shots, work or events underway – (please attach separately)*
- *Quotes from group members or participants – this really helps to bring the work alive!*
- *Copies of any printed material or press releases etc. Links to any social media posts*

1. Project Name
Glebe Biodiversity Project (Llanfihangel Talylyn, Llangors Community Council)
2. What has your project achieved for your community? E.g. greater awareness of / learning about nature in the area, people coming together, a new community asset or growing space.
<p>The project increased awareness about the Glebe Field as a community facility as well as the importance of managing it with biodiversity in mind, not just recreation. Even those who have been involved with managing the Glebe for many years, and who got the project going, were surprised by the importance of the neutral grassland habitat as identified by a BBNPA ecologist once some areas had been left to grow for the whole season.</p> <p>Many of the volunteers benefitted from an increased understanding of planting a native hedgerow habitat and it increased long term commitment to the site. One of the younger volunteers, who is due to start a university course in Wildlife Conservation in the autumn, was particularly keen to learn some of the skills involved.</p> <p>The project brought people together from across the Community Council area. Volunteers came from Pennorth, Talylyn and Llangors as well as Llanfihangel. They included Community Councillors, our County Councillor, long established members of the community and new arrivals. Three practical work sessions created opportunities to meet new people and discuss issues with elected representatives in an informal setting.</p>

3. What has your project achieved for nature? E.g. enhanced green space, reduced use of fertilisers, sites created / improved for pollinators, increased wildflower planting.

The project has provided 100m of new native hedgerow, with an emphasis on species that are good for pollinators and provide an autumn and winter food source for birds.

It has also enhanced the neutral grassland through changing the existing fortnightly mowing regime to one cut at the end of the growing season on approximately 500 square metres of the field. The diversity of the grassland has been augmented by additional wildflower planting. The planting of a variety of native bulbs will also improve the site for pollinators as well as providing welcome spring colour for members of the public.

Hopefully it will provide a focus for further initiatives to enhance the biodiversity of the Glebe that include further planting, raising community awareness of the value of biodiversity and educational activities for young people investigating invertebrates and pollinators, for example.

4. What lessons have you learnt through the process? What worked well? Is there anything that you are particularly proud of?

We were particularly pleased by the number and variety of people who came forward to help with the planting.

One of the main lessons for the Community Council was the importance of utilising the skills of members of the community and encouraging them to drive projects that they are interested in, not just relying on Councillors themselves to lead projects.

5. What would you do differently next time?

We would have liked to have had some form of awareness raising session aimed at the younger members of the community. We hope that we may still be able to do this in the summer (see section 10).

We would also hope to use social media platforms more widely to publicise the project.

6. How many volunteers have been involved throughout your project?

A total of 22 different volunteers over 3 planting sessions. These ranged in age from approximately 18 to 80, with a roughly equal split between male and female participants.

7. How have volunteers benefitted from the project? E.g. developed new interests, social interaction, increased wellbeing.

Opportunities for social interaction during the three planting sessions, including informal interaction and networking with Community and County Councillors.
Introduction to a new area / new people for several residents who have moved into the area recently.

Opportunities for learning about biodiversity, habitat management and nature recovery.

8. Please give a rough estimate how many volunteering hours were given to the project?

E.g. 2 volunteers working 3 hours = 6 hours

Approximately 80 hours in total. 60 hours from 21 volunteers over three 2 hour planting sessions, and 20 hours in preparation work (information gathering, liaising with suppliers, and preparing plants and site for planting).

9. If applicable, please can you say how many acres/hectares of land your project has covered?

The total public space impacted through improving the environment is approximately 1 hectare. The actual area where practical work took place was approximately 0.1 hectares.

10. Do you have any future plans for the site that you would like the Local Nature Partnership to be involved with?

We would like to carry out some survey / monitoring events over the summer, including running a bug hunting / plant identification session aimed at children.

11. Has there been any publicity (including social media) that you can share with us?

A copy of the publicity produced before the main hedge planting event on 15th February has already been submitted. This was displayed on the Llanfihangel Village Hall facebook page, the Community Council website and on noticeboards on the Glebe Field and Community Council noticeboards throughout the Llanfihangel Ward.

There are plans for the Community Council Clerk to do a press release for the Brecon and Radnor Express.

12. Would you be willing to participate in any future publicity about this scheme? Please highlight.

Yes

No

13. Do you have any suggestions of how to improve the grant process in future years?

If you have any further images you would like to share then please email them to NatureRecovery@beacons-mpa.gov.uk