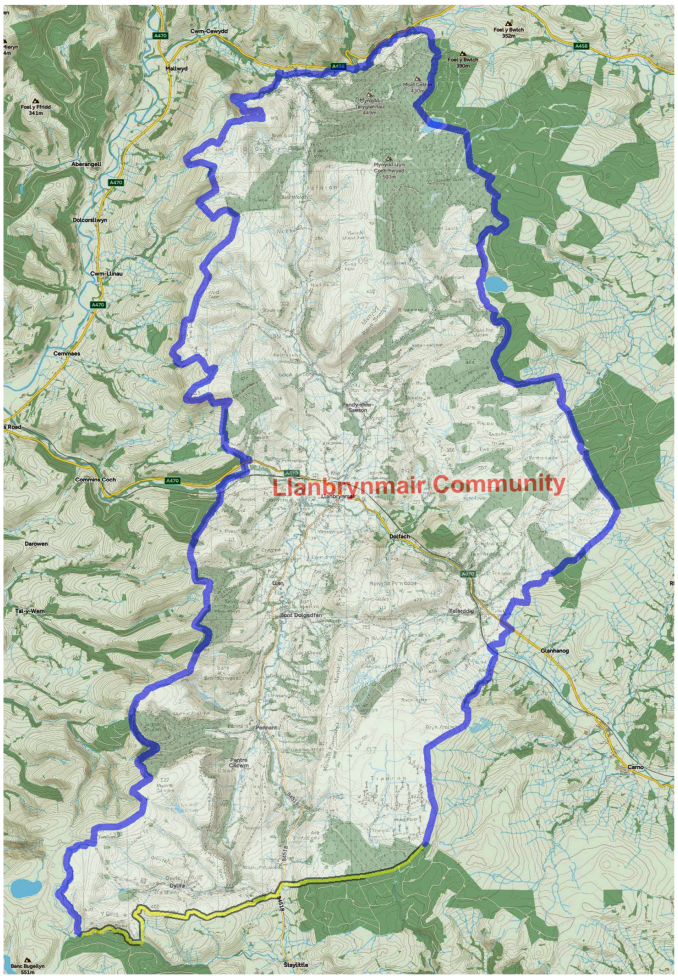


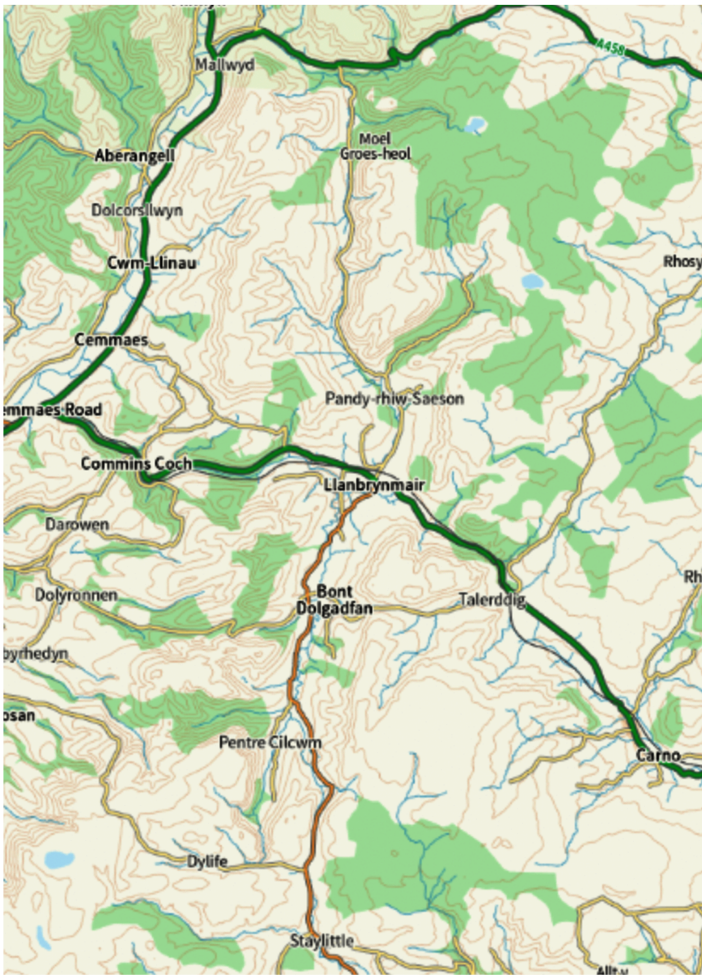
Llanbrynmair Community Council
Biodiversity report 2025

Biodiversity and the Environment and the Council's responsibilities under Section 6, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience duty, Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Council is required to maintain and enhance biodiversity and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems throughout all of its functions.

To do that the Council commits to:

- Three yearly reporting of its activities and outputs within the context of this legislation.
- Using its powers to promote and support community initiatives that produce a net biodiversity gain
- Continuing to review the working practices of the Council especially in regard to its environmental footprint through its procurement and management policies, community engagement and publications
- To challenging new planning applications, or variations of existing planning consent in the ward that are perceived to be detrimental to the environment. Through the planning system it can call on developers to have a strong regard for the environment in relation to local applications
- Learning more about the environmental challenges we face and to take positive action wherever possible by safeguarding special sites and species, using and collecting biodiversity evidence and raising awareness of potential pollution and non-native invasive species
- Acting in accordance with the sustainable development principles of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales 2015) which means that the Council must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.





Llanbrynmair Ward is 15 miles long (North to South) between the boundaries of Dinas Mawddwy and Staylittle and 7 miles wide (East to West) between the boundaries of Commins Coch and Carno. There are just shy of 1000 inhabitants spread over the village of Llanbrynmair, and hamlets of Bont Dolgadfan, Pennant, Tafolwern, Pandy, Dolfach, Talerddig and the surrounding countryside. Newydd Fynyddog is the mountain that sits to the South-East, Mynydd Rhiw Saeson to the North-East, Moel Eiddiw to the North-West and Esgair Lwyd to the South-West. The main village sits at cross-roads created by valleys between these 4 mountains. The farm-land is mainly occupied by sheep with some cattle and hay/silage production and forestry. The area is well endowed with ancient and new woodlands and hedgerows, dingles and bogs, heaths and moorland. Three main rivers run through the area, the Twymyn from Dylife, the Iaen from Talerddig and the Rhiw-Saeson from Pandy all of which converge to continue as the Twymyn towards the coast.

Llanbrynmair Community Council is directly responsible for the Community Field, the village playground, the toilets, car-park and bus shelter and has a precept income of £15,500.

Community field

- A beech hedge was planted between the school playground and the field to allow some privacy for the children. The native trees and other naturally occurring plants will provide habitat for birds and insects and add to the visual quality of the area
- The perimeter path and football pitch are short cut on a frequent basis but the rest of the field has a longer cut less often to allow more growth of wild flowers
- Local children engage in litter picking in the field which fosters a sense of pride and responsibility for their environment
- A campaign culminating in a public meeting to gather ideas for further developments of the field took place on the 23rd September 2025. Ideas discussed included spaces for nature,

planting, landscaping and benches and paths for greater accessibility and opportunities to maintain and improve well-being
- FUTURE PLANS – To follow up and act upon the ideas raised in the public meeting, principally a hard surface perimeter path to ensure access for all to be established pending funding availability. Landscaping contractor to attend review of grass cutting practice for 2026 in the New Year. To produce bilingual signage containing information about plants and animals

Playground

- A survey was conducted amongst the local school children which identified the need for gardens, spaces for nature as well as more play equipment. A quote was prepared by a local landscape gardener to create spaces for playing amongst plants and trees but progressing the plans awaits a further funding opportunity
- The Council looks after the trees and mows the grass and keeps the space tidy and safe
- New play equipment was installed in 2024 to encourage out-door play and well-being for children and has been well received
- FUTURE PLANS – To seek further funding for new landscaping and play opportunities. To receive ideas and feedback from the community. Application made to Wind Farm Trust for a new pic-nic bench for 2026 followed by a further one for 2027. To produce bilingual signage containing information about plants and animals

Dog poo

- Local children have produced a collection of fantastic posters to encourage responsible disposal of dog poo. The posters are being displayed in noticeboards and on community Facebook pages
- A representative from Keep Wales Tidy met with Councillors to discuss strategies for dealing with dog poo and supplied other posters and stickers
- A campaign culminating in a public meeting to gather ideas for further developments on the field took place on the 23rd of September 2025 which included discussing spaces for dog walkers with safe solutions for dog poo disposal and attended by a representative of Powys Environmental Health Department.
- FUTURE PLANS – To continue to monitor this contentious matter and seek better solutions. To maintain and review bilingual signage containing information about rules and risks

Litter picking

- Litter picking is currently done by independent volunteers and they can also access equipment held in store at the village shop. The Council recognise and appreciate their work through Thank you letters.
- A structured litter picking group called Sbwriel a Sbri has been successfully set up with the support of Keep Wales Tidy. There are added activities to help participants learn more about their area through history, language, farming, the environment and nature which have been well received
- FUTURE PLANS – To continue to support Sbwriel a Sbri, engage with Keep Wales Tidy and receive concerns from residents

Salt/grit bins

- The Council receive reports of grit piles and broken bins and discusses best locations for different needs
- The Council is reviewing existing bins and re-locating where necessary
- FUTURE PLANS - The Council is co-ordinating the purchase and siting of new salt/grit bins to prevent run off from piles and broken bins causing pollution. They will experiment with different style bins to see which are most user-friendly and fit for purpose.

Toilets

- Repairs to the toilets have greatly decreased wasted water from leakages and maintenance of LED lights with motion sensor controls to help save electricity
- An additional bin has been installed to reduce littering

- FUTURE PLANS – The Council will continue to monitor water and electricity use and efficiency. The Council will re-assess the possibility of a solar panel installation on the roof to create green energy

Car Park

- Litter picking occurs regularly to keep the area clean including the bus shelter
- FUTURE PLAN – The Council has received requests for charging point for EVs which is to be discussed and consulted upon in 2026. Council is responding to an increased use and demand for EVs and welcomes the opportunity to promote cleaner energy travel opportunities

Spaces for nature

- The Council supports the maintenance of selective mowing in Llan Church Graveyard to provide spaces for nature.
- The Council supports Pen y Bont nature reserve which is open to visitors by arrangement
- The Council supports the Llanbrynmair Garden Club which encourages practices sympathetic to nature
- The Council supports the monthly moth trapping data gathering exercise in the Churchyard and residents' gardens in Llan and Bont
- The Council promoted and engaged with the Dyfi Biosphere Citizen Science project to collect data on Swifts nesting which determined that Swift boxes were being well used
- FUTURE PLANS – To support any local endeavour to create spaces for nature including playpark and community field. To use communication opportunities via noticeboards, web-site and Facebook to publicise relevant activities and to demonstrate support for these. To produce bilingual signage containing information about plants and animals



Footpaths

- Council has received grant funding from Windfall to establish a path through fields between Llanbrynmair and Tafolwern. A community engagement exercise done in 2020 demonstrated significant need and enthusiasm for the project and it is anticipated that it will be well used and reduce car journeys. Signs are being designed to place at either end of the path drawing walkers' attention to landscape features and local flora and fauna
- Council to monitor use and quality of all local footpaths and to receive reports from landowners and walkers
- FUTURE PLANS - A public engagement exercise organised by Powys County Council undertaken in 2020 culminated in a short list of footpaths to be prioritised for attention and improvement. Council is to follow up and determine results and ongoing work

Lighting

- The Council have consulted with the Powys Street Lighting team to find an appropriate balance between necessary lighting levels and times and the maintenance of dark skies to minimise the disruption to nature. The lights in Bont Dolgadfan are dark for the middle hours of the night and lights in other hamlets operate with reduced lighting levels generally
- FUTURE PLANS – To continue to monitor local needs and opportunities to reduce wasted energy and to protect nature. To engage with Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) to assess appropriate levels of lighting on main roads also

PACE

- Council representative has attended several meetings and workshops and found useful information and shared experiences on Dark Skies, Car Clubs, Community Energy and Verges as Nature Reserves. All presentations available on YouTube
- FUTURE PLANS – The Council favours practical 'on the ground' projects going forward. Council to promote available PACE resources for reference

Planning

- The Council takes into account biodiversity considerations when reviewing planning applications and other associated matters such as footpath diversions and water courses
- FUTURE PLANS – To continue to monitor and scrutinise applications and to carry out training for Councillors

Water testing

- The Council have bought water testing equipment (with funding from the Llanbrynmair Wind Farm Trust) to carry out regular local testing relative to sewage outfalls in the Bont and Tafolwern areas. Data is also collected by a citizen science group in Machynlleth which has so far determined that the water is relatively clean across the Dyfi catchment area but quite acidic due to a variety of local conditions
- FUTURE PLANS – To co-ordinate analysis with testing carried out by the Dyfi Biosphere water quality surveys. To upgrade and add kit for additional tests eg. Heavy metals

General principles and plans

- To continue to share good practice and to encourage and champion all endeavours by local individuals and groups to promote positive actions towards protecting biodiversity
- To seek further training where possible

Completed 25th November 2025
REVIEW DATE – Every year at the May AGM