

PENCOED TOWN COUNCIL

Policy on Promoting Biodiversity in accordance with protecting the Environment

1. Introduction

Pencoed Town Council is committed to working towards the Future Well-being goals of the Generations Act 2015, which places an emphasis on protecting the environment, using resources sustainably and protecting the health and well-being of future generations.

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 all Town and Community Councils (as well as County Councils) have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience

2. Council Policy

Pencoed Town Council will:

- recognize the limits of the global environment and therefore uses its resources efficiently and proportionately,
- aim to become a low carbon organization through better management of its resources, water and energy,
- integrate environmental and sustainable principles into the Council's operational procedures
- promote best practice and seek to improve environmental performance wherever practicable,
- wish to maintain healthy functioning ecosystems and encourage a biodiverse natural environment in the community.

3.0 Practical Measures

Pencoed Town Council will undertake the following:

Administration.

- Minimize use of materials and eliminate or change wasteful practices.
- Use recycled materials.
- Recycle all materials as reasonably practicable.
- Circulate documents to reduce copying

Waste of contractual work.

- Recycle waste from rights of way maintenance in conjunction with BCBC.
- Recycle contents of accessory bins.
- Seek to compost green waste

Influence on others.

- Ask a contractor for environmental policy as a specific qualification when being considered for contractual work.
- Respond to wasteful actions by others.

Promote sustainability.

- When drawing up council spending plans.
- When council members are appointed to represent them on bodies and organizations

Energy, Water and Waste Management

Pencoed Town Council will within the constraints of cost and practicality:

- Use energy and environment monitoring systems to identify potential energy and water savings. An example would be the use of smart meters.
- Identify and implement cost-effective energy and water conservation measures.
- Conduct regular site checks to identify waste, water and energy savings. Examples might include checking toilet blocks for taps or leaking buildings for windows that do not close effectively.
- Reduce the amount of waste generated by the Council's activities by implementing waste minimization systems. (Examples might include the use of digital methods for distributing meeting papers and double sided printing where printing is unavoidable).
- Use all available recycling routes to reduce waste going to landfill.

Procurement procedures applicable

Pencoed Town Council will within the constraints of cost and practicality:

- Purchase products and services, which cause the least harm to the Environment.
- Use local labour and materials wherever possible to minimize the environmental impact of travel miles
- * Reduce its use of single use plastics

Built Environment

Pencoed Town Council will within the constraints of cost and practicality:

- Improve council owned or maintained properties to increase thermal efficiency. Examples would be improving roof insulation or installing secondary glazing.
- Repair and upgrade fixtures and fittings to improve water and energy efficiency and reduce waste. Examples might be adapting reduced water usage systems, repairing dripping taps or installing thermostats on radiators.
- Use recycled or reclaimed building materials where reasonable to do so.
- Use materials and methods of working that reduce the environment impact of Council property improvements. Examples might include choosing paints with less

harmful effects on the environment, ensuring construction works that does not pollute watercourses, disposing of construction waste in a responsible manner.

4 Managing Green Spaces and Promoting Biodiversity

Pencoed Town Council will within the constraints of cost and practicality:

- Implement garden and grounds management procedures that support and enhance local biodiversity.
- Use locally grown plants that are native to Britain.
- Provide a variety of pollinators in planting schemes.
- Replace any mature tree that needs to be felled with at least 2 young trees somewhere in the community.
- Prohibit balloon release or launch of Chinese lanterns off Council lands.
- Support the community to maintain allotments
- Support a change in grass cutting arrangements. Focus on meadow grasses, where appropriate promoting pollinators which are one aspect of bio-diversity.
- Recognize that longer grass holds more carbon and by not cutting grass it improves soil health, while being good for biodiversity.
- Grass management, for example, by not cutting grass around the base of trees.
- Lead and promote the principles of promoting community biodiversity where appropriate to go out and make their own decisions. Creation of wildlife areas in cemeteries to provide nesting areas and winter rains to encourage
- Install nest boxes in our grounds where applicable
- Consider biodiversity when considering planning applications and associated issues. Provide adaptation responses and mitigate climate change impacts
- Lead and promote the principles of promoting biodiversity to the community where appropriate to go out and make their own decisions
- Encourage the whole community to volunteer to maintain nature / green spaces
- Consider biodiversity when considering applications for financial assistance