

Crucorney Community Council Environment/Biodiversity Report

28 March 2023

Crucorney Community Council represents what is reputedly the largest community council area in Monmouthshire but has just over 1,000 residents on the Electoral Register. It represents the interests of the Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy, Cwmyoy, Forest and Ffwdog, and Bwlch Trewyn and Oldcastle Parish Wards. A large part of the area is within the Brecon Beacons National Park. The rest constitutes rural communities within the confines of Monmouthshire County Council. We are a small community council which comprises 7 community councillors, 4 of whom are retired or semi-retired and 3 of whom are in full-time employment.

Bearing in mind that CCC only owns a very small area of land around the village hall, below in list form is what the Community Council has done/is doing/will do within its limited capacity to enhance environmental and biodiverse qualities within the area encompassed by Crucorney. Councillors are aware of the detailed interdependence of ecosystems contributing to the intricate web of positive environmental factors as follows:

1. Liaison with the Crucorney Environmental Group and its sister organisation Crucorney Environmental Charity (CEC) in the running, monitoring and maintenance of the solar panels on the roof of the village hall.
2. Liaison with the CEG and CEC re any local projects linked to renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon reduction, conservation and protection of natural resources, recycling, woodland maintenance/courses, bird-nesting boxes and charcoal making etc. A representative of the CEG attends the CCC meeting periodically to report on activities. The last report was given at the October 2022 CCC meeting.
3. CCC gave its support to the application to plant 120,000 trees on Bryn Arw, a local mountainside, known to residents as the 'Stump Up For Trees' initiative. The latter included cutting back bracken which obviously had positive outcomes for wild life.
4. CCC has supported planning applications by the Crucorney Allotments Society.

5. CCC has also supported the local litter-picking group.
6. Occasional liaison with the BBNP Warden re dog-friendly gates, stiles and improvements to some of the rights of way pathways.
7. CCC considers aspects of biodiversity when replying to planning applications as a consultee.
8. Improvements to the Village Hall including replacing old lighting with more efficient, eco-friendly LED lighting also has a beneficial environmental impact insofar as it greatly reduces the consumption of energy
9. Refurbishment of toilets at the Village Hall has improved the control over water usage.
10. CCC provides 8 dog bins for residents which help to keep all dog-walking areas free from dangerous dog waste. The latter is supplemented by signs supplied by MCC to advise dog owners to pick up any waste and dispose of it properly.
11. Monitoring when MCC cuts back verges and hedges to protect flora and wild life.
12. CCC follows appropriate guidelines for cutting back its own hedges and pollarding trees on the small area of land which it owns. It has also improved the area of shrubs/bushes under the large pollarded trees in the Village Hall car park.
13. CCC tries to adhere to the reduction in paper use by conducting as much correspondence as possible by email.
14. CCC has supported and continues to support the local Primary School especially in its outdoor learning activities under the new Curriculum for Wales. A possible project for consideration in the near future includes raised beds for planting.
15. CCC has planned to plant small areas near the Village Hall with wild flower seeds.
16. Possible future projects of the CCC include the re-purposing of the former bowling green next to the village hall. Ideas for this area will be welcome from councillors and local residents.