

## **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.

## **Crucorney Community Council Environment/Biodiversity Report for 2024-2026**

The following is an update on the 2023 Environment/Biodiversity Report with information on progress made by this rural community council within the small area of land that it owns. CCC would also like to reiterate its support for other environment/biodiversity projects within its neighbouring areas as expressed in its 2023 Report.

On the following pages are the details of an agreement made with the Brecon Beacons National Park re its Local Nature Partnership together with the funding awarded for various items of equipment and plants etc., together with and its final report to the Brecon beacons National Park. Also included are visuals of the planters, bird boxes and bug hotels which formed part of CCC's ongoing project.

It should also be noted that CCC has recently installed (2025) an automatic timed watering system to aid the success of all new shrubs soon to be installed in the existing planters specifically chosen to attract pollinators. CCC look forward to a successful 2026-2027 environmental/biodiversity year.

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

**End of Project Report  
Please return by Monday March 10th**

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*

<b>1. Project Name</b>
Crucorney Community Council Biodiversity Project.
<b>2. What has your project achieved for your community?</b> E.g. greater awareness of / learning about nature in the area, people coming together, a new community asset or growing space.
New community asset and growing space.
<b>3. What has your project achieved for nature?</b> E.g. enhanced green space, reduced use of fertilisers, sites created / improved for pollinators, increased wildflower planting.
Enhanced green space, improvement for pollinators, increased wildflower planting, installation of bug hotels and bird nesting boxes.
<b>4. What lessons have you learnt through the process? What worked well? Is there anything that you are particularly proud of?</b>
The types of birds which are present in the area and will benefit from the nesting boxes.
<b>5. What would you do differently next time?</b>
Everything went smoothly and we achieved our aims.



<b>6. How many volunteers have been involved throughout your project?</b>	
5 volunteers	
<b>7. How have volunteers benefitted from the project? E.g. developed new interests, social interaction, increased wellbeing.</b>	
Developed new interests.	
<b>8. Please give a rough estimate how many volunteering hours were given to the project? E.g. 2 volunteers working 3 hours = 6 hours</b>	
Not possible to calculate as the work was done over an extended period and no-one was monitoring the time spent.	
<b>9. If applicable, please can you say how many acres/hectares of land your project has covered?</b>	
Not applicable as the project covered a small area.	
<b>10. Do you have any future plans for the site that you would like the Local Nature Partnership to be involved with?</b>	
Not at the moment.	
<b>11. Has there been any publicity (including social media) that you can share with us?</b>	
As the work was only finalised last week and there are other improvements to be carried out apart from this grant scheme, publicity will be posted at a later date. It should be noted, however, that photos (and a video) of parts of the work completed have been sent to Barbara Anglezarke at Brecon Beacons National Park.	
<b>12. Would you be willing to participate in any future publicity about this scheme? Please highlight.</b>	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>13. Do you have any suggestions of how to improve the grant process in future years?</b>	
No, the grant process worked well.	

If you have any further images you would like to share then please email them to [NatureRecovery@beacons-npa.gov.uk](mailto:NatureRecovery@beacons-npa.gov.uk)

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

For each question, please provide as much information as you think is relevant for us to be able easily understand what you want to achieve. Please also bear in mind that the length and detail contained in your answers should be commensurate with the level of funding you are applying for (see guidance document). We need to feel confident that you have thought about what you need, what your community needs and the benefits to nature.

## SECTION 1 – ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL

### a. Contact Details

Council Name:	CRUCORNEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Your Name:	MR. S.G. COOPER
Your Role Within the Council:	Clerk to the above Council
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Website:	www.crucorney.wales/community-council

### b. Please provide contact details for at least one other member of your Council

MRS R. MORGAN [REDACTED] (CHAIRPERSON)

### c. Please provide brief details of any funding you have received from Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership previously. This is for information only and will not have any bearing on our decision.

NONE

SECTION 2 – ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

a. Project Name:

Biodiversity Enhancement near Pandy Village Hall

b. Project Location(s) – please tell us where your project is using nearest postcode and brief description of the area. Enclose a map and photos if possible.

AROUND PANDY VILLAGE HALL NP7 8DL

c. Tell us what you plan to do - we are interested in what is already there, why you decided to do this project, who will be involved etc. You can include any web-links if you think that will help us understand your project.

① INSTALL BIRD BOXES, BUG HOTELS + POSSIBLY PLANTERS  
② PLANT WILD FLOWERS

d. Please provide the dates that you expect your project to start and end.

WITHIN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS but in the Spring for planters and wild flowers. Nesting season would also start in the Spring

e. Under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 public bodies have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. How will this application help you to deliver this duty?

Will bring local residents closer to Nature with the particular engagement of children from the local primary school

f. Tell us about how people and/or locations will be better connected to nature and surrounding landscapes as a result of this project.

Enhances a substantial area of land part of which is ideal for Nature observation and encourages the development of bird/insect life etc.

g. How will you involve your local community? We are interested in how you will publicise activities and how will you go about involving a diverse range of people?

The Community Council will publicise what it is doing in its Minutes and communication with "What's on Crucorney"; a local bulletin sent out an email to the local community

h. Tell us about the species and habitats that will benefit as a result of this project.

If applicable, please list any Section 7 Priority Habitats or Species which may benefit from the proposed project. [Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Section 7 \(biodiversitywales.org.uk\)](http://biodiversitywales.org.uk)

Smaller bird-boxes: Blue tits and Wrens. Larger bird-boxes: Great tits, Sparrows and Blackcaps

i. Does the Council own or manage the land? If there is a lease, how long is remaining?

Crucorney Community Council owns the land -

j. Does the area have any designations (e.g. Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, Site of Special Scientific Interest etc)?

No

k. Have you made any connections with neighbouring land managers? (to include farmers, SINC owners and Nature Reserves managers) to improve the ecological effectiveness and size of your project.

N/A

**SECTION 3 – YOUR PROJECT BUDGET**

a. Project Budget: Please outline how much the project will cost and how much of this you are requesting funding for (these figures may or may not be the same). You can attach a spreadsheet if you prefer and attach any supporting information, e.g., quotes.

Details of costs	£
① CJ Wildlife Woodcrete Bird Boxes : 8 No. x £35	280=00
② CJ Wildlife Bug Hotels : 2 No x £45	90=00
③ Installation charge by local 'expert' who is a member of the local environmental group	100=00
④ Planters and wild flowers :	
⑤ CJ Wildlife : 6 x Buzzy Bees Wildflower mix @ £2=29 + 6x Buzzy Wildflower Mix @ £2=89	31=08
⑥ SHEDSTORE Wooden Forest Linear Planters 6x £109=99	654=94
<b>* Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>1161=02</b> *

b. Please give details of any other sources of funding for your project. State 'None' if the project is to be solely funded by us.

None

c. Amount Requested:

£ 1161=02

d. If relevant, please provide details of any procurement processes you have, any policies you have on ethical sourcing of products and materials or any other information you feel is relevant to us.

N/A

a. Please tell us about any risks to your project and what you will do to mitigate them. Consider whether this is the right time of year to avoid wildlife sensitivities or any planning permissions that may be needed (e.g. for pond creation).

Local 'expert' will be in charge of nesting boxes + bug hotel

b. Please tell us how you intend to maintain the project and any assets in the longer term.

As per (a) above

Please note we may need to contact you to clarify any points or to ask for further details.

All information contained in this application will be handled in accordance with BBNPA's privacy policy.

**Please send your completed application and any supporting documents to**  
[NatureRecovery@beacons-npa.gov.uk](mailto:NatureRecovery@beacons-npa.gov.uk)

By signing this application, we are confirming that:

- We have been authorised by the governing body (board or committee) of our group to submit this application
- The Objects in our governing document enable us to undertake the project we're proposing
- Our project/activity is open to all
- The information we have given is correct to the best of our knowledge and we will notify you of any changes
- We have read the Guidance Document
- We have Public Liability and any other required insurance cover in place.

PROJECT LEAD: Signature  
(Typed name is sufficient)



Name:

MRS. ROSALYN MORGAN

Position in organisation:

CHAIRPERSON OF CRULORNEY  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Date:

15 NOVEMBER 2024



