



Local Places for Nature

Community & Town Council Grants

Overview

Local Places for Nature aims to create nature on people's doorsteps. It focusses on engaging communities to get involved in enhancing nature in the places they live, work, and access services. The funding should be used to contribute towards at least one of Welsh Government's modest measures:

- Increase wildflower planting.
- Encourage wildflowers and improve biodiversity by changing mowing practices.
- Increase community food growing opportunities.
- Increase local tree planting.
- Create dense and diverse woodlands the size of a tennis court.
- Create habitats at rail stations and transport interchanges.
- Create sensory gardens.
- Reduce the use of pesticides.

Over the next two years, Powys County Council, in partnership with Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (where appropriate), will support community and town councils with funding for projects that meet these goals. These grants could support a council's Biodiversity Action Plans and help to fulfil their statutory requirement under Section 6 of the Environment Act 2016. Any actions taken should be included in your next Section 6 report, due in 2025. Community and town councils will be encouraged to work towards the Welsh Government campaigns, 'It's For Them' and 'Bee Friendly'.

Iddyn Nhw / It's For Them

[It's For Them](#) is a Welsh Government campaign to reduce the mowing of grasslands to enhance biodiversity. Reducing mowing frequency creates valuable habitat and pollinator sources for invertebrates. This then filters up the food chain to increase food for species such as birds, bats, and hedgehogs. Reducing the mowing of certain areas to twice per year (in line with [PlantLife's best practice](#)) is the best way to enhance biodiversity. Road verges, bus stops, toilets, cemeteries, and areas of amenity grasslands can be used to create a haven for pollinators. This helps to join up habitat across Powys to enhance biodiversity across the landscape. The Welsh Government have provided a [stakeholder resource toolkit](#) for signage which councils can customize to include their own logos and contact details. This can be used for signage to explain any changes in management.

Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly

[Bee Friendly](#) is scheme that aims to support all pollinators, including bees. A community or town council can achieve Bee Friendly status by meeting four themes:

1. Food – provide pollinator-friendly food sources.



2. Five Star Accommodation – providing places for pollinators to live.
3. Freedom from pesticides – avoiding chemicals that harm pollinators.
4. Fun – involving the community in helping pollinators.

All projects supported by this funding will be assessed for Bee Friendly status once completed.

Funding criteria

All community and town councils in Powys can apply for the funding. The proposed wild areas should be within towns and villages to increase the biodiversity value on people's doorsteps.

The funding is for **capital** items and will not cover staff costs or future management. The maintenance of the assets should be included in your Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Capital spend should create or enhance nature on people's doorsteps. Example costs include:

- wildflower seeds or bulbs
- compost areas for collecting grass cuttings
- cut and collect machinery for managing wildflower areas
- trees, including fruit trees for community orchards
- community food growing gardens
- creation of ponds
- interpretation signs e.g., It's For Them signs
- contractor costs for creating the wildlife area

We encourage you to work in partnership with other community and town councils in your area. For example, several councils could apply for funding for machinery and equipment for managing wildflower areas that would be shared between the councils. Working in partnership will strengthen your application.

Continued management of the areas for biodiversity should be included in the council's business plan and BAP. The relevant sections of this management plan should be provided on completion of the grant to demonstrate the intention for continued management for wildlife.

Size of fund and timescales

Applications between £500 and £5000 will be considered in this round of funding. Applications from two or more councils will be eligible for up to £10,000 for larger costs of machinery. If you have an idea for a larger project, please contact biodiversity@powys.gov.uk to discuss further as there may be other funding available.

Funding must be spent within the 2023/24 financial year. This can be preparatory spend for changes to the mowing practices in 2024. This is a reimbursement grant; applicants must submit evidence of expenditure to receive grant payments. The final grant claim, with evidence of expenditure, must be submitted by **8th March 2024**.

You will need to send us a report to demonstrate how this funding has made a difference to wildlife in your area, including before and after photos.



Awarding of funding

Applications will be considered for funding on a **first come first served** basis. All applications will be reviewed by a panel from Powys County Council, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (where appropriate), and One Voice Wales.

Applications for 2023/24 will close once funding has all been allocated or by 24th November. The sooner you apply the better as the likelihood of delivery will be considered with your application.

Further funding will be available for 2024/25.

Application form

1. Community or town council(s)	
2. Contact person and details (e.g., email, telephone).	
3. Tell us about your project. How does this fit into the It's For Them campaign? (No more than 4 paragraphs) <i>Please include the approximate area of habitat that will be created by the project and the location of the site. If possible, show the location(s) of the project on a map with some photos. Is the area a verge, cemetery, amenity grassland etc?</i>	
4. How does the project fit into the It's For Them or Bee Friendly campaigns? <i>Will you design custom It's For Them signs using the stakeholder toolkit? How many It's For Them signs will you be installing?</i> <i>How many of the 4 Bee Friendly themes will the funding contribute towards? Use the Bee Friendly Action Guide for ideas.</i>	<i>Bee Friendly:</i> <i>Food:</i> <i>Five-star accommodation:</i> <i>Freedom from pesticides:</i> <i>Fun:</i>
5. How much funding are you applying for? Please provide a breakdown of the financial costs to include any match	



<p>funding (match funding is not essential for the grant).</p>	
<p>6. How will your project create or enhance nature on people’s doorsteps? (as described in the overview above)</p> <p><i>Include the location of your project, who will use it, and how it will benefit the community.</i></p>	
<p>7. How will you maintain the asset in the future? The ongoing management of the asset be included in your BAP and business plan and any ongoing costs must be covered in your annual budget.</p> <p><i>Include land ownership, leases, or management agreement with landowners.</i></p>	
<p>8. Are you happy to be contacted about future funding opportunities or support?</p>	Yes/No
<p>Signature</p>	
<p>Date</p>	

Please send your completed application form and any supporting photos or documents to biodiversity@powys.gov.uk.

Please note we may need to contact you for further details. All information contained in this form will be handled in accordance with Powys County Council’s [privacy policy](#). This information will be used purely in association with this funding opportunity to contact you regarding your application. Data is securely stored within Powys County Council systems. No personal data will be shared with other organisations. If your application is not accepted, then the organisation will delete your data after 3 months [or once you withdraw your consent]. If you have answered yes to question 8, we will hold your application on file for 12 months for the purpose of developing future projects and grant applications, after which [or once you withdraw your consent] your data will be deleted.