

West View Nature Area, Penyffordd

Well-being goal



West View Nature Area is located at the southern end of the village of Penyffordd, in Flintshire, alongside the A550 by-pass. Although a footpath runs alongside the land, it has been inaccessible to users.

The area has been leased by the Penyffordd Community Council, who are enacting their "Penyffordd Place Plan" for completion in 2030. A significant area of focus for the council is to ensure the active encouragement of biodiversity and wildlife corridors across the village, with the provision of community green space, woodlands, and the restoration of new nature conservation areas and wildlife havens where possible.

WoodsWork is a Community Interest Company who manages the West View Nature Area, and they work to protect their environments from the negative impacts of climate change for the benefit of their communities. Their goal is protecting existing habitats and woodlands to aid the improvement of biodiversity and protection of wildlife. Much of this work is undertaken collaboratively with their local communities, authorities and schools, facilitating both educational opportunities and use of green space for well-being purposes.

Ways of working



WoodsWork were granted the delivery of developing the land into a nature area for use of the local community and to improve its ecological value. They have since held regular community event days to encourage residents and users to contribute to the clearance of bramble and creation of footpaths to ensure greater accessibility to the area.

As part of our work on the Community Woodlands scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we were able to partner with WoodsWork to further enhance their vision for the nature area.

The aim was to enhance the site by planting additional native trees, including field maple, hazel, holly, elder, rowan, cherry and rose trees to support woodland biodiversity and pollinator improvement. An area was also cleared to create a meadow and planted with 600 wildflower bulbs to further support woodland wildlife and improve biodiversity and pollinator connectivity.

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The children have been so engaged with the development of the site and really enjoyed the opportunity to plant snowdrops and trees.

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Key words: Community Woodlands, grant funded projects, National Lottery Fund, woodland management and restoration, accessible green space, community engagement, youth engagement, future generations, partnerships, sustainable impact



To ensure the nature area was more accessible and usable for local residents, the existing paths were improved, and 250 meters of new pathways created throughout the new wildflower meadow, with fruit trees planted throughout for the community to enjoy.

One of the foremost aims of the project was to instil a sense of pride and ownership within the younger members of the community to combat instances of anti-social behaviour, whilst also providing educational opportunities. Students from Ysgol Penyffordd and Baptist VA Primary were involved in improvements of the site, including planting a number of the fruit trees they will be able to observe, maintain and harvest. Both schools express their gratitude for being involved in the project and intend to continue utilising the site for learning, being a specific area of focus for the Baptist VA student eco-council.



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We plan to visit the site once a week, if not more, as part of the pupils learning.

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