



## Well-being Objective 12

### Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future

#### *First net zero carbon action plan in Wales*

In February 2020, Carmarthenshire County Council became the first local authority in Wales to publish a climate change action plan detailing how we work towards becoming net zero carbon in the next 10 years. We were one of the first councils in the UK to declare a climate emergency, pledging to becoming net carbon zero by 2030 - 20 years ahead of Welsh and UK government targets.


Actions include developing new carbon reductions from council's buildings, purchasing more energy efficient fleet, collaboration with other public bodies to deliver wider change, exploring opportunities for tree planting and renewable energy generation on council-owned land.


#### Why it is important

- The *Natural Environment* is a core component of sustainable development. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 expands the duty placed on public bodies, requiring them to *maintain & enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience*.
- A *biodiverse natural environment*, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience. Carmarthenshire's natural environment is the natural resource on which much of our economy is based – tourism, farming, forestry, and renewable energy. It is a major factor that attracts people, both young and older to live, work and visit the county, bringing inward investment with them.
- There is a *strong relationship between residents' well-being and their surrounding environment* from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture.

#### Success Measures



  
We generated **997,480**  
**kWh** of renewable energy  
during 2019/20  
(increased from 979,071 kWh  
in the previous year)

  
Our recycle rate is  
**64.66%**  
(This is an increase on the  
previous year's figure of  
58.95%.)



#### Explaining the Results

- **Recycling** increased in 2019/20 to 64.66% from 58.95% the previous year. We have therefore met the statutory Welsh Government target of 64% by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 avoiding any financial penalties. We undertook a programme of door-stepping to advise and encourage householders to participate in our recycling schemes. *Thanks to residents there has been a significant increase in recycling.*

## Progress Made

- We have continued to deliver the *Caeau Mynydd Mawr* Special Area Conservation (SAC) Marsh Fritillary project. The project is now managing 25 sites that provide 41.05ha of land in suitable habitat for the marsh fritillary butterfly
- We continued to engage with the public advising and encouraging them to further support the council to improve its recycling performance. A comprehensive household engagement programme took place in October coinciding with changes to residual collection policy and food waste liner provision.
- We have produced and published our Flood Risk Management Plan that identifies, manages, and mitigates flood risk within our communities.
- We have continued to work with stakeholders to pilot litter management arrangements across Llanelli by introducing Local Environmental Quality Officer groups, Pride in Your Patch stakeholders group, public protection orders and joint enforcement operations by working with local Police inspectors.

## Information to follow on energy consumption in 2019/20

We are awaiting:

- 2019/20 energy consumption data from our suppliers and will then need to check/verify the figures.
- Reporting guidance from Welsh Government to apply prescribed methodologies.

We hope to include data **if** received by the final publication of this report by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

## Electric Vehicle charging Points in Carmarthenshire



**26** sites in Llanelli, Burry Port, Ammanford, Carmarthen, Gwendraeth Valley and Llandeilo are the latest locations to benefit from electric vehicle charging points.

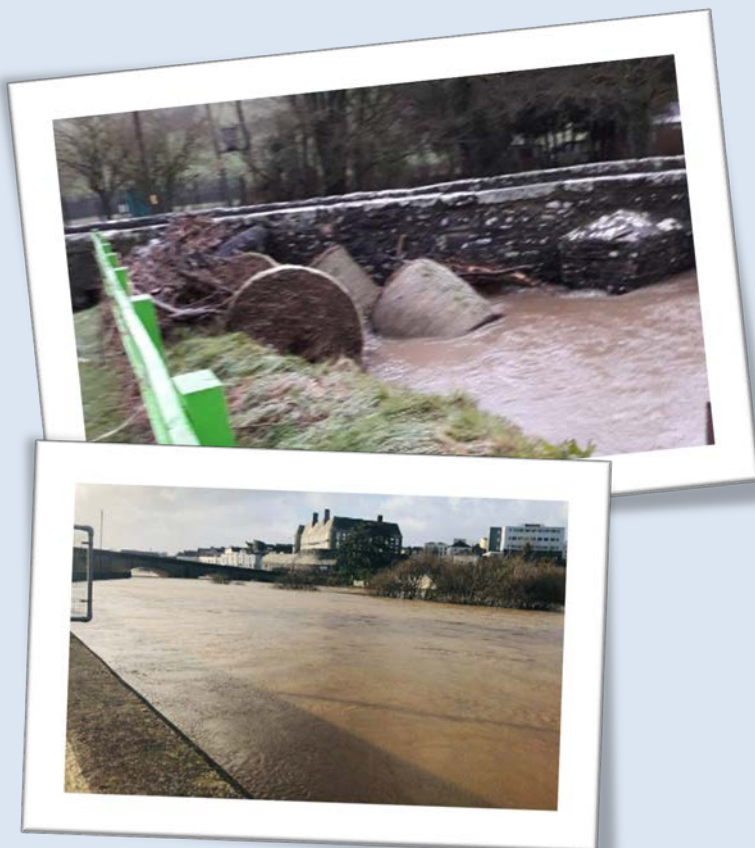
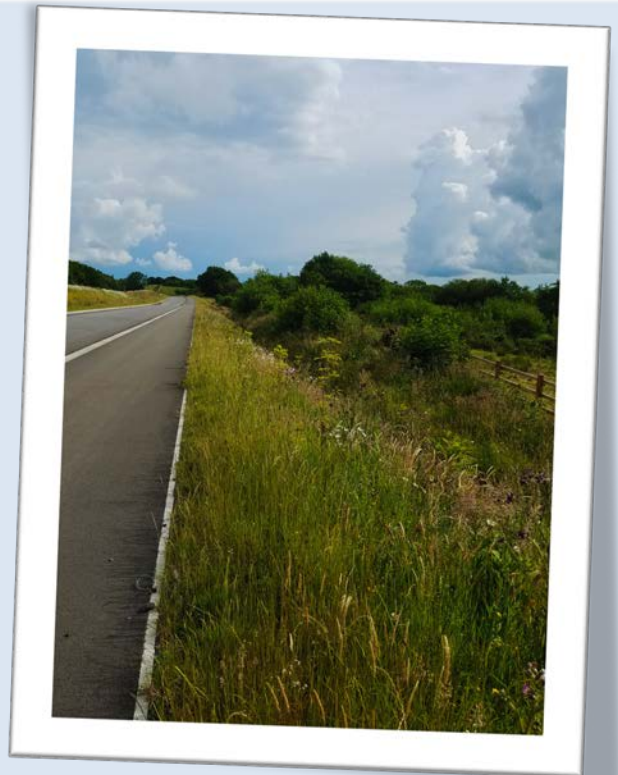
## The way we work

### Dedicated Ecologist Post

We have appointed an Ecologist to ensure we meet our Biodiversity Duty as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The Ecologist works on engineering design and on site with contractors delivering projects from small schemes such as car parking and footpaths, to large schemes such as Cross hands East Strategic Employment (ESES). This includes providing and gaining protected species licences and producing ecological scope of works. Providing advice to Property Services (eg. advice on bats) to the ecological impact on Flood Defence and Coastal Protection

This post has seen immediate benefits in the delivery of the Cross Hands Link Road Phase 1 and the planning and delivery of the second phase.



### Flooding

Our Operational Team undertook a clean-up operation in affected communities and businesses to deal with the aftermath of **Storm Dennis**.

Crews worked hard to clear debris left by the floods, with specialist contractors drafted in to help in some areas. A full assessment of the damage caused by the storm was carried out on all affected road surfaces, trees and bridges.

A *Support Fund* was set up for residents and businesses affected by storm.



Executive Board Member For Public Protection: **Cllr Philip Hughes**  
Executive Board Member For Environment: **Cllr Hazel Evans**