

# OLD ST MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## BIODIVERSITY POLICY



### **Biodiversity policy - the plan for conducting a diversity evaluation and encouraging biodiversity growth in Old St. Mellons and nearby areas:**

The biodiversity project in Old St. Mellons focuses on evaluating and increasing biodiversity by enhancing local ecosystems. Monthly surveys will be conducted throughout April 2025 - March 2026 using 1m x 1m quadrats at **Ty'r Winch Playing Field, St. Edeyrn's Church Grounds and Village Hall gardens**, with 25 samples collected to classify flora and fauna. Findings will be recorded and analysed year-on-year. Community planting initiatives, in collaboration with Cardiff City Council and local groups, aim to introduce pollinator-friendly plants and wildlife habitats. Old St. Mellons Community Council, volunteers, including schoolchildren, Scouts, and community members, will lead the efforts to monitor biodiversity, foster educational engagement, and drive improvements in habitat diversity.

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### **Biodiversity Evaluation Procedure**

#### **1. Preparation and Equipment**

- Acquire 1m x 1m quadrats for sampling flora and fauna.
- Provide recording sheets, identification guides, and tools such as cameras, GPS devices, and magnifying glasses.

#### **2. Sampling Plan**

- Identify specific sites: Ty'r Winch Playing Fields, St. Edeyrn's Church gardens, and Village Hall green spaces.
- Schedule monthly surveys from April 2025 through the year.
- Take 50 quadrat samples each session. Select diverse micro-habitats within the areas for balanced coverage.

#### **3. Recording Data**

- Classify all identified species of flora and fauna during each quadrat survey.
- Record environmental conditions (e.g., soil type, sunlight exposure, moisture levels).
- Ensure data is consistent and meticulous, compiling findings in a shared central spreadsheet.

#### **4. Analysis**

- Compare monthly findings to track seasonal biodiversity changes.
  - Perform year-on-year analysis to identify increases or losses in diversity and habitat health.
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### **Biodiversity Enhancement Plan**

#### **1. Planting Initiatives**

- Collaborate with Cardiff City Council Horticultural Team and Old St. Mellons Gardening Group to select pollinator-friendly native plants.
- Establish wildflower meadows and wildlife gardens across survey sites.
- Incorporate community garden raised beds with diverse flora.

#### **2. Engagement**

- Recruit a team of 4 volunteers, including members from Old St. Mellons Primary School, Scouts, and additional groups such as Keep Wales Tidy.
- Host workshops on native species planting and wildlife-friendly gardening practices.

#### **3. Infrastructure**

- Install bug hotels, bat boxes, and bird nesting areas to support fauna diversity.
- Establish composting sites to improve soil and reduce waste.

#### **4. Community Collaboration**

- Integrate biodiversity activities into school projects and Scouts programs.
  - Share findings via newsletters and interactive maps.
  - Organize seasonal planting events to involve wider community members.
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With consistent evaluations and collaboration, Old St. Mellons can foster a thriving ecosystem that enriches both biodiversity and community engagement. Let's make every square metre count!