



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Cofnodion Cyfarfod y Panel Craffu Perfformiad – Yr Amgylchedd Naturiol

O bell drwy Microsoft Teams

Dydd Mercher, 12 Ionawr 2022 am 10.00 am

Yn Bresennol: Y Cyngorydd P K Jones (Cadeirydd) oedd yn llywyddu

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

E W Fitzgerald
M H Jones
C Richards
W G Thomas

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

S J Gallagher
H Lawson
B J Rowlands

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

O G James
H M Morris
M Sherwood

Swyddog(ion)

Mark Barbour
Emily-Jayne Davies
Jeremy Davies
Chris Howell

Swyddog yr Amgylchedd Naturiol a Bioamrywiaeth
Swyddog Craffu
Arweinydd Grŵp Parciau a Glanhau
Pennaeth Rheoli Gwastraff a Gweithrediadau Parciau

Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb

Y Cyngorydd(wy): J A Hale, I E Mann a/ac L J Tyler-Lloyd

67 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol

Yn unol â'r Côt Ymddygiad a fabwysiadwyd gan Ddinas a Sir Abertawe, ni ddatganwyd unrhyw fuddiannau.

68 Gwahardd pleidleisiau Chwip a Datgan Chwipiau'r Pleidiau

Yn unol â Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2011, ni ddatganwyd pleidleisiau chwip na chwipiau'r pleidiau.

69 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod(ydd) Blaenorol

Cytunwyd bod cofnodion cyfarfod Panel Craffu Perfformiad yr Amgylchedd Naturiol, a gynhaliwyd ar 6 Hydref 2021, yn gofnod cywir.

70 Cwestiynau gan y Cyhoedd

Cytunwyd bod cofnodion cyfarfod Panel Craffu Perfformiad yr Amgylchedd Naturiol, a gynhaliwyd ar 6 Hydref 2021, yn gofnod cywir.

71 Rheoli Mannau Gwyrdd a Chwyn

Derbyniodd y Panel drosolwg gan y Cyng. Mark Thomas, Aelod y Cabinet dros Wella'r Amgylchedd a Rheoli Isadeiledd. Roedd swyddogion hefyd yn bresennol i gynorthwyo'r drafodaeth ac ateb cwestiynau.

Canolbwyntiwyd ar y canlynol yn ystod y drafodaeth:

- Cynyddu bioamrywiaeth drwy raglenni rheoli.
- Lleihau dibyniaeth o glyffosad a'r defnydd ohono drwy holl wasanaethau'r cyngor.
- Yr Adran Priffyrdd sy'n defnyddio'r swm mwyaf o glyffosad, nid yr adran parciau (er y defnyddir rhywfaint ar Ganclwm Japan).
- Mae'r Adran Priffyrdd yn rheoli chwyn ar ffyrdd, felly nid yr adran Parciau sy'n gyfrifol am hyn.
- Cynhelir y rhaglen bresennol ar gontract 3 blynedd gyda chwmni allanol, a chwblheir y gwaith drwy weithrediad peiriannau. Dyma fu'r dull mwyaf effeithiol ac effeithlon hyd yma.
- Cododd aelodau bryderon fod rhai ffyrdd pengaead yn cael eu colli gan gontractwyr.
- Clywodd y panel y gellir gofyn i gontractwyr ddychwelyd ac ailchwistrellu os na fydd y gwasanaeth hwnnw'n foddhaol mewn ardal benodol.
- Mae'r broses i adnewyddu'r contract ar waith, gan ystyried unrhyw ddulliau cymwys eraill sydd ar gael, i leihau'r defnydd o glyffosad.
- Nid yw profion y cyngor o dechnolegau/driniaethau eraill wedi arwain at raglen fwy effeithiol eto.
- Eglurwyd bod y rhaglen wedi wynebu anawsterau yn 2021 oherwydd glaw/stormydd. Daeth chwyn yn anodd ei reoli a derbyniwyd cwynion ynghylch chwyn wedi gordyfu.
- Mae gan yr Adran Priffyrdd lwfans cyllidebol ychwanegol i greu tîm, a fydd yn canolbwyntio ar fannau lle ceir llawer o chwyn.
- Mae'r panel yn ymwybodol o risgiau ac agweddau ar bryder sy'n ymwneud â'r defnydd o glyffosad. Cydnabu aelodau fod ambell opsiwn effeithiol arall i reoli chwyn ar hyd y rhwydwaith priffyrdd.
- Ailadroddodd y Cyng. Thomas fod glyffosad yn gynnyrch sydd wedi'i drwyddedu'n llawn ac nad yw'r cyngor yn defnyddio cynnyrch sy'n anniogel.
- Trafododd aelodau ganlyniadau chwyn sy'n cael ei adael i ddifrodi waliau a phalmentydd, gan gynnwys y potensial i aelodau cymunedol gymryd rhan mewn rhaglenni chwynnu.
- Cododd yr aelodau'r opsiwn o wardiau'n dewis peidio â chwistrellu chwyn, gan ddyfynnu enghraifft 'Strydoedd Byw Uplands', grŵp sydd â diddordeb mewn triniaeth lle defnyddir llai o glyffosad.
- Clywodd y Panel, er na all tai unigol ddewis peidio â chael y driniaeth, gallai wardiau neu strydoedd ddewis peidio â dilyn y rhaglen chwistrellu chwyn.
- Clywodd y Panel, o ran gwella bioamrywiaeth, y bydd rhai ardaloedd o wair sy'n cael eu gadael i dyfu'n hirach.
- Holodd Aelodau ynghylch sut i adrodd wrth y cyngor am chwyn/blanhigion na ellir eu henwi. Dywedodd swyddogion y gellid cyflwyno cofnod ar ffurf llun, neu ddefnyddio apiau enwi allanol. Roedd swyddogion yn mynd ati i ddarparu dolenni i apiau o'r fath er gwybodaeth.

- Cododd Aelodau'r Panel rai pryderon ynghylch y posibilrwydd o werthu mannau gwyrdd i aelodau'r cyngor.
- Dyfynnodd yr Aelodau gastell Casllwchwr fel enghraifft o fan gwyrdd sy'n cael ei adael yn llwyddiannus i droi'n ddôl, gan annog twf blodau gwyllt.
- Amlygwyd bod twf blodau gwyllt yn cael ei hyrwyddo drwy bridd â llai o faeth ynddo. Mae toriadau gwair sy'n cael eu gadael ar y tir felly'n wrthgynhyrchiol i dwf blodau gwyllt.
- Bu angen defnyddio cyfarpar arbenigol i gael gwared ar doriadau gwaith o safleoedd blodau gwyllt. Mae cyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru wedi galluogi'r cyngor i brynu peiriant 'torri a chasglu' arbenigol.
- Gwnaeth yr Aelodau sylwadau ar y toriadau gwair sy'n cael eu gadael ar ôl i ymylon ffyrdd gael eu torri, a'r maeth sy'n cael ei adael i gynorthwyo twf yn y dyfodol, gan ddweud y gall y toriadau gyfrannu weithiau at rwystro gylïau
- Eglurodd swyddogion fod yr amser a dreulir a'r arian a gaiff ei wario wrth gasglu toriadau gwair cyffredinol yn annhebygol o fod yn effeithiol wrth wneud gwahaniaeth sylweddol i nifer y toriadau.
- Tynnodd yr adroddiad sylw at yr heriau a wynebier, fel cael gwared ar ardaloedd mawr o wair.
- Clywodd y Panel fod y cyhoedd weithiau'n ystyried ardaloedd sy'n cael eu gadael i ddatblygu'n ddolydd yn fannau wedi'u hesgeuluso. Roedd yr Aelodau'n deall bod angen gwella cyfathrebu i sicrhau bod y cyhoedd yn deall pam/ble y daw rhai ardaloedd yn ddolydd a reolir.
- Awgrymodd yr Aelodau y dylid codi arwyddion dros dro ar safleoedd dolydd i hysbysu'r cyhoedd yn well.
- Cododd yr Aelodau bryderon ynghylch pwyntiau mynediad i'r ddinas a'r argraffiadau cyntaf i ymwelwyr.
- Gwnaeth yr Aelodau sylwadau ffafriol ar y camau a gymerwyd ym Mharc Singleton i wella bioamrywiaeth.
- Holodd yr Aelodau a fyddai arian grant ar gael i ddarparu cynlluniau/coed i ardaloedd lleol.
- Eglurodd Swyddogion fod dwy swydd ran-amser yn cael eu hariannu i weithio o fewn ardaloedd ward i gefnogi bioamrywiaeth, creu cynefinoedd a rheoli blodau gwyllt yn gyffredinol.
- Roedd yr Aelodau'n falch o glywed bod swyddog bioamrywiaeth wedi'i benodi ers yr argymhelliad hwn gan Banel Ymchwiliad Craffu'r Amgylchedd Naturiol, fodd bynnag, codwyd pryderon ynghylch natur ran-amser y swydd hon o ystyried y galwadau. Cytunodd yr Aelodau y byddai ymrwymiad tymor hir i ariannu swydd amser llawn yn fuddiol.
- Gofynnodd yr aelodau ynghylch y "Cwestiynau drafft ar gyfer Ymgynghoriad" gan awgrymu y dylai'r cwestiynau gael eu mynegi'n wahanol er mwyn cael atebion ehangach.

CYTUNWYD y byddai'r Panel yn ysgrifennu at Aelod y Cabinet gyda'u barn a'u hargymhellion.

72 Cynllun Gwaith

Trafododd y Panel bynciau arfaethedig ar gyfer y cyfarfodydd i ddod.

- Diweddariad gan y Tîm Cadwraeth Natur (mis Mawrth)
- Awgrymodd yr Aelodau y dylid cynnwys y pwnc Gorfodi Cynllunio (Bioamrywiaeth) mewn cynlluniau gwaith yn y dyfodol.

73 **Llythyrau**

Derbyniodd y Panel yr ohebiaeth a anfonwyd yn dilyn cyfarfod y Panel a gynhaliwyd ar 6 Mai 2021.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.45



To:
Cllr Mark Thomas,
Cabinet Member for Environment
Enhancement & Infrastructure
Management

BY EMAIL

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:

e-Mail
e-Bost:

Date
Dyddiad:

Overview & Scrutiny

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28th January 2022

Summary: This is a letter from the Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management. The letter concerns the meeting held on 12th January 2022 and the updates received regarding Green Space / Weed and Verge Management.

Dear Councillor Thomas,

The Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel met on January 12th to discuss the topic of Green Space / Weed and Verge Management. We were grateful to yourself and to officers for attending to aid discussions and answer questions.

The Panel received an overview of the issues of Council weed management and the management of green open space, including the aims of increasing Biodiversity through management programmes and the reduced use of glyphosate throughout Council services.

Weed Management

You explained to us that the Highways department is the biggest user of glyphosate, as opposed to the Parks department, although we understand that regular use manages areas of Japanese Knotweed. We heard that the Highways department are responsible for managing weeds on the road network, therefore responsibly falls outside of the Parks department.

It was also explained to us that the current management programme is run on a three-year contract with an external company. We understand that, to date, this has been the most effective and efficient method of weed management. Panel Members did raise concerns that some cul-de-sacs were being missed by contractors, and acknowledged the system in place to ask contractors to return and re-spray should the service in a particular area not be satisfactory.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

We heard that in 2021, the programme faced a significant setback due to rain and adverse weather conditions. Weeds became difficult to manage and complaints were received regarding overgrown weeds.

You explained to us that the Highways department now has extra budget allowance to create a dedicated team, focusing on hotspot areas for weed management and control.

The Panel raised some concerns over the City's entrance points and the first impressions for visitors where overgrown weeds may be viewed as unattended or neglected.

The Panel expressed concern regarding glyphosate use and risk posed both to human health and to the well-being of some insect and bird species, especially in relation to weed control on roadside verges. Members acknowledged that there are currently few other effective options to manage weeds along the highways network. We understood that Council trials of new technologies / treatments have not yet resulted in a more effective programme. You did reiterate that glyphosate is a fully-licensed product and the Council is not using un-safe products in the weed control programme.

Panel Members discussed the current option of wards opting out of weed-spraying, citing the example of 'Uplands Living Streets', a group interested in reduced glyphosate treatment. You explained to the Panel that, although individual houses could not opt out, wards or streets could opt out of the weed spraying programme.

Management of Green Space

The Panel heard that, in terms of improving biodiversity, there will be some areas of grass that are left to grow longer. The Panel heard that such areas left to meadow were sometimes viewed by the public as having been unattended. Members understood that communication needs to be improved to ensure the public understand where/why certain areas become managed meadows. Members suggested that temporary signage be erected at meadow sites to better inform the public.

The Panel cited Lougher castle as an example of green space being successfully left to meadow, encouraging wildflower growth. Officers highlighted that wildflower growth is promoted via nutrient-reduced soil, and that grass cuttings left on the land are therefore counter-productive to wildflower growth.

Officers explained to us that the removal of grass cuttings (from wildflower sites) has required specialist equipment. We heard that Welsh Government funding has recently enabled the purchase of specialist 'cut and collect' machinery, which is successfully helping to manage this aspect of the programme.

Panel Members did comment on grass cuttings left following verge-cutting, and the nutrients being left to aid future growth - observing that the cuttings can also sometimes contribute to gully blockages. Officers explained that the time/costs spent in collecting general grass-cuttings would not likely be effective in making a significant difference to the number of cuts.

Panel Members raised some concerns over potential sale of green space areas to members of the public. We would be interested to hear more about this aspect of our discussion, and the process in place for sale of such sites to the public.

The report presented to us highlighted the challenges faced, for example large-scale grass removal.

The report also outlined the 'Draft Questions for Consultation', about which Members raised queries regarding wording, suggesting alternative phrasing of questions to accommodate broader answers.

Resources

Panel Members queried whether grant funding would be available to support this area of work within individual wards, including to provide plants/tress for local areas.

Officers explained to us that two part-time posts were being funded to work within ward areas to support biodiversity, habitat creation and general wildflower management.

We were pleased to hear that a Biodiversity Officer has now been appointed, since this recommendation by the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Panel; however, we raised concerns over the part-time nature of this post. Members agreed that a long-term commitment to funding a full-time post would be beneficial.

We are interested in any thoughts you may have on the contents of this letter but, in this instance, we require no formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Peter Jones

Convener, Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ cllr.peter.jones@swansea.gov.uk