



Report of the Clyne Valley Community Project Representative

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 6 December 2021

Clyne Valley Country Park

To AONB Steering Group for your consideration from Clyne Valley Community Project.

Clyne Valley Community Project (CVCP) was established 10 years ago to:

- improve and maintain Access in the Clyne Valley
- protect and enhance the natural habitat of species and to encourage and promote biodiversity in the Clyne Valley, maintaining as small a footprint as possible
- encourage research and interpretation of the history and archaeology of the Valley
- promote the health and well-being of users of the Clyne Valley
- develop and encourage the use and enjoyment of the Clyne Valley as a community resource for leisure pursuits, educational purposes and family activities

CVCP is a volunteer organisation and have a Management Agreement with Swansea Council, who own the 700 acres of the Country Park. CVCP endeavour to maintain and share the riches of Clyne Valley with the community. It is a huge task:

Over recent months we have:

- Carried out a Japanese Knotweed survey of the whole valley
- Cleared the Mumbles Road Station of vegetation
- Held a 'Get to Know the Valley' day of walks and activities
- Completed several litter picks
- Trampled the bracken encroaching upon the fruit trees in Kate's Orchard
- Pulled and cut back Pheasant Berry
- Provided the muscle and graft to construct 3 new bridges across the river Clyne
- Resumed interviewing and recording locals to add to our History Archive
- Brush cut several paths.

This beautiful green valley, 3 miles from the centre of Swansea, has long been a wonderful resource for many people and was 'discovered' by even more people during the restrictions of the pandemic.

Since the Environment Section at Swansea Council have recently taken 'responsibility' for the Country Park, we have worked closely with them in planning and implementing improvements in the valley and this partnership continues with more developments to come. The AONB team are preparing a Management Plan for the Valley and this month Chris Lindley and Ursula Jones gave a presentation to CVCP members titled the 'Future of Clyne Valley' explaining the process they are following to construct a Management Plan for the valley.

Other Management Plans for Clyne Valley have been written in the past but these seem to have lived in a drawer - probably due to lack of funds, personnel and intent.

There are many Parks in Swansea but only one Country Park: Clyne Valley. Many parks have a dedicated team of Council employees to sustain them, but Clyne Valley does not. Recent Welsh Government funding has enabled the Environment section at Swansea Council to work with us and make huge improvements in the Valley. But, our fear is that this may not be sustained. Too many projects start with a bang and end with a whimper.

CVCP believe that a Warden / Ranger be appointed with responsibility for the Country Park and to oversee the Management Plan and its implementation. CVCP have even considered funding such a role but feel that it is not for a voluntary organisation to fund the care and maintenance of 700 acres of Council land.

We hope we can have the support of the AONB Steering Group in this matter and help us take it forward.

Barbara Parry
December 2021
Chair of Clyne Valley Community Project.
<https://clynevalleycommunityproject.uk/>