

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11th JANUARY 2016

Rural Conservation Unit Update

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee consider and comment on the update of the Rural Conservation Unit's activities during 2015.

Reasons:

- That the Committee is kept informed of the work of the service and members are enabled to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.

To be referred to Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Meryl Gravell (Regeneration & Leisure)

Directorate: Environment	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Llinos Quelch	Head of Planning	01267 228918 lquelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Rosie Carmichael	Rural Conservation Manager	01267 228727 racarmichael@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11th JANUARY 2016

Rural Conservation Unit Update

The report highlights the activities carried out by the Rural Conservation Unit in 2015, and its purpose is to inform Committee of these.

The Rural Conservation Unit promotes the understanding, conservation, enhancement, and responsible management of Carmarthenshire's natural resources, including its landscapes and its habitats and species, consistent with Carmarthenshire's Integrated Community Strategy and Carmarthenshire County Council's core values.

The Unit carries out the following statutory functions:

- Tree Preservation Orders – Town & Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- Commons Registration Act 1965

It also works to ensure that the Council's operations are compliant under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

The Unit provides specialist advice to development management, to other officers in the council and to the general public on woodlands, trees, hedgerows, common land biodiversity and landscape. It ensures that approved development, and other projects comply with relevant legislation and the various policies that relate to the natural environment in the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Unit runs practical conservation projects such as the Caeau Mynydd Mawr Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The Unit works effectively with partners such as Natural Resource Wales, West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Butterfly Conservation and the Wildlife Trusts. It has also worked collaboratively with local authorities in both Pembrokeshire and Swansea.

A detailed overview of the work of the Unit is attached.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **Llinos Quelch** Head of Planning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **Llinos Quelch** Head of Planning

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – All staff within the section have contributed to this report.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection