

## PROJECT:

# ACCESS TO NATURE AND ENHANCEMENT THROUGH OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS

APPLICANT: **NANNERCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED

26



LOCATION

**NANNERCH, FLINTSHIRE**



TOTAL PROJECT VALUE

**£24,470**

## GREEN COMMUNITIES FUND OVERVIEW

The Green Communities fund, delivered by rural development agency Cadwyn Clwyd, aims to support improvements to outdoor community activities and infrastructure.

Supported through the Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing grant, 30 local areas in Denbighshire, Conwy, Flintshire, and Wrexham have been given support to transform their outdoor community spaces for wildlife to thrive and to create desirable places to live, work and play.

Some groups opted for funding for renewable energy systems, such as solar installations, to reduce carbon emissions and help reduce their fuel bills.

This project has received a contribution from the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) which provides aid for innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, that involve local communities in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



## PROJECT SUMMARY

After an increase of people using Nannerch's outdoor spaces post-Covid, the community council has raised more than £40,000 across the past three years to carry out improvements at its local play area based on designs by local children.

Through funding via the Green Communities Scheme, the Flintshire village has now benefitted from further updates to park infrastructure, including enhanced public paths, seating, and wildlife areas.

## OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to create more accessible facilities through updating paths and seating, so the older population can be more included in village life, in addition to encouraging families to spend longer outside.

The improvements have been a collaborative process, involving the community from the outset to encourage a sense of ownership over the area for residents.



## ACTIVITY

As part of the project, the council received funding to make improvements to footpaths surrounding the village, so they are easily accessible for older, or less mobile residents.

These improvements include:

- Replacing 27 stiles with kissing gates, making them passable for all walking abilities. They were installed with the help of Flintshire County Council.
- Updating drainage on a byway to prevent flooding, and to ensure the paths are in action all year.

Two picnic benches, made from recycled milk containers, have been installed to provide more seating in the park and to encourage visitors to spend longer in the space, in addition to new seating placed at various locations in the parish.

With the help of local children and volunteers, a community orchard and hedges have been planted to shield a concrete and a wired fence surrounding the play area, as well as to encourage natural habitats to form at the site.

In addition, a dedicated wildlife zone was created, where native trees have been planted to facilitate and preserve biodiversity.

A Community Miles leaflet, which details walking routes in the area is being produced as part of the project to promote two of the updated footpaths, and to showcase local businesses in the villages.



**"BY ENHANCING ACCESS TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH SURROUNDS OUR VILLAGE, WE HOPE TO TACKLE SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND ENCOURAGE MORE VISITORS AND RESIDENTS TO EXPLORE THE AREA REGARDLESS OF THEIR LEVEL OF ABILITY."**

**- HUW MORGAN**

## OUTCOMES

Residents and volunteers have already felt the impact of the plans. Chair of Nannerch Community Council Huw Morgan, who led on the improvements, said:

"Being able to involve members of our community from the outset through planting and enhancing wildlife in the park has meant local people were given a sense of ownership and pride over this area right from the start of the project.

"It was essential that the residents' needs were in mind from the beginning, and it has been fantastic to receive support through this funding and ongoing help from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to put our plans into action."

*This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.*