




PROJECT: SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION, LED LIGHTING FITTING, AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR CREATION

APPLICANT: NANT CONWY RUGBY CLUB

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED
10

LOCATION
LLANRWST, CONWY

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE
£35,955.50

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.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Nant Conwy Rugby Club, led by chairwoman Glesni Jones, was seeking assistance in its quest to reduce carbon emissions and provide improved facilities for local people.

Through the Green Communities scheme, and with the assistance of Cadwyn Clwyd and social enterprise Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig (DEG), key improvements were made to the clubhouse, changing rooms, and outside spaces.

OBJECTIVES

With more than 500 members, made up of around 350 players from under sevens through to senior teams, including a women and girls' section, the club is a community hub supported by 100 volunteers.

Much more than simply a place for affiliates to play rugby, the facility is open to school tournaments and other events, as well as providing a place for people to socialise.

Glesni said: "The improvements made will only help us provide an even better space for the public to come and enjoy themselves."



ACTIVITY

Solar panels were installed on the roof of the clubhouse, with LED lighting fitted in the changing room block, and hedges planted along the main pitches to create a biodiversity corridor for wildlife to thrive.

The improvements have accelerated plans to move even closer to becoming carbon neutral.

The next focus area is a hydropower scheme, which would eradicate electricity costs that are currently well into five figures.

Glesni explained: "The work of Green Communities, with the help of DEG, which acted as a project manager, meant we got exactly what we needed in terms of the right specifications.

"This has given us a springboard for future action in our quest to be as energy efficient as we possibly can be.

"The proposed hydro scheme is certainly something we are interested in exploring further. If we could utilise that, it would cancel out our energy costs and we'd even be able to sell the surplus to the grid.

"There are discussions to be had, but the impact of the solar panels and the LED lighting has been very positive, while the biodiversity corridor is crucial for wildlife in the area to thrive."



"WE ARE IN ONE OF THE MOST DEPRIVED WARDS IN WALES, AND THAT INCLUDES RECREATION FACILITIES, SO WE ARE DETERMINED TO OFFER A WARM AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE."

- GLESNI JONES

OUTCOMES

The benefits have already been seen, with Glesni saying: "We were working out that the installation in August 2022 will save us around £3,500 per year.

"When you multiply that by 10, you see the level of impact the solar panels will have on this club and the community over the next decade and beyond.

"The clubhouse is not a busy place during the day, but we have coolers in the bar which are on 24/7, which are very heavy on electricity usage. To have the cost of those covered is a huge bonus."

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.