GAG Newsletter

Greener Aberystwyth Group **No. 15** **November 2014**
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GAG Responds to Consultations

In recent months GAG has sent comments on two consultation papers issued by Ceredigion County Council, namely the draft Special Planning Guidance (SPG) on **Nature Conservation** and **Built Environment and Design**. These two topics have particular relevance to protecting and maintaining high quality green spaces around Aberystwyth. We are also routinely consulted by the Council over any proposals affecting **trees** within the two local Conservation Areas. Comments were also sent to the Welsh Government on its **Allotments and Community Gardens** consultation.

Wild flowers in the Cemetery

It is four years since GAG produced a management plan for the town cemetery. A key recommendation, which was accepted by the Council, concerned the frequency of grass mowing. While the grass paths around the majority of graves continued to be cut regularly, to enhance the diversity of colourful wild flowers three larger patches of grass are not mown until late July. As expected this has resulted in an increased variety and abundance of flowers, (particularly birdsfoot-trefoil, oxeye daisy and knapweed), many more butterflies and grasshoppers. Paths are mown for access to graves. If anyone wishes to have additional access paths mown, they should contact the County Council's Highways Department.

Helping pollinators

A National Pollinator Strategy for England was launched on 4 November 2014 by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The full text can be accessed online at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/370199/pb14221-national-pollinator-strategy.pdf

The strategy encourages all those who manage land (from farmland to city allotments, gardens and window-boxes) to take action to make the land pollinator-friendly. Helpful advice can also be found at: http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/Bees-needs including:

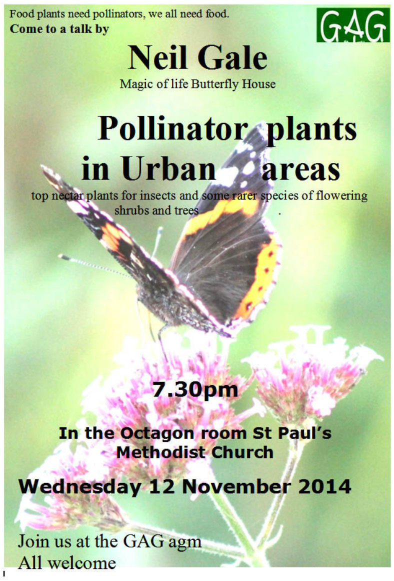
(1) Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen as food for bees and other pollinators throughout the year. For example, pussy willow, primroses and crocuses in spring, lavenders, meadow cranesbill and ox-eye daisies in summer, ivy and hebes in autumn, and mahonia shrubs and cyclamen in winter.
(2) Leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles and dandelions to provide other food sources (such as leaves for caterpillars) and breeding places for butterflies and moths.
(3) Cut grass less often and ideally remove the cuttings to allow plants to flower.

Allotments and community gardens needed

The recent Welsh Assembly Government Consultation Paper outlined longstanding concerns over the dearth of suitable land for **community growing of food**. Many questions were raised and the completed questionnaires which were submitted in October will we trust focus the minds of Welsh planning authorities when assessing all new land development proposals.

GAG has yet to see any such issues raised locally (Ceredigion CC or Aberystwyth Town) in recent planning submissions. The very current proposal for a sizable housing project adjacent to Primrose Hill is a prime example. We hope that our planners are asking the right questions, and that those who are concerned with community developments are aware of the issues raised in the WAG Consultation Paper.

Come to the AGM!



Cylchlythyr GAG

Rhifyn 15 Tachwedd 2014 **Grŵp Aberystwyth Gwyrddach**

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GAG yn ymgynghori

Yn y misoedd diwethaf anfonodd GAG sylwadau ar ddwy ddogfen ymgynghori gan Gyngor Sir Ceredigion, sef braslun Canllawiau Cynllunio Arbennig (SPG) ar **Gadwriaeth Natur** (*Nature Conservation*) ac Amgylchedd Adeiledig a Dylunio (Built Environment and Design). Mae'r ddau destun yn berthnasol iawn i'r gwaith o gadw ac amddiffyn manau gwyrdd o safon yn ardal Aberystwyth. Hefyd, mae'r Cyngor yn ymgynghori'n reolaidd â ni ynglŷn â cheisiadau sy'n effeithio ar goed yn y ddwy Ardal Gadwriaethol. Anfonwyd sylwadau hefyd i Lywodraeth Cymru ynglŷn â'i ddogfen ymgynghorol ar argaeledd rhandiroedd a gerddi cymunedol

Blodau gwyllt yn y fynwent

Pedair blynedd yn ôl, gwnaeth GAG gynllun rheoli ar gyfer mynwent y dref. Roedd argymhelliad allweddol, a dderbyniodd y Cyngor, ynglŷn â pha mor aml y dylid torri'r gwair. Mae'r llwybrau o laswellt o gwmpas y rhan fwyaf o'r beddau yn dal i gael eu torri, ond er mwyn gwella'r nifer ac amrywiaeth o flodau gwyllt lliwgar, nid yw tair llain yn cael eu torri tan ddiwedd Gorffennaf. Y canlyniad, fel y disgwylid, oedd toreth o flodau (yn enwedig Pysen-y-ceirw, Llygad-llo mawr a'r Bengaled) (*birdsfoot-trefoil, oxeye daisy and knapweed*), a llawer mwy o ieir bach yr haf ac o sioncod y gwair. Torrir llwybrau er mwyn mynd at y beddau. Os oes rhywun angen mwy o lwybrau, rhaid cysylltu ag Adran Ffyrdd y Cyngor Sir.

Helpu trychfilod peillio

Lawnsiwyd Strategaeth Trychfilod Peillio am Loegr ar 4 Tachwedd 2014 gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Cefn Gwlad. Ceir y testun llawn ar-lein ar:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/370199/pb14221-national-pollinator-strategy.pdf

Mae'r strategaeth yn annog pawb sydd yn rheoli tir (o dir amaethyddol i lawr i erddi preifat a bocsys ffenestri) i wneud y tir yn addas i drychfilod peillio. Ceir cyngor defnyddiol hefyd ar:
http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/Bees-needs gan gynnwys:

(1) Tyfwch fwy o flodau, llwyni a choed sydd yn darparu neithdar (*nectar*) a phaill (*pollen*) trwy gydol y flwyddyn. Er enghraifft: Helygen (pussy willow), Briallu (primroses) a chrocysau yn y gwanwyn, Lafant, Pig garan y weirglodd (meadow cranesbill) a Llygad-llo mawr yn yr haf, Iorwg a Hebe yn yr Hydref, a Mahonia a Bara'r Hwch (*cyclamen*) yn y gaeaf.
(2) Gadewch ddarnau o dir i fynd yn wyllt gyda Dinad a Dant y Llew i ddarparu bwydydd eraill (fel dail ar gyfer lindys) a meithrinfeydd ar gyfer ieir bach yr haf a gwyfod.
(3) Torrwch y glaswellt yn llai aml, ac os yn bosibl, cliriwch y gwair er mwyn i blanhigion flodeuo.

Angen rhandiroedd a gerddi cymunedol

Mewn dogfen ymgynghorol ddiweddar gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar argaeledd rhandiroedd a gerddi cymunedol, mynegwyd pryderon sydd yn bod ers tro am ddiffyg tir addas am **brosiectau cymunedol i dyfu bwyd.** Codwyd llawer o gwestiynau, a gobeithiwn y bydd yr holiaduron a anfonwyd i fewn ym mis Hydref yn cael sylw awdurdodau cynllunio Cymru pan fyddant yn asesu ceisiadau newydd i ddatblygu tir.

Nid yw GAG wedi gweld materion o'r fath yn cael eu hystyried gan ein cynghorau (boed Sir Ceredigion neu'r dref) ynglŷn â cheisiadau cynllunio diweddar. Enghraifft drawiadol yw'r cais presennol i godi stad reit fawr o dai ar dir yn agos i Primrose Hill. Gobeithiwn y bydd ein cynllunwyr yn gofyn y cwestiynau sydd angen, a bod ein cynghorwyr yn ystyried Dogfen Ymgynghorol Llywodraeth Cymru.

Dewch i'r Cyfarfod Blynyddol!