



Additional Report to Magor with Undy Town Council on the Wildlife Warriors

January 2026

Overview

Wildlife Warriors, facilitated by Gwent Wildlife Trust at Magor Marsh, empowers young people aged 9–24 to take meaningful action for nature and climate. Through free, hands-on sessions, members learn practical conservation skills, restore habitats, and lead projects that strengthen both local biodiversity and community wellbeing.

Over the last year, we've built strong partnerships and delivered youth-led initiatives that connect people with nature and create greener spaces within Magor and Undy. Our work directly supports Magor with Undy Town Council priorities, enabling local participation, improving community spaces, and ensuring inclusivity, while delivering exceptional value through volunteer contributions.

This additional report will provide further details on the last 12 months of the group, address the concerns of the council members, and present a proposition for the future.

Key Activities Delivered 2024-2025

Over the last 12 months (November 2024 – December 2025), the Wildlife Warriors turned ideas into action, improved habitats in Magor and Undy for the benefit of both wildlife and local people, and built community connections. Here's a snapshot reminder of what the group have been up to in the local community.

Activity	Activity Aim(s)	Activity Outcome(s)
Community Orchard Clearing at The Hub	To care for the orchard as part of the local community, improve habitat quality, and learn practical skills.	Youth cleared brambles and litter, worked as a team, and felt proud to support a community resource.
Orchard Mulching & Litter Pick at The Hub	To improve orchard health and keep the space clean for the community.	Participants mulched trees, picked litter, and learned habitat management skills.





Orchard Survey at The Hub	To explore orchard benefits and learn more about tree health and biodiversity.	Youth recorded species, assessed tree health, and shared ideas for community engagement.
Clearing at Stepping Stones's Allotment in Magor	To restore and tidy an allotment plot for the local community and to support wildlife.	Participants cleared overgrown areas, improved access, and supported a shared food-growing resource.
Water Vole Survey & Pond Dip at Magor Marsh	To teach field survey techniques and contribute to conservation data.	Participants learned skills in identifying water vole field signs, collected data, and felt proud to support real conservation work.
SEWBReC Square of the Month at Bridewell Common	To record local wildlife through the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre	22 records submitted; youth contributed to local biodiversity data and mapping.
Bug Bunkers & Big Decisions at Magor Marsh	To create invertebrate habitats on Magor Marsh, and involve youth in decision-making	Two bug bunkers installed; youth took on AGM roles and shaped future WW projects.

Community Reach

Wildlife Warriors reached full capacity this year, with all 20 available places filled: a clear sign of strong demand and successful recruitment. To maintain quality and safety, we cap membership at 20, ensuring every young person receives meaningful, hands-on experiences.

Beyond our core group, we extended our reach through targeted outreach:

- **School Engagement:** Delivered planting activities with 45 Year 6 pupils at Magor CIW Primary School and initiated plans with Undy Primary to raise awareness and recruit local members.
- **Community Partnerships:**
 - **The Hub:** Supported orchard maintenance and mulching, and began planning wildlife-friendly raised beds to create shared learning spaces for young people and the wider community.
 - **Stepping Stones Allotment:** Collaborated on plans to transform the site into a multi-purpose community space, including a sensory area for additional needs, nature-based flood mitigation, and wildlife observation features - projects where youth will play a leading role.
 - **Common-y-Coed:** Agreed to support biodiversity improvements in spring 2026, following discussions with Cllr Paul Cawley, Deputy Mayor, to enhance green spaces for local people.





- **Youth Leadership Continuity:** Older members transitioning out of the age bracket continue to volunteer as youth leaders and support conservation projects, demonstrating long-term commitment.
- **Local Recruitment:** through some targeted social medial marketing to local families, and direct connection with local schools, we raised awareness of Wildlife Warriors in a bid to attract more local members. Posts: [Facebook 1](#) and [Facebook 2](#)

Through these efforts, Wildlife Warriors reached local children and young people beyond our core group, strengthened community ties, and delivered projects that benefit both local residents and wildlife.

Performance against Magor with Undy Town Council's funding objectives:

Wildlife Warriors delivered multiple benefits for young people, the community, and the environment. It's not just teaching skills. It's creating environmental leaders and stronger, greener communities. Here is a summary of how we have delivered against Council funding objectives:

1) Enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities

Wildlife Warriors thrives thanks to the dedication of local volunteers and strong community partnerships. We have;

- Recruited youth group members from local schools, ran a targeted social media campaign and engaged 45 local Year 6 pupils in nature-based activities.
- Collaborated with local community partners in planning and delivering youth-led projects that enhance shared green spaces. This included developing partnerships with The Hub, the Council, and Stepping Stones allotment, which all enabled young people to contribute to shared green spaces and community wellbeing across Magor and Undy.
- Created pathways from participation to volunteering, with older members progressing to youth leaders, demonstrating long-term impact and connection
- Been supported by adult volunteers who not only assist with Wildlife Warriors but also contribute to other Gwent Wildlife Trust activities. Many are active members of The Levellers, Magor Marsh's reserve volunteer team, helping maintain habitats and infrastructure on Magor Marsh and Bridewell Common, that benefit both wildlife and the community.

2) Improve or enhance the local environment

Evidence shows that a thriving, wildlife-rich environment benefits both physical and mental health. People with nature on their doorstep are more active, mentally resilient, and have better all-round health.





Therefore, through supporting nature's recovery in Magor and Undy, the Wildlife Warriors are directly supporting local residents' health and wellbeing. We have;

- Delivered hands-on youth-led conservation projects in Magor and Undy: litter picking, bramble clearance, mulching, and habitat improvements at the Community Orchard, and bug bunker and bird feeder installation at Magor Marsh. These actions directly support nature's recovery in the local area and improve local climate resilience.
- Supported biodiversity monitoring through Bioblitz surveys at Bridewell Common and at the Orchard, informing future habitat management.

3) Improve the recipient organisation's effectiveness, provision, and delivery of services to the Town's residents

Funding enabled employment of a part-time Youth Engagement Officer, which enabled provision of the Wildlife Warriors youth group over the last 12 months. This resulted in the facilitation of regular sessions in Magor, with strong attendance and youth-led decision-making.

4) Meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties

Wildlife Warriors is committed to creating a safe, welcoming space where every young person can thrive. Our group reflects the diversity of the community, with members who have ASD, ADHD, PTSD, and those who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We actively removed barriers by:

- **Enabling free participation:** Sessions are completely free, ensuring financial circumstances never prevent involvement.
- **Facilitating youth empowerment:** Members shape activities and decisions, building confidence and ownership.
- **Ensuring safety & support:** Staff and volunteers are trained to provide understanding and encouragement, fostering wellbeing and belonging.
- **Supporting personal growth & wellbeing:** Young people reported feeling proud, empowered, and connected: "It was empowering clearing the brambles – it showed that a small group can make a big difference." This in turn supports the eco-anxiety that many members are experiencing, as the best countermeasure for eco-anxiety is taking positive action.

5) Ensure equality of access and opportunity for all Magor with Undy residents

By prioritising inclusivity and equality, Wildlife Warriors empowers young people from all backgrounds and abilities to connect with nature, develop skills, and lead positive change. We have;





- Prioritised local recruitment and outreach through schools and community venues like The Hub and Stepping Stones allotment.
- Adapted tasks to suit different abilities and needs, offering flexible roles and sensory-friendly approaches.
- Removed financial barriers, fostered confidence and friendships in a safe, inclusive setting. Parents report that the young people have 'found their tribe' in Wildlife Warriors, in a time when nature is 'uncool' and school peers may not have the same interests.

6) Achieve value for money

Volunteer support is crucial to deliver value for money. Without volunteers, we would need a second staff member to support with the facilitation of the sessions, which would double the cost of delivery. Trained volunteers enable us to deliver safe sessions, with appropriate ratios, to ensure committed safeguarding of the young people. We have;

- Maximised impact through volunteer contributions, utilising reclaimed materials where possible and working collaboratively with other organisations.

Key Challenges

Despite strong engagement and community impact, Wildlife Warriors faces several challenges that could limit future delivery:

- **Funding Uncertainty:** Current funding only runs until March 2026, creating insecurity for staff and youth members. This makes long-term planning difficult and risks losing momentum and continuity.
- **Staff Capacity:** Our part-time Youth Engagement Officer role is essential for sustaining Wildlife Warriors. Without funding to retain this position, one full-time staff member would become responsible for all three of our Gwent youth groups and wider youth engagement, significantly reducing delivery capacity.

The youth and education provision at GWT relies entirely on external funding sources, such as grants and trust funds, to cover both revenue and capital expenditure. In previous years, applications to MUTC have been weighted towards material and equipment spend, as we had secured funding from other external sources for salary costs. However, in recent years, grants have become increasingly more difficult to secure, especially large pots to cover multi years with multiple staff, hence an increase in our ask to smaller local funds. With no external funding, we face the harsh reality of ceasing youth and education engagement completely.





Looking Ahead

In 2026, Wildlife Warriors is looking to build on this year's successes with ambitious plans to deepen community impact and youth engagement within the Magor with Undy area:

- **Recruitment & Outreach:** Launch a new school outreach program, focussing initially on Magor and Undy Primary Schools, before expanding outward, and distribute posters locally to fill spaces as older members move on to university, work, or volunteering roles. Utilise targeted social media marketing to reach local parents or young people from the Magor with Undy community.
- **Community Projects:**
 - **Common-y-Coed:** Support biodiversity improvements in spring 2026, following discussions with the Deputy Mayor, to improve green spaces for local people.
 - **Stepping Stones Allotment:** Develop a vibrant community space featuring a sensory area for additional needs, nature-based flood mitigation, an outdoor kitchen, tool store, and wildlife observation stations; projects designed for youth involvement and community benefit.
 - **The Hub Orchard:** Continue enhancing outdoor spaces and explore new opportunities.
- **Youth Leadership:** Empower returning alumni as volunteers and youth leaders, strengthening continuity and peer mentoring.

Partnership Proposition

We would like to propose a long-term collaborative partnership with Magor with Undy Town Council, over a period of at least 3 years. This is a bespoke model we are trialling with Pontypool Community Council, and are now into Year 2 of the 3-year [Pontypool Wild Spaces](#) partnership. A Service Level Agreement relationship enables both parties to align outcomes of the project and work collaboratively to deliver outputs to achieve these. It has provided a certain level of security to us, allowing for longer term planning and development, whilst also allowing the time to develop sustainable relationships and developments within the community. In the Pontypool example, we have been delivering community nature-based events and enhanced green spaces for the benefit of both people and wildlife, specifically within the Pontypool Community Council area. This has involved identifying pockets of green space, setting up a youth group and a volunteer group, running community events and supporting the community to make practical enhancements to the green space, such as sowing wildflower seed and installing solitary bee homes within Pontypool Town Centre.

Please contact us if this is something that Magor with Undy Town Council would like to explore with us.



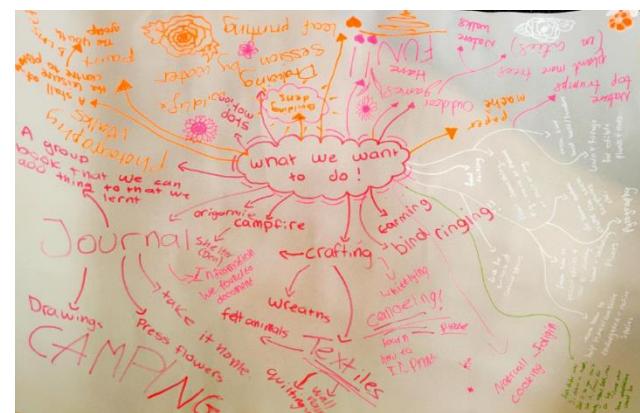


Financial Reserves

Gwent Wildlife Trust's financial reserves policy, reviewed and approved in March 2025, sets a target level of reserves equivalent to six months of operating costs (£750,000), alongside designated funds for strategic development and asset maintenance. As of 31 March 2025, the Trust holds total free reserves of £1,022,366. These reserves include provision for anticipated income shortfall, redundancy and winding up costs, and unforeseen operational expenses as well as the six months operating costs. This approach ensures the Trust's financial resilience, supports ongoing operations, and provides a contingency against income volatility, in line with Charity Commission guidance and annual review processes.



Preparing Stepping Stones allotment for development, Petra Mitchard



Ystafell Castanwydd, Tŷ Mamheilad – Bloc A,
Ystad Parc Mamheilad, Pont-y-pŵl, NP4 0HZ
Chestnut Suite, Mamhilad House – Block A,
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Gwarchod Natur ar gyfer y Dyfodol | Protecting Wildlife for the Future

Youth-generated ideas for future Wildlife Warrior sessions, Charlotte Beard



Hibernaculum at The Hub, Petra Mitchard



Natural Crafts at The Hub, Petra Mitchard



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