



Greening
MAINDEE

Maindee
Nature Plan:
A community Vision
for Nature 2025–2030

Nature
Neighbourhoods

Maindee Nature Plan 2025–2026: Executive Summary

The Maindee Nature Plan captures the collective vision and aspirations of the Maindee community to create a greener, more nature-connected neighbourhood over the next five years.

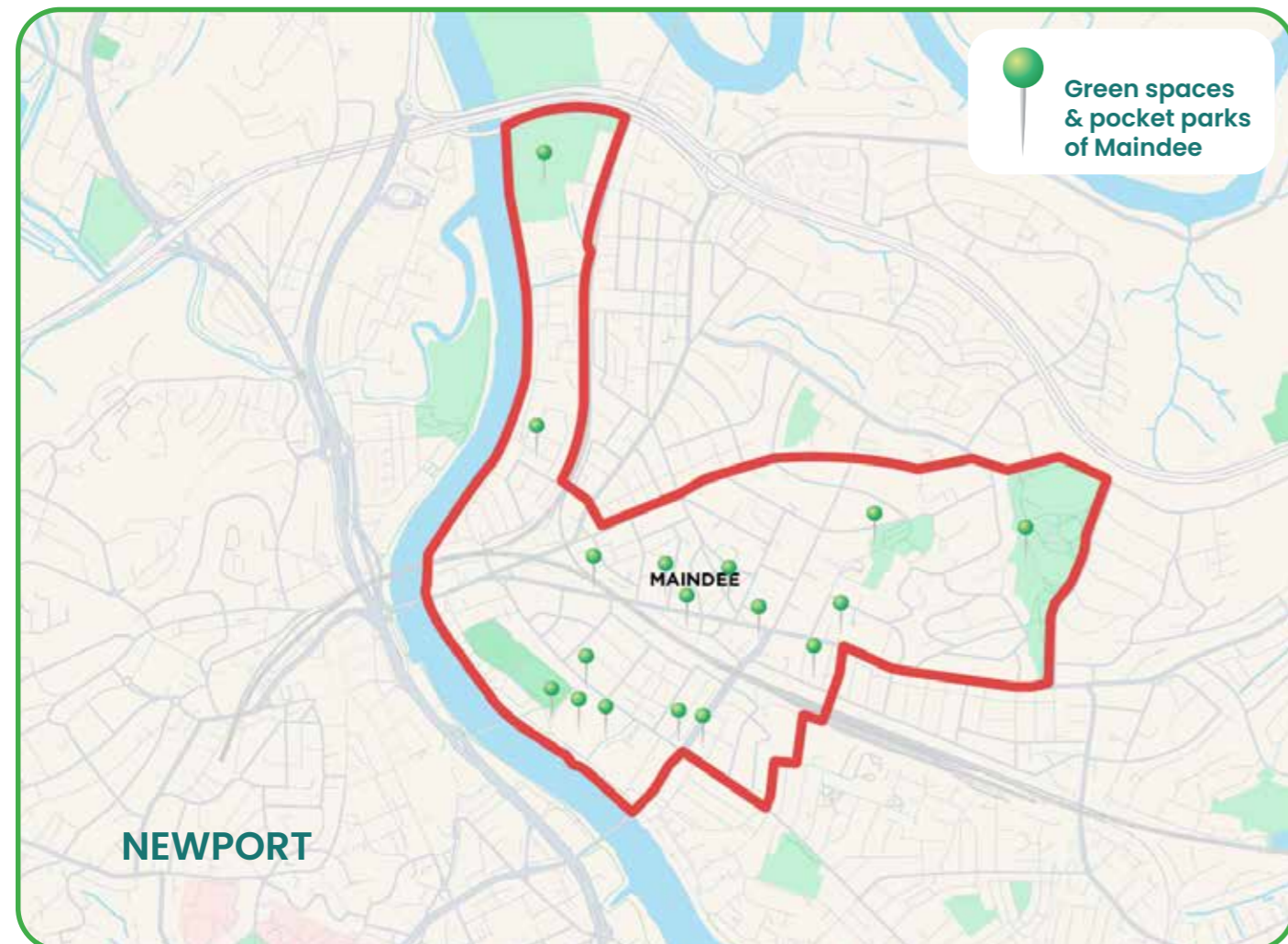
Over the past two years Greening Maindee has been involved in an exciting and transformational project known as ‘Nature Neighbourhoods’ which is being delivered in partnership with the RSPB, National Trust, World Wildlife Fund and the Co-Op. The project is working alongside 18 other community groups across England, Scotland and Wales who will each develop and implement their own specific plan for nature within their own communities. Maindee was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of these communities

The idea was borne out from the People’s Plan for Nature’ which identified that people want to take action for nature in their own communities and to hold themselves and others to account – “The Nature Neighbourhoods partnership project is a direct response to this call supporting communities to co-design an action plan for

nature in their neighbourhoods based on local needs and priorities” RSPB, 2024.

Having taken on this exciting challenge, Greening Maindee has developed a nature plan through extensive community consultation between 2022 and 2025. The plan reflects the voices of over 250 residents from a wide range of backgrounds, along with input from a network of local community groups.

Maindee is a densely populated inner-city urban area in Newport’s Victoria Ward, located east of the River Usk and focused around the Chepstow Rd High Street. It faces significant environmental and socio-economic challenges. It is among the most deprived areas in Wales; it has less than 5% tree canopy cover (far below the 20% minimum target), only one-third of a hectare of recreational green space serving nearly 9,150 people; and poor air quality caused by major road links and diesel-powered mainline rail routes that criss-cross the area.



Maindee Species list of Conservational Importance

Some of the species of conservational importance that you can find in Maindee.

- Hedgehogs
- Six Priority 1 species of bird including black-headed gulls, starlings, house sparrows and swifts
- 50 moth species
- Several frogs and lizards
- The Brown banded carder bee

Volunteers planting MUGA Chepstow Rd, 2025

Currently, Maindee lacks the environmental resilience needed to withstand the growing impacts of climate change; including flooding, drought, and the urban heat island effect that we experienced during 2025. In response, the community has identified nature-based solutions as an essential pre-requisite to improving health, wellbeing, and ecological sustainability.

This plan sets out 15 key recommendations spanning short, medium, and long-term goals, each supported by a detailed action framework. The framework identifies lead organisations, resource needs, and measures of success.

Core themes include creating accessible green spaces, enhancing environmental stewardship through community capacity building, improving safety and play opportunities for children and young people, and developing pathways into green careers and skills.

About Maindee:

Maindee is a vibrant and culturally rich neighbourhood within Newport, Wales. Key characteristics include:

- **Demographics:** Ranked among the 10% most deprived areas in Wales, with high levels of privately rented housing and houses of multiple occupation.
- **Community:** Often described as “a community of communities,” Maindee is home to residents from a wide range of cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds.



Our Greening Maindee Spaces

Eveswell Community Centre – Eveswell St

Eveswell School – Green wall

Maindee Gateway Garden on corner of Chepstow Rd and Wharf Rd

The area around the MUGA behind the Chepstow Road car park

Pop up garden opposite post office

The Triangle

The Bridge garden (under Chepstow Rd bridge)

The Maindee library garden

Maindee Primary school allotment beds

Maindee parade (where the mural is)

The gardens outside Maindee Primary school (Rodney Rd end next to Transformer)

Orchard Walk (alongside bus station, Corpa Rd)

The Boat

St.Mary's Garden (end of Wharf Road)

Halstead Street Pocket Park

Eveswell Community Garden (Soho St – new!)

- **Environmental Challenges:** A Tree Equity Score of 64 signals an urgent need for change. The area also suffers from limited access to green space, air quality issues (especially along Chepstow Road), and is designated as a flood risk area (Zone C1).
- **Strengths:** Maindee boasts a strong sense of community, a shared enthusiasm for improvement, and a history of successful environmental initiatives, including those led by Greening Maindee and Maindee Unlimited.

**HEDGEHOG NUMBERS
HAVE FALLEN BY 30%
IN THE LAST 10 YEARS**

1. About Maindee

Maindee is a vibrant, diverse community forming part of Newport, Wales. Key characteristics include:

- **Demographics:** Among the top 10% most deprived areas in Wales, with high levels of private rented accommodation and houses of multiple occupancy
- **Community:** Described as “a community of communities” with residents from many cultures, religions, and ethnicities
- **Environmental challenges:** Tree Equity Score of 64 (highest priority for change), limited green space, air quality issues on Chepstow Road, and flood risk designation (Zone C1)
- **Strengths:** Strong community spirit, enthusiasm for improvement, and existing successful greening initiatives led by Greening Maindee/Maindee Unlimited

2. Consultation Process and Engagement

2.1 CONSULTATION TIMELINE AND METHODS

The Nature Plan consultation process spanned three years (2022-2025) using diverse engagement methods to ensure inclusive participation:



Community Meal at Maindee Library, 2025

2022

- Greening Maindee Together Heritage Lottery project consultation
- Christmas questionnaire on gardening barriers (15 participants)

2023

- Maindee Heritage, People, Place project evaluation
- Community consultations (100 people across 4 sessions)
- Volunteer evaluation and relationship mapping session (October)

2024

- Aimee Parker evaluation report (March)
- Walk and Talk community sessions (March & June)
- Nature Plan questionnaires (13 participants, March)
- Autumn questionnaires (24 participants across multiple venues)
- Wonder Women group consultation

2025

- Nibble and Natter community consultation (47 participants, April)
- St Julian’s School consultation (14 young people, July)
- Young Muslim Community Organisation consultation (10 women, July)
- Flexible Options (16 adults, August)

2.2 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ENGAGED

Community Groups

- General residents across all areas of Maindee
- Wonder Women group participants
- Home-educated families network
- Volunteers and trustees of Greening Maindee
- Young Muslim Community Organisation members
- Flexible Options

Educational Partners

- Maindee Primary School staff and pupils
- Eveswell School Eco-Club and Wilding Committee



Visiting Malvern Show, 2025

- St Julian’s School Year 7 and 9 students
- Home education community

Venues and Locations

- Maindee Library
- Local pubs (Wetherspoons)
- Street consultations on Maindee Walkway
- School premises
- Community events and fairs

Demographics Reached

- Total participants: 250+ people
- Age range: Children (7-11), teenagers (12-18), adults, elderly residents
- Cultural diversity: Multiple ethnicities, languages, and religious backgrounds
- Housing situations: Private renters, homeowners, shared accommodation residents

Key Themes from Community Consultations: Explainer

The Maindee community shared a clear and passionate desire to transform their environment, highlighting both the challenges they face and the opportunities they envision. A common thread throughout the consultations was the lack of green, welcoming, and accessible spaces. Residents described a local landscape dominated by concrete, with only a few parks seen as truly green and inviting. Litter, fly-tipping, and neglected public spaces reinforced a feeling of disconnection from nature, especially among younger and older generations alike.

Community members voiced a strong need for safer, better-maintained outdoor areas where children can play, families can gather, and neighbours can connect. Issues like poor lighting, heavy traffic, and antisocial behaviour have made many outdoor spaces feel unsafe or unwelcoming. At the same time, residents expressed a strong interest in turning these challenges into opportunities—through initiatives like community gardening, “Play Streets,” improved lighting, and better access to green areas for food growing and recreation.

There was also a notable appetite for learning and leadership. Many participants, particularly young people, showed interest in environmental action but felt excluded due to barriers such as language, lack of confidence, or limited knowledge about planting and sustainability. In response, the community called for practical and inclusive engagement strategies—such as intergenerational gardening programmes, nature workshops, and creative events like Maindee in Bloom and street festivals—to build skills, celebrate diversity, and strengthen local ownership of green initiatives.

Lastly, the consultations highlighted a gap in access to green career pathways. Many residents were unaware of environmental job opportunities or how to develop the skills needed to pursue them. By investing in visibility, mentorship, and community-led projects, Maindee has the potential to not only green its environment, but also grow a new generation of environmental leaders rooted in local knowledge, creativity, and care.

3. Key Themes from Community Consultations

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Community Concerns:

- Excessive litter and fly-tipping throughout the area
- Lack of maintenance for existing public spaces
- Poor air quality, particularly along Chepstow Road
- Traffic dominance making streets unsafe and unpleasant
- Inadequate waste management systems

Community Solutions:

- Regular community clean-ups involving residents
- Underground recycling systems (inspired by Netherlands model)
- Green corridors along major roads to improve air quality
- Traffic calming measures and pedestrian priority areas
- Cycle routes through Maindee.
- Educational campaigns about proper waste disposal

3.2 GREEN SPACE CREATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Current Situation:

- Only Jubilee Park, Beechwood Park and Kemp Park identified as “really green” spaces
- Extensive concrete areas and underutilized land
- Limited tree cover (less than 5% compared to 20% minimum needed)
- Lack of accessible growing spaces for food production



St Marys Garden, Wharf Rd.





Nature Neighbourhoods Cohort at Maindee Triangle, April 2025



Community Vision:

- Community orchards with fruit and nut trees
- Allotment plots and shared raised beds throughout the area
- Window boxes and front garden improvements
- Transformation of car parks and unused land into green spaces
- Street trees and planters outside shops

3.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TRUST BUILDING

Barriers Identified:

- Language barriers preventing full participation
- Lack of knowledge about gardening and plant care
- Uncertainty about land ownership and permissions for community projects
- Limited sense of ownership over shared community spaces
- Financial constraints affecting participation in activities

Engagement Strategies:

- Community competitions (Maindee in Bloom, photography exhibitions)
- Plant giveaways and practical gardening workshops
- Street festivals celebrating local diversity and achievements
- "Street Champions" programs for hyper-local leadership
- Multilingual communication and culturally appropriate outreach

Top: Maindee Square cleanup, Summer 2025

Middle: Newport High St. Event, 2025

Bottom: Volunteers taking a break at Maindee Gateway garden, 2025

3.4 SAFE SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Current Challenges:

- Limited age-appropriate play and recreation facilities
- Safety concerns due to poor lighting and antisocial behaviour
- Traffic making streets dangerous for children's play
- Lack of supervised activities and youth engagement opportunities

Proposed Solutions:

- "Play Streets" initiatives reclaiming road space for children
- Updated and expanded playground equipment in parks
- Improved street lighting and natural surveillance

- Youth-led environmental projects and decision-making roles
- Intergenerational gardening and nature programs

3.5 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN CAREERS

Gaps Identified:

- Limited visibility of environmental career opportunities
- Insufficient curriculum focus on nature and sustainability in schools
- Lack of mentors and role models in green sectors
- Barriers to accessing training and volunteer opportunities

Development Opportunities:

- Green careers fairs highlighting local opportunities

- School-based gardening and environmental programs
- Apprenticeships and training in green infrastructure maintenance
- Community workshops on repair, reuse, and circular economy practices
- Partnerships with colleges and universities for pathway development



Summary of Recommendations and Priorities

The Maindee Nature Plan lays out a phased roadmap for transforming the area into a greener, healthier, and more connected neighbourhood. In the short term (0–6 months), the focus is on quick-win, community-driven activities that spark local interest and participation. These include friendly planting competitions, regular clean-up days, and the recruitment of local “Street Champions” to lead small-scale greening projects. Early workshops will also build foundational skills in gardening, composting, and creating wildlife habitats. Mapping existing green spaces and identifying key areas for improvement will help guide future efforts.

Moving into the medium term (6–18 months), the plan prioritises more structured and visible initiatives. These include high-impact planting projects along prominent roads like Chepstow Road, piloting temporary “Play Streets” to create safer areas for children, and connecting schools with community gardens to promote hands-on, intergenerational learning. A tool-sharing scheme and skills exchange will reduce participation barriers, while a full audit of public spaces will help identify underused sites with potential for green transformation.

In the long term (18 months–5 years), the plan aims to embed sustainability and resilience into the fabric of the community. This includes creating a connected network of green corridors to support wildlife, establish permanent food-growing hubs like orchards, and advocating for street redesigns that prioritise safety and nature. A key focus will be developing local green career pathways by partnering with schools, colleges, and employers—addressing the current lack of visibility and access to training. Finally, a sustainable, community-led funding model will help ensure these initiatives can grow and evolve well into the future. We also ask everyone in all community organisations to work together to achieve our goals.

4. Recommendations and Priorities

4.1 SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (0-6 MONTHS)

ST1. Launch Community Competition Encourage resident participation in front garden and windowsill planting with free seed distribution, practical support, and celebration events.

ST2. Establish Regular Community Clean-up Program Combine litter-picking with social



Maindee Gateway garden, June 2025

activities to build community connections while improving environmental conditions.

ST3. Create Street Champions Network Recruit and support volunteers to lead small-scale greening initiatives on their individual streets or blocks. Improve communicating between like-minded organisations and individuals.

ST4. Initiate Green Skills Workshop Series Partner with local experts to offer hands-on sessions covering basic gardening, composting, and wildlife habitat creation.

ST5. Develop Comprehensive Nature Map Document existing green spaces, identify enhancement opportunities, and map potential “insect highways” and wildlife corridors. Linking the spaces.

4.2 MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (6-18 MONTHS)

MT1. Implement Pilot “Play Streets” Program Work with Newport City Council to temporarily close selected streets to traffic, creating safe spaces for children’s play and community activities.

MT2. Establish High-visibility Community Planting Projects Focus initial efforts on shop

fronts along Chepstow Road and other prominent locations to demonstrate impact and build momentum to other streets.

MT3. Launch School-Community Garden Partnerships

Connect local schools with nearby growing spaces, developing curriculum links and intergenerational learning opportunities.

MT4. Create Community Tool Library and Skills Exchange

Establish a system for sharing gardening equipment, tools, and expertise among residents to reduce barriers to participation.

MT5. Conduct Comprehensive Public Space Audit

Systematically assess underused areas, identifying specific opportunities for conversion to green spaces and community use.

4.3 LONG-TERM STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (18 MONTHS - 5 YEARS)

LT1. Develop Connected Green Corridor Network

Create wildlife-friendly routes throughout Maindee, linking existing green spaces and providing habitat connectivity.

LT2. Establish Community Orchard and Food Growing Hub

Secure suitable locations and permissions for permanent community food production and skill-sharing spaces.

LT3. Advocate for Traffic Calming Infrastructure

Work with local authorities to implement street redesigns featuring wider pavements, reduced traffic speeds, and integrated green infrastructure.

LT4. Build Structured Green Skills Development Pathway

Partner with educational institutions and employers to create clear routes into environmental careers for local residents.

LT5. Create Sustainable Community-led Funding Model

Develop diversified funding approach including social enterprise activities, ongoing grant applications, and local business partnerships.



Wildlife Warriors at Eveswell Community Centre



THE WELSH GOVERNMENT'S MAIN BIODIVERSITY TARGETS ARE TO REVERSE THE DECLINE IN BIODIVERSITY BY 2030

THE AMOUNT OF WILDLIFE IN WALES HAS REDUCED ON AVERAGE BY 20% IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

Bird sound walk at the Glebelands, 2025

5. Action Plan [Costs are indicative only and are subject to change]

ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION	KEY PARTNERS	RESOURCES NEEDED	TIMELINE	SUCCESS MEASURES
SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (0-6 months)					
ST1: Maindee in Bloom Competition	Greening Maindee	Local businesses, Newport City Council, RHS	Cost of seeds/plants, prizes, staff and volunteer time	Months 1-12	Resident participation, front gardens improved. Better community engagement
ST2: Quarterly Community Clean-ups/Roadshows	Maindee Unlimited	Newport City Council, Contractors, local schools	Supplies, staff time, volunteer effort	Ongoing	Regular participation of residents, no. of litter bags
ST3: Street Champions Network	Greening Maindee & KWT	Partners, Pobl, Community groups, faith groups, Newport City Council	£1-3k training/materials, coordinator time	Months 2-6 setup	Champions recruited, 2 streets actively engaged
ST4: Green Skills Workshops	Local experts/volunteers/Green Careers Pathway	Greening Maindee, community centres	Est. £300/workshop plus materials, venue costs	Ongoing	Number of workshops delivered, number of local people trained
ST5: Nature Map Development	Greening Maindee	Gwent Wildlife Trust, Newport City Council	Mapping software, volunteer time	Months 6-12	Comprehensive digital map created and shared
MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (6-18 months)					
MT1: Play Streets Pilot	Newport City Council, MDCR Project	Residents associations, schools	Est £20,000+ tbc barriers/signage, staff time	Months 12-18	Number of Maindee streets trialed, safety and usage data collected
MT2: High-visibility Planting	Greening Maindee, MDCR	Shop owners, suppliers	£5-7k (depending on take-up) plants/materials, volunteer labour, maintenance costs	Months 9-24	Number of shop fronts enhanced, anecdotal evidence and local opinion
MT3: School-Community Gardens Link	Schools, Greening Maindee	Community groups, Councillors, ToCH, Community House parents	Est £10k, GM staff time, ongoing maintenance	Months ongoing	3 schools engaged, curriculum integration achieved

ACTION	LEAD ORGANISATION	KEY PARTNERS	RESOURCES NEEDED	TIMELINE	SUCCESS MEASURES
MT4: Tool Library Setup	Community organisation, Maindee Library of Things, MU	Local businesses, volunteers	Est £10k for research time, admin, power tools and equipment, storage space	Months 12-15	Number of tools available, Number of registered users
MT5: Public Space Audit	Newport City Council, professional consultants	Greening Maindee, residents	Professional survey costs	Months 12-18	Complete audit report, priority sites identified
MT6: Creating Safer Streets	Newport City Council Police, Community Org	Greening Maindee, MU, residents	Networking costs and police time. New initiative costs and communications	Ongoing	Networks established
LONG TERM ACTIONS (18 months - 5 years)					
LT1: Green Corridor Network	Newport City Council	NRW, Gwent Wildlife Trust, residents, Biodiversity Action Plan link	£50,000+ infrastructure, ongoing maintenance	Years 2-5	Km of connected corridors, wildlife monitoring data
LT2: Community Food Growing Hub	Food Growing Network	GM, MU, Landowners, community groups, volunteers	Costs for staff setup, maintenance and training	Years 2-4	Number of fruit trees and veg planted/produced
LT3: Traffic Calming Infrastructure	Newport City Council, MDCR	Welsh Government, residents	Ref MDCR Proposal document - capital investment	Years 3-5	Reduced traffic speeds, increased pedestrian usage
LT4: Green Skills Pathway	Educational partners, Pobl Green Careers	Employers, training providers	Local program costs	Years 2-5	Number of residents participating and referred, formal qualifications
LT5: Sustainable Funding Model	Maindee Unlimited, local stakeholders	Social enterprises, funders - Pride in Place, Transforming Towns	Business development support	Years 2-3	Amount of sustainable income generated



6. Resource Requirements and Funding Strategy

6.1 FINANCIAL RESOURCES SUMMARY

To enable this work to occur we will need to partner with other organisations to submit funding bids.

6.2 POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Grant Funding

- National Lottery Community Fund
- Welsh Government Nature Networks Fund
- Landfill Communities Fund
- Local authority community grants

Partnership Funding

- Newport City Council environmental budgets
- Natural Resources Wales community programs
- Local business sponsorship and donations
- Crowdfunding for specific community projects

Earned Income

- Social enterprise activities (plant sales, workshops)
- Training and consultancy services
- Community event ticket sales
- Equipment hire and tool library fees

6.3 IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Volunteer Time

- Estimated 2,000+ hours annually from community volunteers
- Professional expertise donated by local specialists
- Student placements and research partnerships

Partner Resources

- Newport City Council staff time & equipment
- School facilities and curriculum integration
- Local business premises and materials
- Community center venues and storage



SWIFTS EAT 100,000 INSECTS DAILY AND SOME FLY HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM THE SAHARA EACH YEAR TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES IN MAINDEE!

Maindee Triangle Street Art by Miss Rie

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1 SUCCESS INDICATORS

Environmental Measures

- Tree canopy coverage increase (target: 10% by 2030)
- Air quality improvements along Chepstow Road
- Biodiversity monitoring in enhanced green spaces
- Waste reduction and recycling rate improvements

Community Engagement

- Number of active volunteers and participants
- Diversity of communities involved in activities
- Resident satisfaction surveys and feedback
- Social media reach and engagement metrics

Skills and Employment

- Residents completing green skills training
- Pathways into environmental careers

- Local spending on environmental improvements
- Community-led project sustainability rates

7.2 ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS

Community Consultation

- Annual “State of Nature” community meetings
- Regular feedback sessions with key stakeholder groups
- Online surveys and accessible feedback mechanisms
- Youth councils and children’s participation sessions

Data Collection

- Photographic documentation of physical improvements
- Participation records & demographic analysis
- Financial tracking and cost-effectiveness assessment
- Partnership development and relationship mapping



8. Next Steps and Implementation

8.1 IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (NEXT 3 MONTHS)

- Establish Implementation Partnership: Form “Maindee Nature Partnership” bringing together residents, businesses, schools, and organisations
- Secure Initial Funding: Submit grant applications for short-term actions and identify immediate funding sources
- Recruit Project Coordinator: Identify staffing resources for coordinating implementation across multiple partners
- Launch Communication Campaign: Develop inclusive outreach strategy and begin community engagement for first initiatives
- Create Working Groups: Establish focused teams for each key theme area with clear responsibilities and timelines

8.2 SIX-MONTH MILESTONES

- First Maindee in Bloom competition launched and underway
- Regular clean-up program established with regular participants
- Street Champions network recruited & trained
- Initial green skills workshops delivered
- Nature mapping completed and published

8.3 ONE-YEAR VISION

- Play Streets pilot program operational
- High-visibility planting projects creating visual impact
- School partnerships delivering curriculum-linked activities
- Tool library serving community needs
- Public space audit informing longer-term planning

9. Conclusion

The Maindee Nature Plan represents an ambitious but achievable vision for transforming one of Wales’ most challenged communities through nature-based solutions and community-led action. The extensive consultation process has revealed both the depth of environmental challenges and the tremendous enthusiasm and creativity of local residents in addressing them.

Success will depend on sustained partnership working, adequate resource mobilization, and maintaining the inclusive, community-centered approach that has characterized the consultation process. The plan provides a roadmap for the next five years while remaining flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging opportunities.

Most importantly, this plan recognizes that environmental improvement and community development are inseparable goals. By creating more green spaces, building local capacity, and providing opportunities for meaningful participation, the Nature Plan can contribute to addressing wider issues of deprivation, social isolation, and economic disadvantage that affect the Maindee community.

The journey toward a greener, more nature-connected Maindee begins with the first small steps outlined in this plan. With community commitment, partner support, and adequate resources, the vision of a thriving, sustainable neighbourhood can become reality over the coming years.

This Nature Plan will be reviewed annually and updated based on community feedback, implementation experience, and changing local circumstances. For more information or to get involved, contact [Greening Maindee](mailto:greeningmaindee@gmail.com).

greeningmaindee@gmail.com

Nature Neighbourhoods

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