



Caru Gwenyn  
Bee Friendly



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Case Studies

# Tai Tarian – playing their part in a sustainable future

In 2018, Tai Tarian joined Wales' Bee Friendly initiative. Tai Tarian is one of the largest social housing providers in Wales, owning over 9000 properties and managing over 450 acres in the Neath Port Talbot County. In 2016, with a member of staff fully trained to become their resident beekeeper, they installed bee hives at their head office in Baglan. Following this, they made links with local school children and educated them on the importance of bees.

Apprentices employed on their Copper Foundation programme worked with the children.

They helped them to design and create bug hotels, which are located at Baglan.

Tai Tarian has worked with Buglife Cymru to create wildflower and community woodlands habitats for pollinators along identified 'B-lines' ([www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)). They feel that the key to success in their projects is the connections they have made with local schools and communities.

Partnership working has given pride and value to the projects, which have enhanced green spaces and improved biodiversity in the Borough.



## Enhancing our Haven Housing Schemes (independent living for the over 55's)

Initially, Haven Housing tenants were invited to coffee mornings. During these, Clare Dinham (Buglife Cymru) explained the B-Line project and the work required for wildflower planting.

The Tai Tarian team encouraged tenants to get involved in whatever way they felt comfortable.

This could be helping to prepare ground or sowing seeds. If mobility were an issue, tenants could promote the B-Line projects to friends and families. At several housing schemes, tenants have seen and enjoyed the benefits of wildflower meadows in full bloom.





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## Croeserw, Port Talbot

Croeserw is a rural village in the Afan valley just outside the B-line corridor.

Through additional funding from their contractors and in partnership with NPTCBC Biodiversity team they are currently

working to install an interactive nature trail ([www.taitarian.co.uk](http://www.taitarian.co.uk))

The trail is on a large area of land in the heart of the community, which was previously underutilised and often became a focus of anti-social behaviour.



This project will provide a habitat for pollinators and a new opportunity for the community and school to use it as a recreational/ educational space.

Tai Tarian's Tenant Empowerment Team engaged with the Eco Team at Croeserw Primary School and raised

awareness about the B-Line project.

They delivered bug hotel-making workshops.

They also helped the pupils design their ideal outdoor space and turn this into a reality.

## Cwmavon, Port Talbot

Cwmavon is a semi-rural village in Port Talbot. Tai Tarian identified land adjacent to a children's play area as a safe, accessible location for children and young people to engage with nature.

Partnership activities started with Tai Tarian Neighbourhood Team preparing the land.

This was followed by an invitation to the community to sow wildflower seeds.

The project has made a huge difference to the aesthetics of the area, with local residents really taking pride in their community.





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## Open Spaces Projects

Tai Tarian identify parcels of land that are underutilised or subject to anti-social behaviour.

They encourage local community members to offer ideas of what the land can be used for and will work with them to make their projects a reality.

## Trees for Bees Cwmllynfell, Pontardawe

Cwmllynfell is a semi-rural village in the Lower Swansea valley, within the B-Line corridor. A local resident has requested a long term lease for several plots of land to develop a 'Trees for Bees' project.

This community orchard project aims to provide volunteering opportunities and activities, nectar for pollinators and produce to enjoy.

## Glyncorrwg, Port Talbot

Glyncorrwg is a small rural village in the Afan Valley within the B-line corridor. The community councillor has requested

a long lease for an area of land to use for wildflower planting, a community garden and other community initiatives.

## Community Garden Crynant, Neath

Crynant is a small village in the Neath Valley, also located within the B-line corridor.

Crynant Men's Shed approached Tai Tarian for a parcel of land to turn into a community orchard for local residents.

Local school children joined them to plant the fruit trees and plan to utilise the area as an outdoor learning resource.

The fruit trees were supplied by local contractors.





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## Nant Hir Woodland Garden, Glynneath

Nant Hir Woodland Garden has been a true partnership project between Tai Tarian Neighbourhood Team and two local schools, Cwmnedd Primary and YGG Cwmnedd.

The Neighbourhood Team cut back some of the trees to open up the woodland canopy. This let in natural light allowing some of the natural wildflowers to re-establish.

The children have been involved in creating bug hotels, clearing space, planting wildflowers and learning about the importance of attracting pollinators.

The children can't wait to use the woodland garden as part of outdoor learning. They will make posters to be placed in the area encouraging people to enjoy the space.

### Plans for the Future

Over the coming years, Tai Tarian has committed to enhancing the green space within our local communities. They will create more community woodlands, improve open spaces with wildflower planting and encourage local people to get involved.