

student no': 2005667

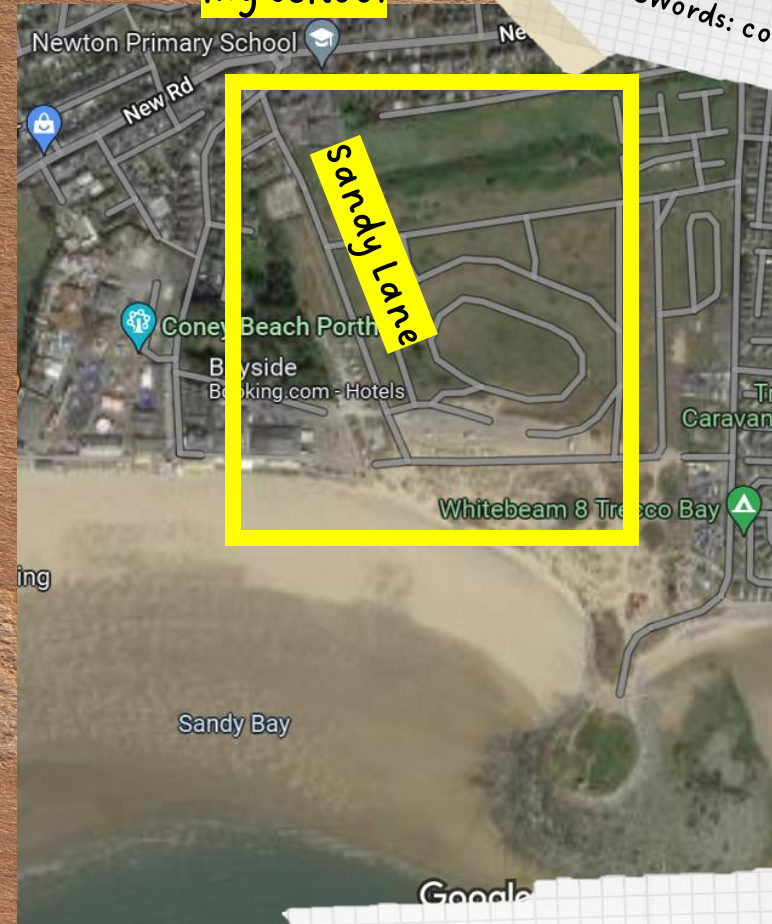
The love of Sandy Lane
John Muir Award 2022

Discover

The area that I have chosen to discuss surrounds my school Newton Primary in Porthcawl.

My school is incredibly lucky to be situated extremely close to the beach.

As a school we use this beautiful natural resource throughout the year, whether it be for structured activities, wellbeing breaks for staff / children or fun sessions led by the children. To access the beach we take a 5/6 minute walk down Sandy Lane.



Map co-ordinates: 51°28'52.2"N 3°41'37.4"W
What3Words: conclude.ideals.tiptoes

Here is a Google Map image of the school, Sandy Lane and beautiful beach.

Sandy Lane



Demetrius Shindler 1891

What do we know about Sandy Lane?

It is a former road which linked a main road to a caravan site which was part of Trecco Bay in Porthcawl. The majority of the campsite has been removed and it is mainly used by dog walkers and pedestrians for access to the beach, fairground and tourism areas.

It is surrounded by large green spaces which is thriving with creatures and wild flowers. There is a small carpark at the start of the lane which is usually used by parents for school drop offs.

The council's proposal

Porthcawl Appropriation Overview by Bridgend County Borough Council

On 20th July 2021 the Council's Cabinet made an "in principle" decision to appropriate approximately 19.84 hectares of land at Sandy Bay and Griffin Park to alternative uses, to deliver the regeneration of Porthcawl's waterfront in accordance with the Local Development Plan and recently approved Placemaking Strategy. Before formally appropriating the land, the Council is required to publicise a notice of its intention to appropriate the land and consider any representations received before reaching a final decision.

W News • Wales News • Porthcawl

Residents concerned over potential loss of green space in Porthcawl

WalesOnline 



NOTICE UNDER SECTION 122(2A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- APPROPRIATION OF LAND INCLUDING OPEN SPACE

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

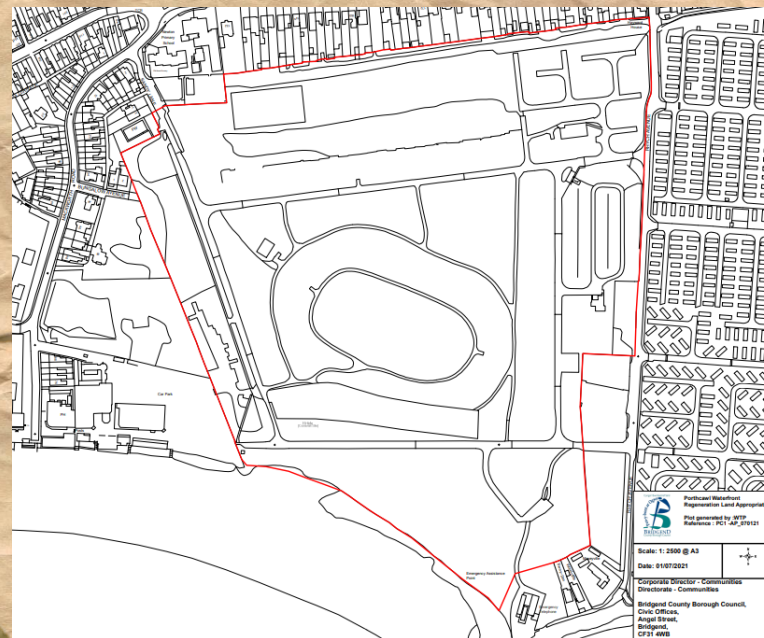
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 122(2A)

LAND AT GRIFFIN PARK AND SANDY BAY, PORTHCAWL

Notice is hereby given that Bridgend County Borough Council intends to appropriate land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay, Porthcawl, having an area of approximately 19.84 hectares, which is currently designated open space, to hold for planning purposes as defined in section 246 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

This proposal means that the council is planning to take over Sandy Lane and the school's gated field to sell it to a building developer who plans to build over 900 houses. This is the area shown in red on the map.

This announcement has had a big impact on the children, parents and staff as it would mean we would lose this precious green space to a housing estate. Losing the access to these green spaces and the easy access to the beach will have a big impact on the local environment, the habitats and creatures that live there and the wellbeing of the people who use the area.



My Aim

I aim to explore the area further with the support of pupils at my school. I want to find out and gather information about the area to help support the community and school with their petitions against the proposed plans by the council.

Explore

Drain



Water



Trees



Grassy field

Habitats

Within the first few minutes of a walk down Sandy Lane the children were able to find a range of habitats.



hide

rock

splash

climb

rest

fly

crawl

We chose some small world items from school and placed them in the different places that could be habitats. It was a lot of fun discussing all the different places our characters could live in and what their worlds would be like. There were so many different places! My next focus was to find out what actual living things were in the area.

Plant life

<https://www.plantlife.org>

Here are some photographs I've taken of the plants and flowers in the area. I have done some research using Google and local Facebook pages to help me find out more information about the plants.

Pyramidal orchid

This is usually seen in June/July and is found in grassland. It is usually purple but can range from deep magenta to white. It can be found in various places in England and Wales but is much scarcer in Scotland.



Murnong Yam Daisy

More commonly known as the Dandelion.

They prefer sandy soil and little water. In the mid 1840s they were a staple food for Wurundjeri Aboriginal people.



Yarrow plants

Usually seen between June-Sept in grassland and coastal dune areas. They are white/pink in colour and have feather like leaves that are aromatic when crushed.



Hedge Bindweed

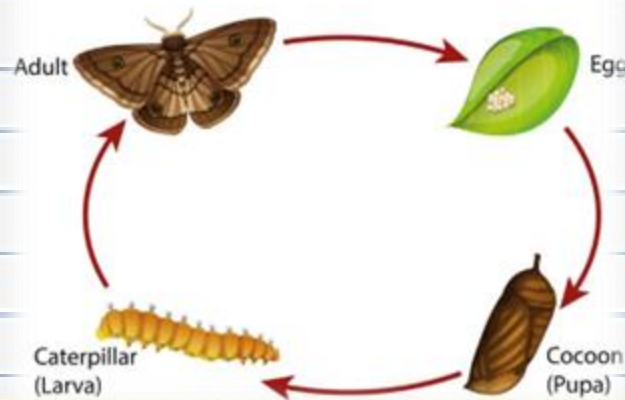
Occasionally found in scrubby wasteland. It is a climbing plant and can grow over 2 metres tall. It is the most common Bindweed in Britain.

Burnet Moth



A person from the community was able to capture these photographs of the metamorphosis of a Burnet Moth.

Life Cycle of a Moth



During my time exploring Sandy Lane I have been shocked by how little I knew about the wildlife that can be found there. I often take a wellbeing walk here and I have found a new appreciation for taking the time to look at what is actually around me.

Walking in this area often helps me to relax and feel calmed especially during difficult days in school.

Creatures

Garden snail

Garden snails can be seen throughout the garden at night. Also in parks and woods.

They are usually seen at night in spring, summer and autumn, but are most active in warm, damp weather.



Herring gull

In summer they have a white head, which develops dark streaking in winter.



Harpactea hombergi



Found under stones, bark, hedges and dry litter. It lays eggs in batches of 20.



Early Bumblebee

Common Blue



It's the most widespread blue butterfly in Britain. It is found in grassy habitats. Has a wing span of 35 mm.



Song Thrush

The Song Thrush is an amber on the UK conservation list. I enjoy listening to this as it sounds upbeat and happy. During my walks down Sandy Lane I try to stop and listen to see how many different types of bird song I can hear.

Litter

Fleece blanket



During a walk I was upset to see just how much litter there was on the footpath and surrounding areas. Within a minute or two I had come across multiple pieces of rubbish that had been discarded by people. Here are some images taken of litter in the area.

Trainer



Tin can

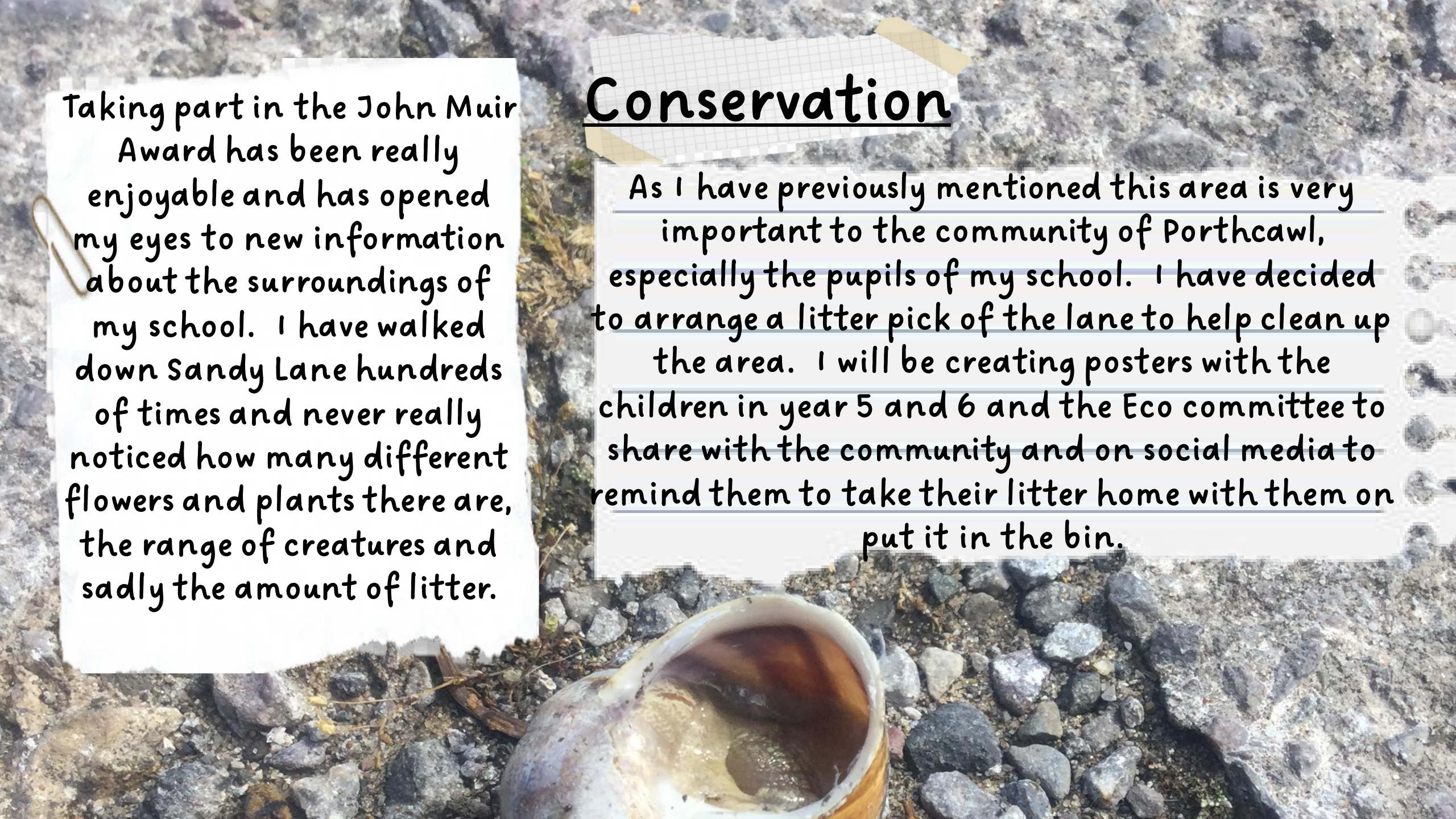


Tissue paper

As the lower part of the path is used by campers it was evident to see that this was having a negative effect on the natural surroundings.

Bottle lid





Taking part in the John Muir Award has been really enjoyable and has opened my eyes to new information about the surroundings of my school. I have walked down Sandy Lane hundreds of times and never really noticed how many different flowers and plants there are, the range of creatures and sadly the amount of litter.

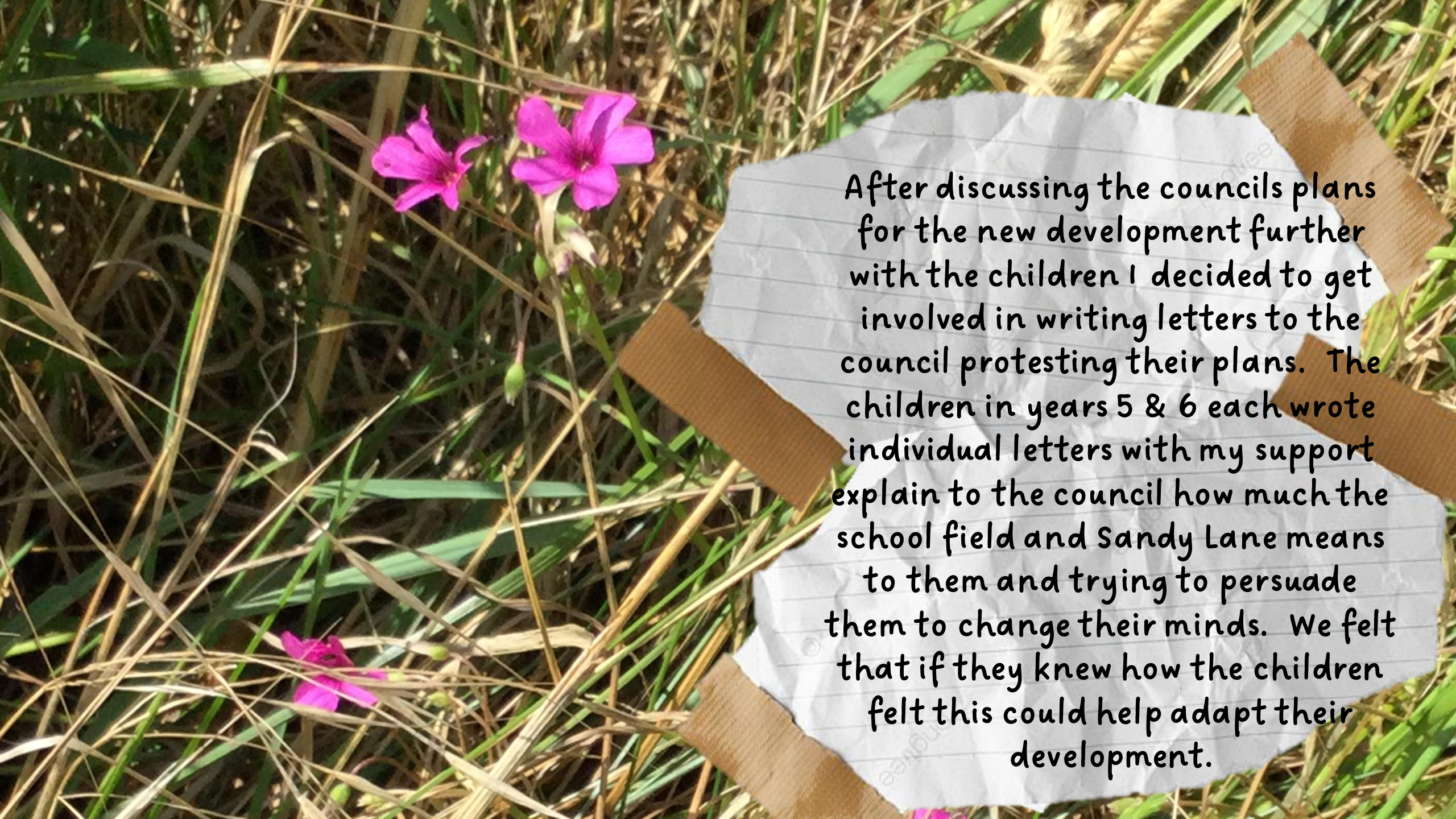
Conservation

As I have previously mentioned this area is very important to the community of Porthcawl, especially the pupils of my school. I have decided to arrange a litter pick of the lane to help clean up the area. I will be creating posters with the children in year 5 and 6 and the Eco committee to share with the community and on social media to remind them to take their litter home with them on put it in the bin.



Here are some examples of the posters the children created with my support for the community about the littering in Sandy Lane.





After discussing the councils plans for the new development further with the children I decided to get involved in writing letters to the council protesting their plans. The children in years 5 & 6 each wrote individual letters with my support explain to the council how much the school field and Sandy Lane means to them and trying to persuade them to change their minds. We felt that if they knew how the children felt this could help adapt their development.



Share

I have shared the children's littering posters on our school Facebook page and Class Dojo to help get support from the community.

The children's letters to protest the new development have been shared with the council and we are awaiting a reply.

With both the litter collection/posters and letters to the council I really hope that I have helped contribute to the conservation of this area.

On reflection I have learnt about a range of different plants that previously I just saw as 'weeds' and not thought about their origin or what it takes for them to grow. I did not realise how many different types of gulls and bumble bees there were. I found out lots by researching online and looking at the photos of how different they all are.

I will aim to do my best to help tackle the litter issue in Sandy Lane.