

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6**  
**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**  
**Report 2022**

**Penyffordd Community Council**

**Introduction and Context**

The s6 duty requires that public authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'. To comply with the S6 duty public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities.

More information about national and local actions and objectives can be found at Wales Biodiversity Partnership using the following link:

<https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/>

The reporting duty is not designed to be burdensome but should reflect the size and type of organisation regarding the action for biodiversity they can carry out.

Penyffordd Community Council provide a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. We are committed to promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

We serve approximately 3874 residents within Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshell and are under the Local Authority of Flintshire County Council. Our precept for 2022-23 is £116,1851.

In summary:

- The area consists of mainly mixed density residential property and has some open spaces Included within them, mature tree planting schemes and several estates have deep grass verges
- There are two Primary/Junior Schools within the Community.
- The council is also responsible for litter collection, maintenance of planters, small spaces, nature area, a selection of street lighting and festive lighting.
- Currently the only property owned by Penyffordd Community Council is the Millstone Play Area. We also have Dobshell Play Area and West View Nature Area which are on long term lease.
- There are Children's playing fields situated at Melwood Close, Ffordd Derwyn, West View that are owned by Flintshire County Council and part funded by the Community Council through annual Match Funding for improvements. There are also private developer funded play areas on the Groves and White Lion Estates.

**Action Report**

How the Council assists biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities).

Please note in respect of Public services delivery - The Council is not subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act as its Precept is below £200,000

Principle	Action	Monitored by
embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2019 Annual Report.</li> <li>taken into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters.</li> </ul>	<p>Commitments made in documents</p> <p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.</p>
raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local school Eco Committees to encourage knowledge and awareness of environmental and sustainability matters amongst local children.</li> <li>encouraged the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces.</li> <li>posted details of the actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website, social media platforms</li> </ul>	<p>Through feedback from Council members (as School Governors) and residents.</p> <p>Numbers of people taking part in activities</p>
safeguard principal species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contributed to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)</li> </ul>	<p>Records of any sites or species safeguarded</p>
restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted hanging baskets and planters with native pollinator friendly flowers.</li> <li>Supported a local community woodland which has delivered tree &amp; shrub planting which is now a haven for wildlife.</li> <li>Changed mowing regimes by reducing the frequency of cuts to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants, also providing cover for small mammals and reptiles.</li> <li>Installed nesting boxes at our Nature Area, to provide safe places for species of birds that are struggling to nest.</li> <li>Planting of trees and fruit trees as part of the Sponsor a Tree Scheme.</li> <li>Work in partnership with FCC Biodiversity Officer</li> </ul>	<p>Numbers of nesting sites provided</p>
tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non-native species.</li> </ul>	<p>Areas of invasive species tackled</p> <p>Amount of pesticide applied</p>
use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>working with the Biodiversity Officer at Local County Council (for example) to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues</li> <li>working with the Woodwork Management company of West View Nature Area</li> </ul>	<p>Use of expert advice</p>

<p>support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate, where appropriate, how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project.</li> <li>• working with the Woodwork Management company of West View Nature Area Worked to encourage extra volunteers to improve local wildlife area</li> <li>• Continue with the Sponsor a Tree scheme</li> <li>• Community litter picks – promoting and encouraging community litter picks in partnership with and supported by local businesses (McDonalds @ Broughton and Co-op @ Penyffordd). Events also supported by local authority Biodiversity Officer – Sarah Slater.</li> </ul>	<p>Amount of money spent which will provide positive biodiversity benefits</p> <p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit.</p>
<p>Council staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Groundsman - employed to work on own initiative to maintain and develop supported planters, tree planting and act as a point of contact and centre of influence within the community to encourage community cohesion and integration of new people to the community. Also working in conjunction with Woodwood who provide expertise and advice in development of our environmental/wildlife areas, their upkeep and raising awareness of and support in application for funding through partnership and national schemes (e.g Transport for Wales).</li> <li>• Litter Picker – employed to work on own initiative to maintain the community free from litter and act as a point of contact and centre of influence within the community to encourage community cohesion and integration of new people to the community.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Review of s6 duty</b></p>		
<p><u>What has worked well?</u></p> <p>The creation of wildflower and plant areas has been a success, especially as it has proved attractive to residents in addition to helping biodiversity. Also, there have been some cost savings through the reduction in mowing.</p> <p><u>What have the barriers been?</u></p> <p>The council can only recommend and encourage residents and land owners in the community to embrace biodiversity. Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.</p> <p><u>What will you change?</u></p>		

Work with the Local Authority Biodiversity Officer and seek advice whenever necessary.

Will seek to encourage the planting up of hardscape/paved areas and publicise the work of Groundwork and other ecology groups on the Councils website.

Promote biodiversity more proactively by using the councils social media and website.

The Community Council has established an Environment Working Group who will liaise with other organisations working within the community and bring forward proposals to support Flintshire County Council in its management and continuing improvement of the biodiversity of ecosystems within our community

How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

The duty will be monitored by the Council Members and Clerk & RFO reporting back to full council through periodic updates.

The s6 plan will be reviewed in light of these reports and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Council. At the time of this report's publication, there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed, however, we aim to review within six months.

Approved by council at the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022