

## Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1, Section 6

### The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

#### 2022 Report – Bay of Colwyn Town Council

##### Introduction and Context

The Bay of Colwyn Town Council provides a range of services to the local community which may have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a small memorial garden in Rhos-on-Sea (currently maintained by Rhos-on-Sea Rotary Club under a Service Level Agreement)
- Organising seasonal planting displays across Colwyn Bay, Old Colwyn and Rhos-on-Sea, to include hanging baskets and barrier planters
- Funding – providing grant funding for a wide range of local groups/projects and events, which may subsequently have an impact on biodiversity.
- Organising or supporting clean-up campaigns etc, and promoting environmental awareness, through the Colwyn in Bloom committee

We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing and promoting sustainable practices wherever possible, in accordance with our duty under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015.

The Bay of Colwyn Town Council serves approximately 25,000 residents and its precept for 2022/23 is £484,000

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed the consideration of biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's Corporate Plan – see the annual Action Plan document (reviewed quarterly)</li> <li>• Consider potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems when submitting observations on planning applications</li> <li>• Consider potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems when providing grant funding to other organisations.</li> </ul>	Commitments made in these documents  Observations on planning applications  Grant application forms and reports

<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity &amp; its importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including biodiversity and ecosystems into criteria for annual Colwyn in bloom competitions, e.g. schools' awards schemes and other Colwyn in Bloom classes</li> <li>• Encourage the local community to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces</li> <li>• Publicise the actions we take to promote biodiversity on our website and social media platforms.</li> </ul>	<p>Annual Colwyn in Bloom portfolio</p> <p>Colwyn in Bloom Committee (minutes) Town Council website and Colwyn in Bloom facebook page</p>
<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the management and protection of local natural habitats, e.g. by appointing representatives to outside bodies such as the CCBC Pwllcrochan Woods Panel and the Bryn Euryn Nature Reserve.</li> <li>• Appointed a tree warden and signed up to the Tree Charter to help protect existing trees.</li> </ul>	<p>Minutes of meetings</p>
<p>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the Tree Charter and encourage local grow-your-own and tree planting initiatives.</li> <li>• Use native pollinator friendly planting, where possible (e.g. for annual hanging baskets)</li> <li>• Support the creation of more wildlife and biodiversity areas in parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Support changes to mowing regimes to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants.</li> <li>• Consider installation of nesting boxes for specific bird species.</li> </ul>	<p>Habitats increased</p>

	<p>Support creation of more community orchards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage others to plant more pollinator friendly plants (via Colwyn in Bloom 'How to' leaflets and school gardening award scheme).</li> </ul>	
<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt a sustainable procurement policy to source sustainable office supplies, such as recycled paper, cleaning products, furniture etc (e.g. locally made and/or made from recycled material)</li> <li>• Support and promote campaigns to reduce single use plastics and replace with more sustainable alternatives.</li> <li>• Recycle/re-use existing products, e.g. plant pots</li> <li>• Reduce use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary and encourage others too (e.g. via Colwyn in Bloom 'How to' leaflet).</li> <li>• Support/encourage use of peat free compost by our nursery suppliers.</li> </ul>	<p>Taking responsibility for own actions and being accountable</p>
<p>-use, improve and share evidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Colwyn in Bloom's 'How to' leaflets to promote best practice</li> <li>• Sign up to the PSB's community environmental pledge and share widely</li> </ul>	
<p>-support capacity, and/or other organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced a 'green volunteer of the year' category to champion environmental activists.</li> <li>• Require grant recipients to</li> </ul>	<p>Grant forms</p>

	<p>demonstrate how they can support biodiversity as part of any grant-funded project/activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Keep Wales Tidy to develop a local hub for litter picks/ beach clean ups.</li> </ul>	<p>New partnerships formed.</p>
<p><b>Review of S6 Duty</b></p>		
<p>Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has worked well?</li> </ul> <p>The continuing creation of more wildflower/biodiversity areas in local parks/open spaces has been successful. Residents now see the benefits of these as a natural habitat, alongside the cost savings from less frequent mowing regimes.</p> <p>The ongoing move to more sustainable planting and a lesser reliance on non-native annual bedding plants has also helped to create more diverse habitats.</p> <p>The Town Council regularly submits objections to planning applications seeking to remove mature trees (unless damaged or diseased) and works closely with the Tree Officer at the County Council to seek alternative solutions, including suitable replanting, wherever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What have the barriers been?</li> </ul> <p>A lack of knowledge and expertise around the implications of the duty to consider biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems (especially since and due to the local government elections in May 2022) and a possible lack of capacity to effectively engage with the wider community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will you change?</li> </ul> <p>Consider appointing an individual member to champion</p>	

	<p>the topic and engage with the wider community, whenever opportunities arise.</p> <p>Encourage members of the council to attend any appropriate training available in connection with biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>
<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The s6 action plan will be reviewed, taking into consideration the actions already taken, and incorporated into the Council's new Corporate Plan (2022-27) and annual action plans for 2022/23 onwards.</li> <li>• Once embedded into the Corporate Plan, compliance with the duty will be monitored by the Town Council as part of its quarterly review (via the Clerk's reporting in the annual action plan).</li> </ul>