

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1, Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

2025 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) and for Gardd Pawb, a new community garden at the rear of the Town Hall site.
- 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.

The Bay of Colwyn Town Council serves approximately 26,500 residents and its precept for 2025/26 is £554,650.

The Council promotes 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 Town Council has formally declared a Climate and Nature Emergency and has developed a separate Climate Action Plan.

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed the consideration of biodiversity into decision making & procurement	• The Council has reflected its commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's Corporate Plan – refer to the objectives, principles and actions in the Bay of Colwyn Place Plan, adopted in January 2024 (and specifically the Green Colwyn section).	Action plan updates and reports to Council from the Place Plan Manager and Steering Committee members

	• The Council has considered potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems when submitting observations on planning applications. OVW guidance (2025) has also been shared with Members of the Councils Planning Committee. • The Council has considered potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems when providing grant funding to other organisations. • The Council intends to adopt a sustainable procurement policy to source sustainable supplies (e.g. office products such as recycled paper, cleaning products, furniture etc which are locally made and/or made from recycled material). <i>Guidance is currently being sought from OVW and SLCC on developing this.</i> • The Council has checked that its bank/investment companies (Lloyds Bank and CCLA) have good biodiversity policies	See observations submitted on planning applications Grant application forms and reports <i>See action plan for 2025-27</i>
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	• The Council has Included biodiversity and ecosystems into criteria for its annual Colwyn in bloom competitions, e.g. schools' awards schemes and other Colwyn in Bloom classes • The Council has actively encouraged the local community to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces, via the local Incredible Edible group,	Annual Colwyn in Bloom portfolio and competition reports Colwyn in Bloom Committee (minutes)

	Friends Groups and through open sessions at Gardd Pawb. • The Council has published the actions taken to promote biodiversity on our website and social media platforms. • The Council has encouraged other local groups/orgs to include biodiversity in their annual activities/shows etc, via Town Council members. • An audit of existing interpretation panels/boards has been carried out and we are working with Conwy CBC to find funding to upgrade/replace older ones.	Town Council website and Colwyn in Bloom facebook page Examples include Colwyn Bay Conservation and Environment Federation and the Colwyn Bay Horticultural Society See Place Plan action plan for updates
-safeguard principal species and habitats	• The Town Council has contributed to the management and protection of local natural habitats, e.g. by appointing representatives to outside bodies such as CCBC's Pwllcrochan Woods Panel and the Dingle and Fairy Glen Local Nature Reserves. • The Council has also appointed a tree warden and signed up to the Tree Charter to help protect existing trees and hedgerows. • The adopted Place Plan recognises the importance of protecting and developing green corridors • Members have received training on responding to planning	Minutes of meetings / List of Reps on Outside Bodies Place Plan, Green Colwyn section GPP Committee Minutes

	applications from Planning Aid Wales and One Voice Wales.	
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	• The Council has promoted the Tree Charter/protection of trees and encouraged local grow-your-own and tree planting initiatives. • The Council uses native pollinator friendly planting, where possible (e.g. for annual hanging baskets and for its small community garden) • The Council has supported the creation of more wildlife and biodiversity areas in parks and open spaces. • The Council has supported changes to mowing regimes to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants. • The Council considers installation of nesting boxes for specific bird species, via planning applications for new developments and at its own site. • The Council has supported the creation of more community orchards, by providing grants to other organisations and planting fruit trees in Gardd Pawb. • The Council supports/ encourages planting of new hedgerows to improve connectivity.	Habitats increased Planting lists and future plans. Council and Colwyn in Bloom Committee minutes Support for Conwy CBC in its maintenance plans Planning observations and Gardd Pawb Grants/ward allowances and Gardd Pawb planting. Via comments on planning applications

	• The Council has encouraged others to include hedgehog holes in fences between gardens • The Council has continued to encourage others to plant more pollinator friendly plants (e.g. via Colwyn in Bloom 'How to' leaflets, school gardening award scheme and Gardd Pawb project). • The Council promotes the annual bird and butterfly counts, to help raise awareness • The Council promotes/shares RHS initiatives	Via Colwyn in Bloom Facebook page Colwyn in Bloom committee minutes and Gardd Pawb reports. Social media posts See Colwyn in Bloom IYN entries and social media posts
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	• The Council has continued to support and promote campaigns to reduce single use plastics and replace with more sustainable alternatives. • The Council recycles/re-uses existing products, e.g. plant pots • The Council has reduced its use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary and encourages others too (e.g. via 'How to' leaflet). • The Council has supported/ encouraged the use of peat free compost by our suppliers and used peat free compost for its own planters in Gardd Pawb.	Colwyn in Bloom / social media posts See Gardd Pawb Sustainable Procurement practice

	The Council seeks opportunities to raise awareness and/or seek action to tackle invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed	
-use, improve and share evidence	- The Council continues to use Colwyn in Bloom's 'How to' leaflets to promote best practice - Members of the Climate and Nature Sub-Committee have undertaken carbon literacy training - The Council has adopted a climate and nature action plan and actively involves the local community, e.g. by participating in the national Beach of Dreams event in May 2025, with a focus on reducing carbon footprints and protecting our local environment/habitats for future generations.	
-support capacity, and/or other organisations	- The Council has a 'green volunteer of the year' category in its annual Volunteer Awards programme, to champion environmental activists. - The Council requires grant recipients to demonstrate how they can support biodiversity as part of any grant-funded project/activity - The Council continues to work with Keep Wales Tidy to maintain a local hub for litter picks/ beach clean ups.	Volunteer of the Year awards Grant forms Partnerships

	The Council supports activity to gain or maintain green flag and blue flag accreditation	
Review of S6 Duty		
Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan	What has worked well? The continuing support for the creation of more wildflower/biodiversity areas in local parks/open spaces has been successful. Residents see the benefits of these as a natural habitat, alongside the cost savings from less frequent mowing regimes. The ongoing move to more sustainable planting and a lesser reliance on non-native annual bedding plants has continued to help to create more diverse habitats. The Town Council regularly submits objections to planning applications seeking to remove mature trees or hedgerows (unless damaged or diseased) and works closely with the Tree Officer at the County Council to seek alternative solutions, including suitable replanting, wherever possible. The Council was successful in obtaining Local Places for Nature funding from the National Lottery and Welsh Government to create a new community garden (Gardd Pawb) in a back alley in the centre of a deprived urban ward in the centre of the town, creating a colourful new habitat of pollinator friendly flowers, fruit and vegetables and using this as a way to engage more volunteers and interest in 'grow your own' as a source of food. The local Incredible Edible Colwyn group has gone from strength to strength and is expanding its activities across the area. The Council's participation in the UK-wide 'Beach of Dreams' event in May 2025 highlighted the importance of our local environment and brought the climate and nature conversation to an audience of over 10,000, incorporating an eco-zone in our annual Prom Day	

	event for the first time and developing new partnerships with bodies such as the North Wales Wildlife Trust. A Climate and Nature Sub-Committee has been formed, reporting to the Colwyn in Bloom Committee, to focus on implementing actions for the short, medium and long-term and several members have now attended the new OVW Biodiversity training modules. • What have the barriers been? Take-up of the new OVW biodiversity training modules 25 & 26 has been lower than we had hoped. Recruiting and retaining volunteers to help look after our local open spaces takes time and effort and this will need adequate ongoing resourcing. • What will you change? Encourage and support members of the council to attend any appropriate training available in connection with biodiversity and ecosystems (e.g. OVW modules 25 and 26) via the annual training plan. Ensure sufficient resources are available to support ongoing volunteer effort.
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	• The s6 action plan will be reviewed annually, taking into consideration the actions already taken, and any additional actions identified, e.g. via the Place Plan's Green Colwyn Working Group. • Compliance with the duty will be monitored by the Climate and Nature Sub-Committee and reported to the Council on a regular basis.