

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

Reporting on Section 6



Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Name of Town or Community Council: Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

Introduction and Context

Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council provides a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity.

The Council provides one community building and is joint owner of sports changing facilities. It provides and maintains a recreational area where a range of sports can be played.

It provides allotment facilities in Bedlinog and Trelewis, where biodiversity can be enriched, with land cultivated to produce vegetables, fruit, and flowers.

The Council provides community support and awards grants for community projects in the Council's area.

The Council promotes the principle of sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

The Council is aware of the climate emergency and will consult with government advisory bodies, websites, partner organisations, agencies, and individuals across the Council's administrative area.

In everything we do, we will look to:

- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Use energy more efficiently.
- Switch to low carbon fuels.
- Prepare for climate change.

Over the next 12 months we are aiming to conduct the following:

- Create more allotment plots in Trelewis (Manor View).
- Provide twenty-two allotment bed holders with compost bins to increase recycling/renewability.
- Install solar powered security lighting at three allotment sites.
- Plant fruit trees, install bug hotel and insect towers and beehives for pollinators in local parks.
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Action Report

Action carried out to:

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Monitored by:

<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflected the commitment to biodiversity in the Council's annual report. • Embed consideration for biodiversity and carbon footprint into procurement protocols. Assess suppliers' commitment to the carbon footprint of their products, services, or business management. • Purchase energy from green suppliers. • Reduce energy consumption and improve efficiencies of buildings. Smart controls etc. • Council comment on Planning Applications in support of biodiversity. 	<p>Commitments made in documents, reports etc.</p> <p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in all decisions.</p>
<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise awareness raising and training sessions for members and staff. • Support Keep Wales Tidy who undertake community biodiversity projects, planting, maintaining etc. • Encourage the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of supporting and promoting biodiversity and reducing carbon footprint. Publish awareness videos on social media. • Developing community growing space gardens with eco/biodiverse initiatives. • Promoting community events on website and social media such as wildlife walks, supporting litter picking groups. 	<p>Through feedback from Council members and residents.</p>
<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured no negative impacts on protected species and the environment. • Natural pollinators planted wherever possible. • Reduce or remove the use of herbicides. 	<p>Records of sites or species safeguarded.</p>
<p>-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant native pollinator friendly flowers and bedding plants. 	<p>Area of habitat increased. Improved biodiversity.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use true annual plants (pollinators) in planting schemes where possible. • Introduce new pollinator opportunities in parks, amenity/sports areas. • Introduce new tree and hedgerow planting wherever possible. • Design landscaping at various sites to encourage a diverse wildlife population, especially pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. • Increasing areas at all sites to support biodiversity and reduce carbon footprint. 	
-tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable procurement policies. • The use of more environmentally friendly tools and equipment. Considering battery powered. • Recycling waste. 	Policy documents, reports, Council minutes.
-use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting with the Biodiversity Officer at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues. 	Link into the objectives of the County Council's Biodiversity Plan.
-support capacity and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a Biodiversity Member Champion. • Support of organised litter picks, provision of loan equipment with other partners and volunteer groups. • Require any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how their project will contribute to supporting health and wellbeing, biodiversity, and effect on carbon footprint. 	Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit.
Review of s6 duty		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has worked well? The creation of plant areas throughout the community has been a success, especially as it has proved attractive to the public in addition to helping biodiversity. 		

- **What have the barriers been?**

Technology for battery powered tools and equipment is still in its infancy. Equipment presently available is limited considering the heavy-duty nature of the rural environments we work in. Reduction in moving where the public wish to see all areas “tidy” – further education and inform programme needed.

- **What will you change?**

Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice, and attend seminars etc. Continue to seek suitable solutions to support the Council initiatives.

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

The duty will be monitored at Council meetings on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through the usual management and statutory Council reporting protocols.

The s6 plan will be reviewed annually or sooner if there is a business requirement to do so and/or any other evidence made available to the Council.

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