

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Report 2022

Hope 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.

Hope 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 4224 residents (source: OK Office for National Statistics 2011) over two electoral wards Hope and Caergwrle. Its Local Authority is Flintshire County Council. The precept for 2022-23 is £113,115.

Currently the only properties owned by Hope Community Council are Caergwrle Castle and High Street play area, and the council also has a long term lease on Queensway play area.

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 and one High School within the Community
- The council is also responsible for Caergwrle Castle (managed by Flintshire Countryside Services), a selection of street lighting and festive lighting.
- Currently the property owned by Hope Community Council is the Caergwrle Castle and High Street play area. We also have Queensway Play Area which is on a long term lease.
- There are Children's playing fields situated at Sarn Lane, Porch Lane and The Willows that are owned by Flintshire County Council and part funded by the Community Council through annual Match Funding for improvements.

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"> • Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council’s 2019 Annual Report. 	Commitments made in documents Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> taken into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters. Developing adaptation & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change. 	
raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local school Eco Committees to encourage knowledge and awareness of environmental and sustainability matters amongst local children. encouraged the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces. posted details of the actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website, social media platforms 	<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"> contributed to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) 	Records of any sites or species safeguarded
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the castle woodland which has delivered tree & shrub planting which is now a haven for wildlife and includes features such as a community bench. 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. Work in partnership with Flintshire Countryside Services and FCC Bio diversity Officer 	Numbers of nesting sites provided

<p>tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed. • Work with Flintshire Countryside Service to reduce the presence of rhododendron at Caergwlr Castle 	<p>Areas of invasive species tackled</p> <p>Amount of pesticide applied</p>
<p>use improve and share evidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working with the Biodiversity Officer at Local County Council (for example) to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues • working with Flintshire Countryside Services regarding Caergwlr Castle 	<p>Use of expert advice</p>
<p>support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate, where appropriate, how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project. • working with Flintshire Countryside Services to encourage extra volunteers to improve local wildlife area 	<p>Amount of money spent which will provide positive biodiversity benefits</p> <p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit.</p>

Review of s6 duty

What has worked well?

The Bat Walk Event scheduled is fully booked and will provide a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of biodiversity to the local community.

Volunteering days with the local Spar shop was successful. Native daffodil bulbs and wild garlic was plant, with the shop sponsoring the bulbs and the staff assisting with the planting.

What have the barriers been?

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.

Some antisocial behaviour has been noted at Caergwlr Castle which poses a risk to the biodiversity, particularly through the risk of uncontrolled fires.

What will you change?

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

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

The Community Council has a Leisure and Environment Committee 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 and adopted 07.09.2022