



ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 PART 1 – SECTION 6 THE BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY REPORT 2022

SALTNEY TOWN COUNCIL

(first draft)

Introduction and Context

The Section 6 (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.

Saltney Town Council provides 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.

In summary:

- The area consists of mainly mixed density, residential properties, and has limited open spaces included within them, tree planting schemes have taken place within our township, working closely with Flintshire County Council. Along Sandy Lane, there are deep grass verges, where native daffodil bulb has been planted.

- There are 3 Infant/Primary/Junior Schools and one High School within the Community.
- The Town Council has a selection of street lighting (maintained by Flintshire County Council) and festive lighting along the High Street (maintained by Blachere Illuminations UK).
- There are 5 Play Areas in the Township which the Town Council makes a financial contribution to the maintenance on a match funding basis with Flintshire County Council.
- The Town Council has taken part in the Keep Wales Tidy initial scheme, which involved working with the coastal ranger to help recreate an area of biodiversity along the riverside walk. Working in partnership with the coastal ranger and local schools we have re-establish a hedgerow along the riverside walk in Saltney.

Action Report		
<p>How the Council could assist biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, educational activities with our local schools)</p> <p>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.</p>		
Principal	Action	Monitored by
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Reflect the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's Annual report.	Commitments to be made in all relevant documents
	Take into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters. Developing adaptation and mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.	Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	<p>Work with local schools to encourage a knowledge and awareness of the environmental and sustainability matters amongst local children.</p> <p>To encourage the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of</p>	<p>Through feedback from Council members (as School Governors) and residents.</p> <p>Numbers of people taking part in activities</p>

	<p>nature/green spaces where possible.</p> <p>Post details of the actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website, social media platforms</p>	
Safeguard principal species and habitats	To contribute to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	Record of any sites or species Safeguarded
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<p>Supported Flintshire County Council's, coastal ranger in delivered tree, shrub planting, and general maintenance to encourage wildlife back into the area. This is part of the Town Councils collaborative working to help maintain the riverside walk, which is once again becoming a haven for wildlife and includes features such as a community bench, and artwork along the riverside walk .</p> <p>To continue with the 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.</p> <p>To continue to work in partnership with Flintshire County Councils coastal ranger and the Biodiversity Officer.</p>	Numbers of possible nesting sites provided
Tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	<p>Reduced the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>Continue to work with Flintshire County Councils coastal ranger to enhance the biodiversity and ecosystems along the riverside walk.</p>	<p>Areas of invasive species tackled with the help and advice from coastal Ranger.</p> <p>Amount of pesticide applied</p>

<p>Use, improve, and share evidence.</p>	<p>To work with the Biodiversity Officer at Flintshire County Council (for example) to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues</p> <p>Working with Flintshire County Council coastal ranger to improve biodiversity and ecosystems along the riverside walk.</p>	<p>Use of expert advice</p>
<p>Support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>Require any organisations receiving grant from the Town Council to demonstrate, when appropriate, and how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of the project within our township.</p> <p>Continue working with Flintshire County Council, coastal ranger/biodiversity officer to help encourage extra volunteers to improve local wildlife area.</p>	<p>Amount of money spent which will provide positive biodiversity benefits</p> <p>To form working partnerships to deliver biodiversity benefit.</p>
<p>Review of Section 6 duty</p>		
<p>What has worked well?</p> <p>The continued work with the coastal ranger, provides a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of biodiversity to the local community.</p> <p>Native daffodil bulbs were planted, along with seasonal plants for the flower boxes.</p> <p>Tree have been planted on 2 of the 5 play areas within the Township, via Flintshire County Councils tree planting scheme.</p> <p>What have the barriers been?</p> <p>The Town Council can only recommend and try to encourage residents and landowners in the community to embrace biodiversity.</p> <p>The lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.</p>		

What will you change?

To commence working with the FCC Biodiversity Officer and seek advice whenever necessary.

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

The Town Council has an Environmental and Regeneration 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 S6 duty will be monitored by the Environmental and Regeneration Committee and the Clerk, reporting back to full Council with periodic updates.

The S6 plan will be reviewed in light of this report and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Town 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 would aim to review on an annual basis.

NB This draft report will be considered by Saltney Town Council at its Council meeting on 11 January 2023 for approval. Due to the publication date being a statutory requirement under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 Section 6 – the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report is required to be published by 31 December 2022.

18.12.22

To be reviewed by Council in twelve months' time.