

Tywyn Town Council

Biodiversity & Environmental Development

2023 Update

Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, sets out the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty under which, all local authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.

For Tywyn Town Council, this means that in all internal policies, activities and management of open spaces, the Council should seek opportunities to maintain and enhance the wildlife that is supported in the area and to manage the habitats so that they are in as natural and resilient a condition as possible.

The duty also supports Tywyn Town Councils wider responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in order that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a health and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities.

The Council has a positive record of contributing to the local environment and promoting sustainability. The following action plan provides the detail of the proposed activities that the Town Council will undertake in the period 2019-25 to support biodiversity and the Tywyn ecosystems.

Introduction and Context

Tywyn Town Council serves approximately 7500 residents with a precept for 2022-23 of £90,328.12. The Council provides a range of services which impact on local diversity, including being responsible for:

- Cambrian Road Recreation Ground

- Bryn Paderau Memorial Park

- Brook Street Garden.

- Being responsible for the upkeep of some footpaths and bus shelters in Tywyn.

Tywyn Town Council is the owner of the Ynysymaengwyn Estate but has no involvement in the day to day operation of the Caravan Park or the management of the Ynysymaengwyn Trust which manages the grounds and woodlands. Ynysymaengwyn has successfully received a Green Flag Award every year since 2010.

Organising planters throughout Tywyn and the planting in front of the office.

Support – we give grants and support to local groups who want to positively impact biodiversity.

We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability practices whenever possible.

Action Report

| Action carried out to: | | Monitored by: |
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| <p>Embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p> | <p>Assess biodiversity impact of materials and practices when procuring services by using local companies and natural or recycled products where possible.</p> <p>Has declared a Climate Emergency.</p> <p>Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas by expressing the desire to join the Dyfi Biosphere and committing to playing an active role within the organisation.</p> <p>Taken into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters. Developing adaption and mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Ensuring contractors are fully aware of the duty to promote biodiversity and protect it from interference.</p> | <p>Commitments made in documents.</p> <p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.</p> |
| <p>Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p> | <p>Encourage the community to volunteer to help maintain and develop green spaces.</p> <p>Where possible encourage the public to consider the bio-diversity of the natural surroundings</p> <p>Take part in events and seminars run by the Dyfi-biosphere panel and contribute to public information schemes and advertising.</p> <p>To complete the information board at the Broadwater informing the public of the biodiversity and its protection in the Estuary setting.</p> <p>Posted details of the actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website, social media platforms.</p> | <p>Numbers of people and different groups taking part in activities.</p> <p>Through feedback from Council members and residents.</p> |
| <p>Safeguard principal species and habitats</p> | <p>This is reflected in the Council's commitment to undertaking essential grounds works at appropriate times of</p> | <p>Records of any sites or species safeguarded.</p> |

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| | <p>year and with due consideration for the wildlife and plant-life populations.</p> <p>Ensured no negative impacts on protected species</p> <p>Maintain and improve Bryn Paderau, Brook Street Garden and The Cambrian Road Recreation Ground.</p> | |
| Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks | <p>Worked with SNPA and NRW to investigate planting more native trees at suitable locations.</p> <p>Adjust mowing regimes where possible by reducing frequency of cuts to encourage wild-flowers and other pollinator friendly plants. This would also provide cover for small mammals and reptiles.</p> <p>Work with Gwynedd Council to create wild-flower verges where possible on the roadside verges leading into Tywyn.</p> <p>Supported Ynysymaengwyn Trust in managing the woodlands, now a haven for wildlife.</p> <p>Planted flower beds and planters with native pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs</p> | <p>Area of habitat increased</p> <p>Number of nesting sites increased</p> |

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| Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species | <p>Sustainable procurement policy which includes ensuring office supplies such as paper and cleaning products are sustainably sourced.</p> <p>Working with the Allotment Association to ensure all plots are in good condition and under cultivation.</p> <p>Reduced the use of pesticides to only where necessary such as to control invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.</p> | <p>Areas of invasive species tackled.</p> <p>Amount of pesticide applied.</p> |
| Use, improve and share evidence | <p>Taking advice from experts at Snowdonia National Park and Gwynedd Council on the types of trees and plants best suited to our local environment.</p> <p>Working with the Greener Tywyn and Dyfi Biosphere to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues</p> | Use of expert advice |

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| Support capacity and/or other organisations | <p>Require any organisations receiving a grant from us to demonstrate how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity.</p> <p>Working in partnership with Snowdonia National Park Authority and Gwynedd Council to increase biodiversity habitats.</p> <p>Worked in partnership with Ynysymaengwyn Trust to provide a space for volunteers to improve space for local wildlife.</p> <p>Allowed Actif Woods access to woodland spaces to educate the community.</p> <p>Worked with the Tywyn Wellbeing group in giving volunteers opportunities to improve green spaces to provide mental health benefits to individuals.</p> | <p>Amount of money spent which will provide positive benefits.</p> <p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefits.</p> |

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| <p>Review of Section 6 duty</p> |
| <p>What has worked well?</p> <p>The Allotments have prospered since the formation of the Cambrian Road Allotment Association with a proactive committee overseeing management in conjunction with the Council. Disused plots have been brought back into cultivation and there is now a waiting list for vacant plots.</p> <p>Residents have been encouraged to volunteer to look after these areas, such as filling bird feeders, watering planters etc.</p> <p>Working with SNPA and Gwynedd Council is ongoing and working well, with representatives being keen to work together.</p> <p>Groups of volunteers coming together to create and improve biodiversity, who have been encouraging other people to becoming involved and volunteer.</p> <p>We have adopted a process of trying to ensure that work is given to local contractors, thus reducing carbon footprint.</p> <p>What have the barriers been?</p> <p>Lack of expertise to identify changes needed / possible or best practice.</p> |

What will you change?

Aim to work more closely with SNPA, Gwynedd Council and local experts to seek advice.

How and when will the Section 6 duty be monitored and the Section 6 plan reviewed?

The duty will be monitored by the Council and individual officers will report back through the usual monthly and annual inspections.

The Section 6 plan will be reviewed in light of these reports and any other information that is made available to the council from volunteers etc. At the time of this report's publication, there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed, but this will be done within the next 12 months.

This update was prepared in September 2023