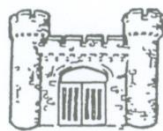




	<p style="text-align: center;">Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report: <u>Three Year Review - December 2025</u></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Biodiversity Organisation – Group 1 (see Appendix)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Appendix includes information about how the Community Council can positively contribute to Biodiversity using the “five pillars of Nature Recovery” together with the six objectives for the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales</p>
<p>Introduction and Context:</p> <p>Hawarden Community Council is the second largest Community/Town Council in Flintshire, based on the number of properties. The Community Council covers three electoral wards of Hawarden - Aston, Hawarden – Ewloe and Hawarden - Mancot and has a population of approximately 14,500 (<i>source: UK Office for National Statistics</i>). The 2025-26 precept is £367,243.</p> <p>Hawarden Community Council has a Service Level Agreement with Broughton and Bretton Community Council and Shotton Town Council for administrative and maintenance purposes. Across the three councils, the team are responsible for the administrative and financial services, maintenance of 1,073 street light columns, 12 play areas and additional open spaces together with community buildings and car parks.</p> <p>Full details of what the Council’s main duties and responsibilities can be found in its Annual Report 2018-2019 via the following link: HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p> <p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council office is situated at The Lodge on the Gladstone Playing fields which also comprises a council depot and woodland area, pavilion building, tennis courts, football fields, skate park, play area and the Gladstone Bowling Green and clubhouse, which is managed by a separate Bowling Club Management Committee. The area comprises a Scout Head Quarters managed separately.	



- The area consists of mainly mixed density residential property and has some open spaces included within them, mature trees and a woodland area and grass verges together with a number of retail outlets, a high street and business parks.
- There are four primary/junior schools within the Community and one Secondary school.
- The community contains Hawarden Castle Park, Hawarden Castle occupied by the Gladstone family together with St. Deiniol's Library.
- There are four community centres located at Aston, Ewloe, Level Lane and Mancot.
- The Council is also responsible for litter collection, maintenance of planters, small spaces and Woodland areas, a large community allotment site, installation of festive lighting and is the custodian of the Hawarden War Memorial which is a Grade I listed building.
- An annual summer carnival is held each year in July managed by a volunteer committee under a Service Level Agreement with the Community Council.

Action Report:

This next section will outline how the Community Council has assisted bio-diversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding and education opportunities etc).

Hawarden Community Council 'is' subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act in relation to public service delivery.

NRAP objective	Principle:	Action taken:	Monitored by:
1	Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of commitments to biodiversity and climate change have been reflected in the Council's 2025 Annual Plan. • The Council have taken biodiversity into consideration when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders. 	<p>Commitments made in documents.</p> <p>Planning Application responses.</p> <p>Clerk & RFO</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For complex committee reports an “Environmental Impact” and “Biodiversity Impact” has been added to the council’s report template. • The Maintenance Team no longer use damaging herbicides. • The Maintenance Team leave long grass near trees and hedges to encourage biodiversity. 	<p>Maintenance Team</p> <p>Maintenance Team</p>
	Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local schools to produce an annual “Eco Quiz”. This encourages knowledge and awareness of environmental and sustainability matters amongst local children. • When promoting grants, include and encourage organisations to add some element of biodiversity, where appropriate • Encourage the community to volunteer in the context of nature/open spaces • Post details of actions we are promoting have taken on social media platforms 	<p>Feedback through council members (as Governors) and residents. Numbers of people taking part.</p> <p>Grant Application Conditions and decision making process.</p> <p>Aston play area flower beds</p>



2	Safeguard principal species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the management of protected sites and species including local wildlife sites/sites of importance for nature conservation • Careful use of pesticides and herbicides • Retention and reinstatement of “bat boxes” in Gladstone woodland area • Grass around trees is left longer • Encourage volunteers to gather grass cuttings into piles to encourage insects/animals (soil health) 	<p>Records of any sites or species safeguarded</p> <p>Annual risk assessment data</p>
3	Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage native pollinator friendly flowers on open spaces and allotments (where appropriate) Aston roundabout • Work in partnership with Flintshire County Council’s Biodiversity Officers • Support local community woodland at allotment site (tree and shrub planting) • Recent tree planting and monitoring to increase tree canopy 	<p>Records of sites Allotment records Data collection</p> <p>Meetings and consultation responses</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House of Correction (protected access due to bats) • Apiary at allotment site 	
	Use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Biodiversity Officer at Flintshire County Council 	Data collection Expert advice
	Support capacity and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in close contact with Flintshire County Council's (FCC) Arboricultural Officer in supporting TPOs and ensuring council maintained trees are documented and inspected regularly (three year plan) • Increase in tree canopy (in conjunction with FCC); recent planting taken place • Require any organisation receiving a grant from us to demonstrate, where appropriate, how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project 	<p>Outcome of planning Tree register/surveys</p> <p>Maintenance Team visual inspections and recommendations for actions On-going</p> <p>Grant application receipt of finance letter and confirmation</p>
	Review of s6 Duty		
Review points for three year period ending December 2025	What has worked well? The creation of wildflower and plant areas, bat/bird boxes and tree planting has been successful across the community as it can enhance biodiversity and generate cost savings with reduced costs for mowing.		



	<p>The council has been successful in achieving two Local Places for Nature to create small butterfly and wildlife gardens at Aston Community Centre and Mancot Library.</p> <p>The ongoing move to more sustainable planting and a lesser reliance of non-native annual bedding plants has continued to help to create more diverse habitats.</p> <p>The Community Council regularly submit comments on planning applications to protect trees and seek alternative solutions, including replanting, wherever possible.</p> <p>The council has all of its trees “tagged” either individually or in clusters which provides a report on the age of the tree, its condition, its name and any remedial work. This is reviewed regularly by the Council’s employees.</p> <p>What have the barriers been?</p> <p>The Council can only recommend and encourage residents and land owners in the community to embrace biodiversity.</p> <p>Recruiting and retaining volunteers to help look after local open spaces takes time and effort and this needs adequate resourcing.</p> <p>What will you change?</p> <p>Working more closely with the County Council’s biodiversity team and seek advice wherever necessary.</p> <p>The maintenance team will continue to review open spaces, trees and wildflower spaces.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity more proactively on the Council’s website and other social media platforms.</p> <p>Consider swift boxes on council offices.</p> <p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p> <p>The duty will be monitored by the Council Members and the Clerk and Financial Officer reporting back to Council through periodic updates. The s6 plan will be developed and reviewed in response to such reporting.</p>
--	---



	Subject to Council approval this plan will be reviewed on a six-monthly basis and reviewed every three years <i>(to comply with the duty of subsection (1) of the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty; Environment (Wales) Act 2016)</i> .
--	---

SUMMARY AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BIODIVERSITY “OUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM”

There are three components to biodiversity that contribute to our “biosphere”:

Atmosphere: plants absorb carbon dioxide (the main climate-altering gas) and produce oxygen instead.

Soil health: dead leaves and plants add nutrients to the soil. Insects and animals burrow, helping the soil to breathe.

Water cycle (hydrological cycle): trees and other plants slow the flow of rainwater to rivers, acting as a natural flood control.

Wales’ Well-being Goals: (there are seven, but number two states....)

A resilient Wales “A nation which **maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with health functioning ecosystems** that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

What are Ecosystem Services?

- Evidence tells us that ecosystems that are resilient are better able to deliver these services.
- Resilient ecosystems are diverse, connected, large enough and in good condition to be able to adapt to disturbance.

Examples include:

Carbon storage and sequestration

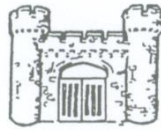
Soil quality and erosion control

Biodiversity

Coastal protection

Water quality

Flood regulation



Irrigation

Fisheries

Pollination Pest control

Climate regulation

Scenic beauty

Aquaculture

In addition to the actions outlined above specifically targeted at the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty, the Community Council is working towards wider targets for Climate Change including:

Provision of Water meters

LED replacements on street lighting

Recycling receptacles, particularly at Gladstone Playing Fields

Paperless office (subject to legislation changes)

Solar panels on Council buildings??

Sharron Jones

Darren Sterry

Sharron Jones

Darren Sterry

Clerk and Financial Officer

Chairman of the Council



APPENDIX 1

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or occupy an office building only and whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management. 	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or that can influence those who own or manage land. 	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not. 	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives



The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- Objective 2:** Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- Objective 4:** Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Objective 6:** Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery