Environment (Wales) Act 2016
Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Report: January 2022

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL - DRAFT

Introduction and Context:

Hawarden Community Council is the second largest Community/Town Council in Flintshire, based on the number of properties. The Community Council covers the four electoral wards of Aston, Ewloe, Hawarden and Mancot and has a population of approximately 14,500 *(source: UK Office for National Statistics).* The 2020-21 precept is £283,331.

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 1,100 street light columns, 13 play areas and additional open spaces together with community buildings and car parks.

Full details of what the Council's main duties and responsibilities can be found in its Annual Report 2020-21 via the following link:
http://www.hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk/Hawarden-CC/UserFiles/Files/HCC%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL%2013.05.19%202.pdf

In summary:

- 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; one within each electoral ward.
- 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 and the House of Correction.

Action Report:

This next section will outline how the Community Council can assist 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.

Principle:	Action:	Monitored by:
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	• A number of commitments to biodiversity and climate change have been reflected in the Council's 2019 Annual Plan. • The Council will take biodiversity into consideration when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders. • For complex committee reports an "Environmental Impact" session could be added to the report.	Commitments made in documents. Planning Application responses. Council and Committee Reports
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	• 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	Feedback through council members (as Governors) and residents. Numbers of people taking part. Grant Application Conditions and decision making process.

	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	Aston play area flower beds and Aston and Mancot Wildlife areas (provided by Keep Wales Tidy scheme)
Safeguard principal species and habitats	• 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)	Records of any sites or species safeguarded Annual risk assessment data
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	• 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 • House of Correction (protected access due to bats) • Apiary at allotment site	Records of sites Allotment records Data collection Meetings and consultation responses Queen’s Trees in 2022

Use improve and share evidence	• Working with Biodiversity Officer at Flintshire County Council	Data collection Expert advice
Support capacity and/or other organisations	• 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	Outcome of planning Tree register/surveys Maintenance Team visual inspections and recommendations for actions On-going Grant application receipt of finance letter and confirmation

Review of s6 Duty

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.

What have the barriers been?

The Council can only recommend and encourage residents and land owners in the community to embrace biodiversity.

What will you change?

Working more closely with the County Council's biodiversity team and seek advice wherever necessary.
The maintenance team will continue to review open spaces, trees and wildflower spaces.
Promote biodiversity more proactively on the Council's website and other social media platforms.

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

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

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)

Local Electricity Bill commitments (local energy to local people)

Solar panels on Council buildings

Redevelopment of Community Orchard at Allotment site

Sharron Jones	Helen Brown
Clerk and Financial Officer	Chairman of the Council