

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

**Reporting on Section 6 – Example reporting template for Town and Community
Councils**

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in
Welsh

Name of Town or Community Council: A N Other

Introduction and Context

A N Other Community Council provide a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces including a park and church yards.
- Organising planters and hanging baskets in the town centre.
- Funding - we give grants for projects in the Council's area. This impacts on biodiversity through cascading funding criteria.

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

We serve approximately xxxxx residents. The precept for 2022-2023 is £xxxxx.

Action Report

Action carried out to:	(For example)	Monitored by: (for example)
embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2022 Annual Report. • 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. 	<p>Commitments made in documents</p> <p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.</p>
raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised an annual "Eco Quiz" for primary school children across the area. This event encourages knowledge and awareness of 	<p>Through feedback from Council members and residents.</p>

	<p>environmental and sustainability matters amongst local children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organised awareness raising and training sessions for members and staff. • 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 • included information in our resident's handbook. 	<p>Numbers of people taking part in activities</p>
<p>safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<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) • Managed land around them to buffer and join them up as part of resilient ecological networks • Ensured no negative impacts on protected species • championed the case of a marvellous local oak tree as part of the Woodland Trust Tree of the Year competition. 	<p>Records of any sites or species safeguarded</p>
<p>-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted hanging baskets and planters with native pollinator friendly flowers. • Supported a local community woodland which has delivered tree & shrub planting which is now a haven for wildlife and 	<p>Area of habitat increased.</p> <p>Numbers of nesting sites provided</p>

	<p>includes features such as a community bench.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed landscaping at the Council House to encourage a diverse wildlife population, especially pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. • Created wildlife areas in church yards to provide nesting and hibernating areas to encourage a range of species. • 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. • Installed nesting boxes at our premises, to provide safe places for species of birds that are struggling to nest. 	
<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable procurement policy which includes ensuring office supplies such as paper, cleaning products and office furniture are sustainably sourced (e.g. locally and/or made from recycled material). • Purchased a composting bin for our green waste. In time this will be used in our planters and hanging baskets, replacing peat based compost. • The use of more environmentally friendly tools. We purchased cleaner, greener gardening tools to help protect the earth's resources. These include a battery powered, rechargeable brush cutter and hedge trimmer. 	<p>Areas of invasive species tackled</p> <p>Amount of pesticide applied</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. 	
use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> worked with the Biodiversity Officer at Local Borough Council (for example) to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues Taken advice from the Local Environmental Record Centres (LERCs) on local sites and species of interest. Provided any data collected through local surveys to the LERCs 	<p>Records submitted to LERC</p> <p>Use of expert advice</p>
-support capacity and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> launched an annual award scheme to recognise the achievements of either a resident or local organisation who is championing environmental issues. The winners have included a school and an individual who have both provided substantial help in maintaining a local nature reserve. Required any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project. Worked in partnership with Local Wildlife Trust to provide 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 creation of wildflower and plant areas has been a success, especially as it has proved attractive to residents in addition to helping biodiversity. Also, there have been some cost savings through the reduction in mowing.

- What have the barriers been?

Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.

- What will you change?

Work with the Local Environmental Records Centre and the Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice.

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

The duty will be monitored through the Environmental, Sustainability and Planning Committee and individual officers reporting back to the council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through the usual weekly, monthly and annual inspections.

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, but this will be done within the next six months.