Penmaenmawr Town Council

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Section 6 – Biodiversity Duty Report

2023 – 2026

Under the duty set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities in Wales must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems when carrying out their function.

Town and Community Councils are required to publish a report outlining the actions they have taken to comply with this duty.

This report outlines how Penmaenmawr Town Council has considered biodiversity in its activities and the actions it is taking to support and enhance the natural environment within the community.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2023

Name of Town or Community Council: PENMAENMAWR TOWN COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

Penmaenmawr is a costal community with access to a range of natural environments including, coastline, woodland, upland landscapes and greenspaces within the Town. The areas provide important habitats for plants and wildlife and contribute significantly to the wellbeing of residents and visitors.

Penmaenmawr Town Council recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing biodiversity within the community. The Council seeks to ensure that its activities support the natural environment wherever possible and that opportunities are taken to improve green spaces and habitats for wildlife.

The Council also works with local community groups, volunteers and partner organisations to encourage wider participation in environmental and biodiversity projects.

Our Vision

Penmaenmawr Town Council's vision is to actively improve and expand biodiversity within the town by protecting existing green spaces and developing new community-led environmental projects.

The Council aims to achieve this by enhancing local sites such s Parc Plas Mawr and Bron Haul, supporting biodiversity-friendly planting and habitat creation, and working in partnership with community groups, and volunteers to care for the town's natural spaces. The Council will also seek to ensure that biodiversity and environmental considerations are taken into account when responding to planning applications and other development proposals affecting the local area.

Through these actions, the council will help ensure that Penmaenmawr's greens spaces continue to support wildlife while providing attractive and accessible environments for residents and visitors.

Local Biodiversity Projects and Initiatives.

Penmaenmawr Town Council has supported and delivered a number of projects that contribute to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the Community.

Parc Plas Mawr Community Orchard.

The Town Council has supported the development of a community orchard at Parc Plas Mawr, funded with assistance from the Local Places for Nature (LPfN) programme. The orchard has been established on the edge of the woodland at Parc Plas Mawr, creating an additional habitat that supports pollinators and enhances the biodiversity o the wider woodland environment

The orchard forms part of wider biodiversity improvements at Parc Plas Mawr, including the development of a wildflower meadow and biodiversity pond to further support wildlife habitats.

A local group of residents is currently exploring the establishment of a community group to help tend and develop the area further, including the potential introduction of edible planting beds as part of the wider 'Incredible Edible Network' encourage community involvement, food growing and environmental stewardship.

Bron Haul – woodland site adjacent to Eden Hall Gardens

Bron Haul is a small pocket of woodland located adjacent to Eden Hall Gardens. The Town Council has identified the site as an important opportunity to support biodiversity and improve the management of a local natural habitat.

The Council is currently progressing the potential acquisition of the site through an asset transfer from Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC). Subject to completion of

the transfer, the Town Council intends to bring the woodland back into positive management as a community woodland space that supports biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

The long-term management of the site will require appropriate maintenance, safe public access and partnership working with local volunteers and community groups.

The woodland also presents an opportunity to support environmental education within the community. In the future, the site may provide opportunities for local primary schools and community groups to use the area an outdoor learning environment to develop knowledge and understanding of biodiversity, nature and wildlife.

The Council recognises that successful stewardship of the site will depend on collaborative working, clear roles and responsibilities of the local organisations and volunteers.

Community Allotment – Dwygyfylchi

The Dwygyfylchi Community Allotment provides an area where residents can grow food locally and engage in environmentally responsible gardening practices. The allotment contributes to local biodiversity through wildlife-friendly cultivation methods, pollinator-friendly planting and the creation of small habitats within the growing space.

Community allotments can provide valuable green spaces within build environments and support a range of species including pollinating insects, birds and other wildlife. The continued use and stewardship of the site by local residents contributes positively to biodiversity within the wider community.

Two Tunnels Gardening Group

The Two Tunnels Gardening Group is a community-led group of local residents who help care for planters and green spaces at the eastern end of the village of Dwygyfylchi and the main Garden of Eden Hall. The Group contributes to the maintenance and improvement of the local environment, including planting and maintaining areas around public spaces such as the Cenotaph.

Through the planting of flowers and the ongoing care of local green spaces, the group supports pollinators and contributes to the enhancement of biodiversity within the community. Community-led initiatives such as this play an important role in improving the local environment whilst encouraging local stewardship of green spaces.

Action Report

Action carried out to:		**Monitored by:**

-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Take biodiversity considerations into account when responding to planning applications and other related matters. Ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation are considered when developing council projects and initiatives. Ensure that procurement decisions, where relevant, take account of environmental sustainability and opportunities to support biodiversity. Officer reports presented to the council will, where appropriate, include consideration of biodiversity and environmental impacts, identifying any potential risks to habitats or opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. The Council will ensure that horticultural projects and understood locally and where possible the Town Council will input views, comments and views of the local community and Volunteer and Community Groups.	Planning and Environment Committee/Full Council. Clerk/Full Council Clerk/Full Council/Committees Clerk/Officer Full Council/Committees
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Town Council staff will be provided with opportunities to undertake awareness training or attend seminars relating to biodiversity and environmental stewardship Encourage residents and community groups to become involved in projects relating to biodiversity, nature and the improvement of green spaces within the community. Communicate the Council's biodiversity initiatives through appropriate channels including the Town Council Website, Social Media platforms and Public Notice Boards Support community initiatives that increase access to and understanding of local green space while promoting	Clerk/Full Council/Hr Committee Wellbeing, Engagement and Events Committee Clerk/Officers Planning and Environment Committee/Wellbeing

	the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity across the Town Deliver biodiversity and environmental initiatives through council-led groups such as the Parks, Allotments and Gardening Group (PAGG), Encouraging community participation in projects that improve green spaces and support wildlife.	Engagement and Events Committee Full Council/Wellbeing Engagement and Events Committee/Planning and Environment Committee
-safeguard principal species and habitats	Where possible, contributed to the protection and appropriate management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites, and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) Ensure that projects undertaken by the Council, and those projects supported through Council grants, do not have an adverse impact on protected habitats, designated sites or local wildlife.	Full Council Full Council
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Plant hanging baskets and planters with native pollinator-friendly flowers, throughout the Town. These are sponsored annually, with plants prepared by a local nursery and funded by the Town Council The council is also reviewing the types of plants used within public planting schemes and is exploring the introduction of a longer-term “Forever planting” approach, using perennial and climate-resilient species where appropriate. This approach aims to support biodiversity, reduce replanting requirements and ensure planting schemes are better suite to changing climate conditions. Support and develop local horticultural initiatives, including the Community Allotment in Dwygyfylchi and council-led groups such as the Parks, Allotments and Garding Group, which	Wellbeing, Engagement and Events Committee & Full Council

	contribute to the restoration and creation of ecological networks with the town. The Council will continue to encourage suggestions and participation from residents and community groups to identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity and improve green spaces within the community	
Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Implement sustainable procurement practices to reduce environmental impact, including sourcing office supplies such as paper, cleaning products and office furniture from sustainable or recycles materials where possible Where appropriate, the Council will consider environmentally responsible purchasing and operational practices that reduce waste, minimise pollution and support Biodiversity. This may include measures such as reducing paper use through digital meeting packs and using environmentally responsible materials in council maintenance and infrastructure projects.	Governance and Finance Committee / Clerk
Use, improve and share evidence	Work with partner organisations, both statutory and third sector groups, to share best practice and improve understanding of local environmental and biodiversity issues. The Council supports community-led environmental initiatives, including activities undertaken through PAGG, and we assist with resources where appropriate to help develop local biodiversity projects knowledge of local issues. Support is given to PAGG members and assistance is given with the provision of gardening tools etc.	Wellbeing, Engagement and Events Committee/ Full Council

Support capacity and/or other organisations	Require organisations applying for grant from Penmaenmawr Town Council to demonstrate how their project will support biodiversity or ensure that it will not have a negative impact on biodiversity as part of their application. This approach encourages local organisations and community groups to consider environmental impacts when developing projects and helps support biodiversity across the community	Governance and Finance Committee

Review of s6 duty

- **What has worked well?**

Strong engagement with local residents, community group and volunteers has supported biodiversity initiatives across the town. This collaboration has helped develop a positive and sustainable approach to improving green spaces and supporting wildlife habitats.

- **What have the barriers been?**

Some projects require significant resources, coordination with partner organisations and ongoing volunteer involvement. Securing funding, maintaining long-term volunteer capacity and managing other council priorities can present challenges.

- **What will you change?**

The Council will continue to strengthen partnerships with community groups, volunteers and partner organisations to support biodiversity initiatives. Opportunities to develop new projects, improve green spaces and enhance habitats will continue to be explored as part of the council ongoing work.

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

The Councils biodiversity duty will be monitored through the Planning and Environment Committee, with updates reported to Full Council as part of the Council's normal meeting cycle.

Progress on biodiversity actions will be reviewed through reports to the Council and through updates on projects and initiatives undertaken by the council and its partners.

The Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Report will be reviewed periodically, and updated where necessary, to reflect the Council's ongoing work and any new projects, evidence or environmental considerations.