

Llangollen Town Council

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Llangollen is a market town situated in the Dee Valley between the Berwyn and Ruabon mountains with a resident population of 3,658 (2011).

It is overlooked by the ruins of thirteenth-century castle Castell Dinas Bran. The town has been a magnet for visitors since the early nineteenth century. The Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site are both nearby. Llangollen and the Dee Valley were added to the original Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 2011.

Under the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP) the Town Council is classed as a group 3 organisations and as such all NRAP objectives are applicable.

Llangollen is a Cittaslow town which is a network of towns that have adopted common principles and objectives to enhance their quality of life. Within these principles are both environmental goals that focus on air and water quality, reducing light pollution, energy conservation, composting and recycling, integrated traffic and management strategies and support of wildlife and wildlife sites. The Town Council was incremental in supporting the idea of accreditation and as such have a strong commitment to the maintenance and enhancement of local environmental quality and biodiversity.

Llangollen Town Council itself is a small rural authority and has eleven elected Town Councillors and employs 1.5 FTE staff comprising a Town Clerk and a Facilities Officer. The Town Council is committed to implement appropriate governance arrangements around the delivery of the s6 duty and have adopted a s6 plan.

Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues.

The Town Council has undertaken a number of specific actions in terms of biodiversity and remains committed to:-

- ensure that single-use plastics are eliminated across Town Council offices
- Supporting schools and communities in their efforts to make their buildings plastic-free zones.
- work with event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all events held on Town Council land and share guidance for this more widely.
- supporting communities and litter-pick initiatives to ensure our parks, rivers and open spaces are free from plastic litter.
- using legislation that regulates against the use of single-use plastics to support Town Council efforts (where possible).
- Requiring suppliers to the Town Council minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where appropriate).
- encouraging the use of recycled plastics, where practicable, and support manufacturers that make products from locally sourced waste plastics. the use of plastics is unavoidable

- collaborating with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects for reducing single-use plastic waste.
- sharing best practice and information about plastic free initiatives, to residents, businesses, visitors through the Town Council's social media and communication channels.

In addition, the Town Council collaborates with Bee Friendly Llangollen to make Llangollen more pollinator friendly. <https://gov.wales/bee-friendly>

Action Report.

Given that the legislation recognises that the duty should be proportionate to the size and functions of an organisation the actions undertaken by the Town Council, identified below, are commensurate with this principle.

NRAP Objective		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
1.	Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	The Town Council produced a Biodiversity Action Plan to embed biodiversity action across the Council to incorporate biodiversity and the s6 duty into performance management, through a standalone s6 Plan which is subject to review.	Town Council Staff engaged with Future Leap, Net Zero Wales and Friends of the Earth.	Town Council staff and Members contributed to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) illustrated guide to the Llangollen Green Infrastructure (GI) initiative opportunities.
2.	Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.	The Town Council has targeted its community grant scheme to support community ambitions to safeguard sites and to increase biodiversity.	The Town Council has targeted its community grant scheme to support community ambitions to safeguard sites and to increase biodiversity.	The Town Council has targeted its community grant scheme to support community ambitions to safeguard sites and to increase biodiversity. The Town Council have supported actions under the AONB GI project
3.	Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	Continue to collaborate with Bee Friendly Llangollen to make Llangollen more pollinator friendly by improving habitats. Immediate past mayor used part of the	Mayor's Charity Fund to finance the creation of two community orchards in Pengwern Park and the new Wenffrwd Pocket Park.	Floral displays provided by the Town Council have been adapted to include more pollinator species.

4.	Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.	The Town Council have objected to planning applications that would have had a negative effect on species and habitats. Implementation of a Biodiversity action plan	The Town Council have objected to planning applications that would have had a negative effect on species and habitats.	The Town Council have objected to planning applications that would have had a negative effect on species and habitats.
5.	Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	Use of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Consulting relevant stakeholders/using expert input	Worked on making environmental evidence accessible to the local communities	Review process working with the NBN has started.
6.	Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.	Identification of responsibilities within the Town Council. Implementation of the Biodiversity action plan.	Establishment of a climate and ecological emergency community committee. Staff have engaged with Future Leap, Net Zero Wales and Friends of the Earth.	Cittaslow Committee remit to be changed to included responsibility for the Sc6 duty, climate change and biodiversity.

Review of Section 6 duty.

The Section 6 duty has engendered change in the Town Council and has resulted in the production of a Town Council Biodiversity action plan and the preparation of a Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report for 2019.

The process of monitoring and review must form an essential part of effective managerial control. It facilitates learning which may lead to policy changes, ranging from fine tuning to substantial revision of elements, reordering of priorities and resources between different activities.

As a principal a regular review procedure should be established. A review will be conducted annually to assess the extent to which individual actions have been implemented or programmed, and whether, in the light of changing circumstances, activities should be added to or revised. The principal areas of change which may necessitate alteration to the strategy are as follows: -

1. changes in national legislation,
2. decisions on major items of infrastructure.
3. modifications of partners proposals.
4. physical changes within the area, particularly the rate of development of individual projects.
5. social and economic changes.
6. input from the local community via the Forum.

In certain areas of change review will simply entail an appropriate response to decisions which have been taken. In other cases, there will be a need for positive monitoring to assess changing circumstances, The main sources for this monitoring will be: -

1. The progress of individual actions.
2. Data from Local Authority sources.
3. Changing circumstances of partner organisations.
4. Data from national, regional, and county surveys.
5. Consultation with other bodies.
6. Information from members of the community.