**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6** 

**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**

**Reporting on Section 6 –Town and Community Councils (Group 1)**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6*** ***The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022*** |
| **Name of Town or Community Council: Ponthir Community Council** |
| **Introduction and Context** ● This report is published in response to the enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The duty requires public authorities to “maintain and enhance biodiversity (so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions) and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.” ● This is Ponthir Community Council’s first report having been unaware of the requirement for a report in 2019 ● Ponthir Community Council is a semi-rural Community Council comprising the villages of Lower Llanfrechfa and Ponthir and the surrounding farmland. ● Situated in the county borough of Torfaen it is defined to the South and West by the Afon Llwyd and the East by Candwr Brook. Its Northern boundary is the road of Edgehill, the road and properties sitting outside of the council area. ● The population is approx. 1399 in 800 properties raising a precept of £19700 p.a. ● The council does not own any land and has no facilities, limiting any involvement with biodiversity to promoting initiatives, education and offering grants to organisations within its community. |
| **Action Report** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Action carried out to:  | Monitored by: |
| -embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement | The impact on biodiversity is now. Full councilconsidered as part of the review of all. planning applications and in particular the awarding of CC contracts.  |

1

*Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales 2022*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| -raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance | Work with influential groups e.g., Full councilLlanfrechfa Walled Garden, Ponthir School, Ponthir Sports and Community Club, the Village Hall and groups. operating within the community to promote biodiversity / ecological. sustainability Promote initiatives via the Council’s. Facebook site, website, and Community Noticeboards. Continue with and reinforce existing. initiatives and awareness campaigns  |
| -tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive. species | Ensure trees and hedgerows are. Full council and protected in planning applications, with individual restoration of any hedges / trees councillorsremoved or damaged during construction Encourage local landowners to ensure. hedgerows are managed in the winter. months when the woody growth is dormant and avoid work during the bird nesting season (March to August). Encourage organisations to erect bat and bird boxes or to build a bug hotel. (Provide boxes for local organisations to erect) Work with Ponthir Sports and Community Council in developing nature havens in the land not dedicated to sports. This shall include the planting of trees as a natural enhancement to the drainage and the establishment of wildlife ponds Monitor the Afon Llwyd, Candwr Brook and its tributaries for signs of pollution. Report any debris within the waterways and encourage Torfaen County Borough Council to maintain the free flow of water when required  |
| -use improve and share evidence | Encourage the use of pollinator-friendly! Full councilshrubs, annuals, and perennial plants  |

2

*Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales 2022*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | within the community, leading by the example of their use in all PCC planters. Encourage the community to take responsibility for watering these planters buying in a greater level of support |
| -support capacity and/or other organisations | Pair up local organisations looking for Full councilareas to plant flowers with other areas with unused land. Specifically requesting land for the brownies from the Village Hall. Provide grants and other support to organisations including the Llanfrechfa Walled Garden who will be used to plant out PCC planters.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Review of s6 duty** |
| ● What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change? This is very early days with Ponthir Community Council slow to roll out initiatives. However, a successful partnership has been established over the past three years with key players within the community. Torfaen County Borough Council work closely identifying key initiatives and responding to concerns as highlighted. Ponthir Community Council is represented on both the Village Hall board of directors and Ponthir Sports and Social Club committee ensuring that the requirements of the whole community are met in future decision making. This is a big improvement as for many years no involvement took place. The plans for the development of the playing fields into a wildlife haven working with Welsh government are a key success. The priority is to ensure that the plans are delivered. ● How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? |

3

*Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales 2022*

|  |
| --- |
| s6 duty will be monitored quarterly by the full council as an agenda item at the monthly Community Council Meeting including a summary within the annual Chairman’s Report The s6 plan will be reviewed and updated as required but as a minimum will be reviewed half-yearly. The s6 plan for 2023/24 will be agreed at the July 2023 Council Meeting.  |

4

*Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales 2022*