

St Harmon Community Council

REPORT UNDER BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY (Part 1, Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016)

St Harmon Community Council is committed to reducing the decline of biodiversity in its area and realises the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement for our community's health and wellbeing and enables behaviour change towards a sustainable lifestyle.

Under the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) all public bodies in Wales are required to;

1. Maintain and enhance biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities and, in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems
2. Demonstrate an ecosystem approach by applying the principles set out in the Act
3. Prepare and publish a plan outlining how they intend to fulfil the duty
4. Publish a report, every three years, on the actions which they have taken to meet this duty

A public authority, in complying with the Section 6 duty, must have regard to:

- The Section 7 list of habitats and species of principle importance for Wales.
- The State of Nature Report published by Natural Resources Wales.
- Any area statement which covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions, once these are produced.

Complying with the Section 6 duty will also help Public Authorities subject to the Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to maximise their contributions to the Well-being goals. At present, this is not a statutory obligation for St Harmon Community Council.

- Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding **to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels**
- Objective 2: **Safeguard species and habitats** of principal importance and improve their management
- Objective 3: **Increase the resilience* of our natural environment** by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.
- Objective 4: **Tackle key pressures** on species and habitats
- Objective 5: Improve our **evidence, understanding and monitoring**
- Objective 6: Put in place a framework of **governance and support** for delivery

Council Land & Facilities

The Community Council owns the following land:

Recreational Field – currently grass let annually
Pant Y Dwr Play Area

Energy and Water Management

The Community Council is committed to responsible energy management and will promote energy efficiency throughout its community. Examples of which are:

- 1.1 Encouraging residents and businesses to ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use.
- 1.2 Encouraging residents and businesses to close windows and external doors when heating is on.
- 1.3 Encouraging residents and businesses to minimise the use of electric heaters.
- 1.4 Encouraging residents, to use water efficiently.
- 1.5 Where possible utilise water butts fed by down pipes as a non-drinking water source.

Recycling & Conservation

The Community Council will:

- 2.1 Encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard and, where possible, plastics and glass.
- 2.2 Promote and encourage recycling across the community.
- 2.3 Use Recycled Paper products where feasible.
- 2.4 Minimise pollution and prevent where possible.

Biodiversity & Green Spaces

The Community Council will:

- 3.1 Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of the community's natural environment and open spaces.
- 3.2 Support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams.
- 3.3 Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all activities but particularly with regard to the management of land.
- 3.4 Seek to manage its green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity.

Awareness, Lobbying & Partnerships

The Community Council will:

- 4.1 In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on, environmental issues within the community.
- 4.2 Where appropriate, act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems.
- 4.3 Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy
- 4.4 Where appropriate, work with its partners to minimise the effects of noise and light pollution on the communities.

The Community Council will:

- 5.1 Seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods on its roads.
- 5.2 Ensure that the use of pesticides/herbicides are minimised in others land management and horticultural activities by encouraging the land management owners to have a like policy.

Action Plan

1. Seek grant funding for additional projects
2. Award grants to local groups supporting bio-diversity projects
3. Encourage the installation of bird & bat boxes on sites
4. Support the installation of Swift boxes
5. Give support to Radnorshire Wildlife Trust to develop projects
6. Encourage Powys County Council to plant wildflowers in suitable areas
7. Report public rights of ways issues to Powys County Council including issues with hedges or other boundaries, trees, streams and grassland.
8. Encourage local land owners to be eco-friendly
9. Encourage and support local schools and youth groups to engage in bio-diversity projects
10. Involve local people in planting indigenous trees in Council owned or managed land
11. Consider the planting of trees on an appropriate part of the Recreational Ground via the Woodland Trust Project.
12. Promote household tree planting via Woodland Trust project.
13. Continue with Community Produce Share points.

Adopted – 6th October 2022