

## **Langstone Community Council**

### **Statutory Requirement**

#### **Biodiversity Plan: Environment (Wales) Act 2016: Biodiversity Plan**

#### **Background**

1. Under the above Act, Public Authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity. In doing so, they must promote the resilience of ecosystems. Town and community councils are required to comply with this duty.
2. The Council should therefore embed biodiversity and ecosystems into business planning and day to day activities.

#### **Biodiversity Plan: Guidance & Format**

3. The Council must publish a plan of its proposals to maintain and enhance biodiversity and report on what it has done to comply with the duty. This report fulfils this duty. This is the second round of reporting.
4. The report must be published every third year after. The Plan should be guided by the 6 objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales.
5. Under s7 of the Act, the Council must also have regard to the habitats and species of principal importance for Wales, as listed by Welsh Ministers.
6. There is no standard form that the plan or report should take though some guidance is emerging. The Council can decide what format to use, whether it be a standalone document or incorporated into existing reporting publications.

#### **Biodiversity Plan: The Council's Record - Core Business and Reporting (Governance & Support)**

7. The Council can point to a long standing record of achievement to date in meeting such challenges.
8. Arrangements put in place to date include the following:
  - The Council's overarching strategy will be set out in its Annual Report. The Report will align the work of the Council to Wales-wide sustainability goals.

#### **Ad Hoc Projects**

9. Within the overall arrangements described above, there sits various ad hoc projects and initiatives which collectively and continually demonstrate the Council's commitment to the issues referred to in the Act.

10. These include the following:

- The use of recycling bins – the council as a business supports and participates in all statutory recycling functions
- By awarding grants to voluntary organisations, we encourage local groups such as allotment holders.
- The provision of community planters

## **The Future**

11. The Council continues to look at future Projects:

- Wild Flower Meadow Planting – We are working in partnership with Newport City Council to support the Newport In Bloom Scheme and continue to provide planters for community groups.
- The Council will continue to ensure that species and habitats of principal importance are protected through its consideration of planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters.
- Support for allotments- The council will continue to support partnership working with Bishton Community Council regarding shared use of allotments.
- Business Community- The council will work with local businesses to identify opportunities to promote local biodiversity, environmental and ecological projects inline with Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Education- The council will engage local schools and education consortia to develop a supporting role in facilitating environmental and biodiversity educational projects

## **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that:

(i) the Council expresses its commitment to and responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

(ii) the Council endorses the following objectives to maintain and enhance biodiversity

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.

(iii) the Council continues to embed biodiversity and ecosystems into business planning and day to day activities, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, across all of functions.

(iv) the Council continues to bring forward projects that demonstrate compliance with the Act and adhere to relevant Guidance and National policies.

(v) this report is approved as the Council's Diversity Plan, as required by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

(vi) further reports are submitted every third year.

#### Langstone Community Council: Summary of key actions

Short description of P.A. & its functions and context in relation to biodiversity	Langstone Community Council provide a range of grass roots services to its local community. It promotes sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing Wales-wide sustainability goals and sustainable practices in relation to management of land, influence over land management, or indirect influence through procurement funding projects.
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Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<p>The Council's Annual Report will reflect our contribution to local Well-being objectives, such as the development of a network of natural areas that support the current and future needs of local populations and developing adaptation &amp; mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The Council will continue to implement sustainable procurement options, supporting local firms wherever possible.</p> <p>The Council will work with Newport City Council in meeting its obligations under the Act.</p>	The Council, acting on recommendations from its committees.
raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	The Council recognises the potential for awareness raising and training, such as encouraging Members, Staff and the	The Council, acting on recommendations from its committees.

	community as a whole to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces.	
safeguard principal species and habitats	The Council recognises the importance of biodiversity to the planning process and will continue to assess the impact of new development on species and habitats in commenting on development proposals.	The Council, acting on recommendations from its committees and working groups.
restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	The Council recognises the importance of these matters and will continue to assess the impact of new development on habitats and networks in commenting on development proposals.	The Council, acting on recommendations from its committees and working groups.
tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	The Council will continue to encourage working practices which address such factors through, for example, reducing paper consumption, business recycling and “clean & green” working practices.	The Council, acting on recommendations from its committees.
use improve and share evidence	the Council will use tools such as its website, social media and the Understanding Welsh Places website to share evidence	The Council, acting on recommendations from its committees.

support capacity and/or other organisations	The Council will encourage and influence others through supporting community champions & community initiatives and grant assistance.	The Council, acting on recommendations from its committees.
Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible	Although ‘measuring’ biodiversity is often hard to quantify, the Council will continue to encourage grasses, plants and wild flowers on its property (where safe and reasonable to do so) to help pollinators and provide cover for small mammals and reptiles. A desired outcome from this action would be an increase in bees or butterflies.	

<p>Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan</p>	<p>The Council will review its actions and improvements as part of its annual reporting and business planning arrangements.</p>
<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<p>The Council will monitor its responsibilities via periodic reports to Members on associated projects with further reports on the duty and plan submitted every third year.</p>