

# CYNGOR TREF CAERWYS

## CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL



### ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

### SECTION 6 BIODIVERSITY and RESILIENCE

### OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

## POLICY STATEMENT & ACTION PLAN

### 2021 – 2026

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6, the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.

The administrative area of Caerwys Town Council reaches the village of Afonwen, part of Babel, Pen Y Cefn and Caerwys Town itself. The population of the area is 1,007 (January 2023 Register of Electors).

The Caerwys Town Council precept for the financial year 2023 / 2024 is £41,250.00. This amount is precept on residential properties within the community and equates to a figure of £63.39p per household on a Band D property.

At the current time, Caerwys Town Council does not have direct responsibility for any green spaces but are actively supporting the local biodiversity through a number of initiatives – as detailed below

Objective <sup>i</sup>	Action	Proposed date	Reporting / Monitoring
Engage and support participation and understanding to embed	Whole Council introduction workshop with use of WG produced slides.  Flintshire County Council – Supporting Nature in Flintshire – Action Plan January 2020 to December 2023	November, 2021	Councillors' provided with WG slides prior to meeting, together with Pdf copy of Supporting Nature

biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	Develop and publish the plan	November, 2021	Draft plan agreed by full Council on the 16 <sup>th</sup> November, 2021. Full plan agreed by Council on 18 <sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and published on Council web site
	Consider embedding biodiversity in processes considering planning applications/ procurement/reports to council	On-going	Bio-diversity comments passed in relevant planning applications.
	Consider further carbon and nature literacy training	End of 2022 / 2023 financial year	Awaiting suitable course
	Support wider community understanding – articles in local publications, social media posts	On-going	Relevant articles received are shared within Council reports to residents
Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	Manage landholdings for the benefit of nature	The Council do not own or manage landholdings	
	Promote species recording	The Council have promoted this	
	Promote links with local conservation projects	The Council are currently working with Flintshire County Council Bio-diversity Officers to identify areas.  Site meeting held with Flintshire County Council and two Caerwys Town Councillors. (Update on last page)	
Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	Promote links with local conservation projects	Links to local projects are generally received from both the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council. This information is forwarded to Councillors and others within the community	
	Apply for bee friendly status	As above	

	Promote private residential biodiversity enhancement (E.g. planting for pollinators, bird and bat boxes) and uptake of schemes like hedgehog street	On-going	The Council have in local publications and social media provided information in relation to a joint <b>Swift Recovery Project</b> – a new partnership between Flintshire County Council and North Wales Wildlife Trust
	Consider community consultation for biodiversity enhancement opportunities	On-going	The Council are awaiting the County Council bio-diversity recommendations, whereafter the residents will be consulted.
Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	Save energy, reduce waste, sustainable procurement	On-going	The Council forward to both Councillors and residents relevant information
<i>Action towards mitigating impact of Climate change, Invasive Non native species, Habitat Loss</i>	Support community climate action	On-going	Councillors have completed a number of on-line surveys – with a request to forward to residents for completion
	Support action on key biodiversity threats, this can include, control of invasive non native species, prevention of habitat loss and/or degradation	On-going	Councillors have completed a number of on-line surveys – with a request to forward to residents
Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	Link with FCC and other Town/Community Councils		The Council are linked by a global e-mail contact list with all Town & Community Councils in Flintshire

	Share information and evidence with local conservation groups and charities	On-going	Relevant information is shared
	Promote national environmental recording schemes like Big garden birdwatch, big butterfly count	On-going	Relevant information is shared
Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.	Publish a Section 6 Biodiversity Plan	November 2021	Completed and further published on the 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
	Appoint a lead Officer or Champion	Chair of Council and all Council Members	
	Create an Environment Committee to progress actions	Chair of Council and all Council Members	
	Schedule progress updates	See updates section on last page	
	Schedule annual review of the plan	This bio-diversity plan will be reviewed by full Council in October of each year, or earlier, if necessary and recorded in minute book	

**A draft bio-diversity plan was agreed by Council on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, under minute number: 7(C). 235/21. At the Council meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, under minute number 7(H). 15/22 an updated plan was formally approved and adopted. The plan will be reviewed in October each year, or earlier, if necessary and recorded in minute book.**

**Updates:**

**December, 2022**

In accordance with the Environmental (Wales) Act, 2016 – this Council provides the following update as required up to December, 2022.

The Caerwys Town Council have actively promoted biodiversity within the community:

- Continue to share information with residents
- Completed on-line surveys
- Continue to liaise with the Flintshire County Council Bio-diversity Officers
- Identified local areas to be included in the Flintshire Bio-diversity projects plan
- Continue to include bio-diversity comments to planning applications, when applicable

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 – two Town Councillors (Gwen Jones & Judith Standring) attended a site meeting with Ellie Wainwright (Flintshire County Council Biodiversity Assistant). A number of potential sites to increase bio-diversity were identified.

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, the below plan was received from Flintshire County Council, advising of areas identified following the above site meeting in October – whereby various species of trees will be planted.

