

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 Babell, 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 ⁱ	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	Councilors' 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 th November, 2021. Full plan agreed by Council on 18 th 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 Swift Recovery Project – 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 th 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 16th November, 2021, under minute number: 7(C). 235/21. At the Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th 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 5th 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 7th 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.



Updates:

October, 2025

In accordance with the Environmental (Wales) Act, 2016 – this Council provides the following update as required towards the end of 2025

The Caerwys Town Council continues to actively promote 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

Caerwys' biodiversity is supported by its varied landscape, which includes limestone-based habitats, woodlands, and former industrial sites that have become wildlife havens.

- **Nature reserves and wild spaces:**
 - **Coed Pwllgwyn:**
 - An ancient semi-natural woodland managed to maintain a diverse understory and allow for continued development into mature broadleaved high forest.
- **Habitat types:**
 - **Limestone-based habitats:** The area's limestone geology supports unique grasslands with species like cowslips and common spotted-orchid.
 - **Former quarries:** Historically exploited quarries are now important habitats for wildlife, including newts, grass snakes, and insects.
 - **Green infrastructure:** Undesignated habitats like streams, ponds, and old hedgerows are crucial green corridors for wildlife across the landscape.
- **Native breeds:**
 - The use of native breeds for grazing plays a role in maintaining natural habitats and increasing biodiversity.
 - There is a local connection to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, which works to protect rare and native livestock breeds that are important for maintaining genetic diversity.

During June 2025 the Flintshire Biodiversity Officer and her assistant met with Caerwys Town Councillor Janet Legget-Jones, the Town Clerk and a representative from the Caerwys Memorial Institute. As the Town Council do not have any suitable land to create a wildflower area the meeting was held to discuss a suitable site within the Memorial Institute grounds. The meeting was productive with the following agreed:



Caerwys Memorial Institute
Proposed new wildflower area

- Children's play area: Some planting and natural play features, a landscaped hump (for children to roll down), willow tunnel, log stepping-stones
- To re-establish a wildflower area in corner of play area: Maintain some mown grass under the trees to the eastern end to allow some shade for sitting, consider a shade tolerant seed mix with opportunity for some native bulb planting

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- Opportunity for tree planting and interpretation to be followed up after main changes to play area are completed and site is seeded in September 2025

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

**The 2025 Review was agreed by Caerwys Town Council
at their meeting held on Tuesday 21st October 2025**

Under Minute Number: 7(F). 211/25