

OFFA Community Council

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

Offa 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.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 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.

☑ 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

Offa Community Council provide a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces including Little Vawnog Conservation Area and 2 small garden areas with seating.
- Funding – we give grants for projects in the Community Council's area. This impacts on biodiversity through cascading funding criteria.

We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practises whenever possible.

We serve approximately 7,500 residents. The precept for 2022/23 is £188,000.

Action Report:

Offa Community Council has taken the following steps to embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement:

Taken into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters such as footpath diversion orders.

Raised awareness of biodiversity and its importance by encouraging the community to volunteer in environmental awareness days and litter picks in green spaces.

Safeguarded principal species and habitats by developing and maintaining a large conservation area with 3 distinct habitats woodland, meadow and riverbank situated on the edge of a residential development in association with volunteers from the local community managed under an SLA arrangement with Woodwork CIC.

Tackled negative factors to reduce pollution by a sustainable procurement policy and reducing the use of pesticides.

The s6 duty will be monitored throughout the year and the s6 plan reviewed every 3 years.

Dated: November 2022

Karen Benfield
Clerk to the Council