

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Report 2023

Name of Public Authority: **Newport (Pembs) Town Council**

Introduction and Context

Newport (Pembs)Town Council in cooperation with other groups particularly NAEG provide a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- The establishing of a Bee friendly scheme at Brynhyfryd Cemetery. The first in Wales.
- Brynhyfryd Cemetery Meadow with Bee boxes. (Engage with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust re making more meadows.)
- Promoting the CLEAN (Catchment Level Environmental Action Network) project for the river Nevern catchment basin. With various partners.
- Promoting a “kick sampling” survey of the river Nevern. (Part of the CLEAN project.)
- Organising a river litter assessment and Invasive Non-Native species assessment in the river Nevern catchment basin. (Part of the CLEAN project.)
- Encouraging a tree planting project, to plant a tree for each person on the Census in the Newport Ward.
- Establishing Bumble Bee Boxes at the school and Cemetery.
- Consideration of the “Long Forest Project” with reference to wildlife corridors.
- Continuation of “Citizens Science” projects.
- Consideration of Sustainable Housing developments.
- Encouraging PCC to plant a bee friendly garden in front of the Old School.
- Considering ways of helping land owners to sustain and improve biodiversity. Meadows, woodland and waterways.
- Consideration of ecological issues in future place plans.
- Exploring the setting up of Biodiversity/Nature corridors.
- Identifying and listing open spaces for possible biodiversity enhancement.
- Reviewing grass cutting activity with regard to biodiversity.
- Consideration of the Marine environment with a view to further study.
- Continuing exploring with DCWW the negative affect of the spills at the Cwm pumping station.
- Monitoring flood alleviation schemes.
- Engaging with 2nd home owners to improve the biodiversity in gardens.
- Engaging with WWBIC (West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum • Checking water saving measures and sharing information regarding rainwater harvesting. • Promoting School uniform swop schemes for both Primary and Secondary pupils. <p>We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.</p> <p>We serve approximately 1,161 residents. The precept for 2023-24 is £30,389.</p>		
<p>Action carried out to:</p> <p>-Newport Town Council “Climate and Emergency Statement” adopted.</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an established Newport Draft Action Plan (Environment) review date 26th March 2019. The Action Plan currently states some 29 objectives “To Conserve, enhance and sustain Newport and its area.” • GD24 – Environmental Policy. Detailed policy document. 	<p>Newport Town Council and Newport Forum.</p> <p>Review Draft Action Plan (Environment)</p> <p>NTC Review GD24</p>
<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised talks by Newport Gardening Club focusing on Bees and invasive species monitoring. • Encouraging the Seed Swap events in the community • Encourage educational Biodiversity talks 	<p>Newport Gardening Club/Cilgwyn Gardening Group</p> <p>Number of people taking part.</p> <p>NTC and NAEG</p>
<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured no negative impacts on protected species. • Worked with “Plastic Free Newport” to help with Beach cleaning. • Work with the Planning Authority re Bat Protection. 	<p>Comparing to baseline information once established.</p> <p>NTC</p>

<p>-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established the first Bee Friendly Town in Wales. • The creation of a wild flower meadow in the cemetery. • Changing the mowing regime by reducing the frequency of cuts and the removal of the grass cuttings to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants. • Changing the hedge/grass profile to provide cover for small mammals and reptiles. • Provision of Bumble Bee boxes at the School, Library and Cemetery to provide habitat for Bees and insects. 	<p>Inspection of the locations in conjunction with PCNPA bio-diversity officer.</p>
<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and use environmentally responsible products. Promote phosphate free detergents. • Reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable or re-furnished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable. • Avoid unnecessary use of hazardous materials and products, seek substitutions when feasible and take all reasonable steps to protect human health and the environment when such materials must be used, stored and disposed of. • Promote efficient use of materials and resources throughout our facilities including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources, 	<p>Review by Newport Town Council</p>

	particularly those that are non-renewable.	
-use, improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all our decision making activities. • Promote environmental awareness among our members and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner. • Train, educate and inform our members about environmental issues. • Work closely with Ysgol Bro Ingli 	
-support capacity, and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Newport Paths Group to keep local paths open to access the countryside. • Work with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority to promote biodiversity through a variety of projects. • Consult with the Pembrokeshire County Council Bio-diversity officer on Pembrokeshire issues such as pollinator pathways. • Consult with Natural Resources Wales, Cwm Arian and Pembrokeshire Marine SAC to continue to deliver the CLEAN project. • Consult with the Rivers Trust and Cwm Arian to deliver the “kick sampling” survey. • Liaise with the Plastic free Newport group. • Liaise with PCNPA in monitoring and clearing INNS in the Clydach and Gwaun Valley. “Stich in Time” project. 	Partnership reports.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum to raise awareness of Marine projects. • Liaise with Newport Gardening Club. 	
Adopt a “Climate and Emergency Statement”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Climate and Emergency Statement” adopted by Newport Town Council. • There are some 35 ideas for action to discuss and promote. 	Newport Town Council and interested groups.
Review Section 6 2022 Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under review 17th Oct 2023 	NTC
Become a pesticide free town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to PCC to find out what pesticides the Council uses 	NTC
Reduce Energy use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence an Energy audit • Contact landlords re energy usage, 	NTC

Review of s6 duty.

- What has worked well?
The creation of a Bee-Friendly Town has had a positive effect on raising the profile of Newport taking a positive step to aid bio-diversity.
Newport Area Environment Group – Newport for Nature project funded by SDF and awards for all has worked very well in highlighting issues and by the engagement of Richard Sylvester.
The tree planting project.
The CLEAN project.
- What have the barriers been?
The lack of volunteers to drive projects possibly due to lack of direction.
The lack of people/resources to access grants.
- What will you change?
More engagement with the various authorities to deliver projects.
Access of funding to deliver projects.
- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?
The duty will be monitored through individual councillors reporting to the council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken on a monthly basis.

The s6 plan will be reviewed in the light of these reports and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Council.
It is anticipated that the plan will be reviewed in the next two months.

It is anticipated that the “Newport Draft Action Plan (ENVIRONMENT) 26TH March 2019” will be reviewed in the next two months.

It is anticipated that the GD24 Newport Town Council “Environmental Policy will be reviewed in the next six months.

It is proposed that Section 6 becomes a standing agenda item.

Dated 31st October 2023