

## Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – s6 duty Biodiversity

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced a duty under s6 which requires that public authorities ‘must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems’. The s6 duty is about taking steps to protect nature in our towns, cities, public places and wider landscape, both through practical action on the ground, and in the way all public functions are carried out.

Caldicot Town Council demonstrates how it contributes positively to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, whether through procurement, sustainability policies, awareness raising, training, cascading funding criteria to others, or acting in partnership with others.

Town and Community Councils have potential, through their range of functions and coverage of Wales, to contribute to improving conditions for biodiversity.

Nature is in decline, and with it, the services it provides to all of us in terms of benefits for our health, economy and culture. We must all now urgently take action for biodiversity at every opportunity to reverse its decline in Wales and globally - for its intrinsic value, and to secure our own well-being.

Small, every day, local scale actions can make a difference and can contribute to helping biodiversity. Town Council decision making can affect biodiversity, for example through funding decisions and conditions.

To comply with the duty public authorities must prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience.

Caldicot Town Council will report in relation to the duty by the end of 2019 and then every three years after this date.

### Reporting

The 6 objectives to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

- 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.

<b>Caldicot Town Council</b>		
<b>Environment Wales Act 2016 – Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity</b>		
<p>Caldicot Town Council is located in the South of Monmouthshire, with approximately 12,000 residents, surrounded by the smaller communities of Rogiet, Portskewett and Caerwent. Caldicot Town Council serve the residents of Caldicot and are responsible for a number of green spaces, which include Dewstow Cemetery, King George V Playing Fields and 3 allotment sites.</p> <p>The Town Council was awarded Green Flag status in 2019, for Dewstow Cemetery and King George V Playing Fields.</p>		
Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
- Engage and support participation and understanding <b>to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels</b>	Work to raise awareness across the organisation, particularly in relation to decision making and recommendations on planning applications.	Council
- <b>Safeguard species and habitats</b> of principal importance and improve their management	Aim to engage services of expertise in relation to Town Council projects (i.e. ecologist-cemetery extension), in order to safeguard protected species and restore habitats.	Council
- <b>Increase the resilience of our natural environment</b> by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	Endeavor to support the creation of new habitats, wildflower areas and bee friendly planting (i.e. Living Levels – facilitating community life) Managing land and green spaces, committing to biodiversity (i.e. Green Flag)	Council
- <b>Tackle key pressures</b> on species and habitats	Strive to encourage biodiversity in all areas e.g. within horticultural maintenance, planting areas, hedges/wildflowers.	Council
- Improve our <b>evidence, understanding and monitoring</b>	Making decisions and plans based on the best available evidence, and contributing to our body of knowledge where possible, for example supporting community initiatives.	Council
- Put in place a framework of <b>governance and support</b> for delivery.	Responsibilities towards the duty of s6 will be reported in the Town Council Annual report.	Council
Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible	Providing support, involvement and/or funding for partnerships and collaboration for local and community-based biodiversity action	
Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan	Consider opportunities which provide support, involvement and/or funding for partnerships and collaboration for local and community-based biodiversity action.	
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	Town Council will continue to contribute to action for biodiversity and actions will be reviewed to ensure fit for purpose under the S6 duty.	

*3 year review period*

