

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council Meeting – Biodiversity Committee

Dear Councillor

6th March 2024

You are invited to attend a Hybrid* meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council Biodiversity Committee on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at **7:00pm**. Members of the public wishing to attend by Zoom should inform the Town Clerk by 4pm on 13th September 2024 so that necessary arrangements can be made. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person. **Can join by Zoom or attend in person at Hwb Rhuddlan, Clos David Owen, Rhuddlan LL18 2UJ.*

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Update from Chairperson
4. Review of Biodiversity plan and Policy
 - a. Update completed actions from 2023
 - b. Update plan and agree future actions
5. Councillor Training in 2024 – Agree councillor training topic and dates
6. Agree date of next meeting

Cyfarfod Cyngor Tref Rhuddlan – Pwyllgor Bioamrywiaeth

Annwyl Gynghorydd

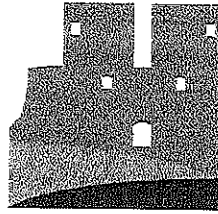
6 Mawrth 2024

Rwyf yn eich galw trwy hyn i fynychu cyfarfod hybrid* o Bwyllgor Bioamrywiaeth Cyngor Tref Rhuddlan a gynhelir nos Fercher, 13 Mawrth 2024 am **7:00pm**. Dylai aelodau'r cyhoedd sy'n dymuno mynychu drwy Zoom roi gwybod i Glerc y Dref erbyn 4pm ar 13 Mawrth 2024 fel bod modd gwneud y trefniadau angenrheidiol. Neu, mae croeso i aelodau'r cyhoedd ddod i'r cyfarfod. **Gellir ymuno drwy Zoom neu ddod i'r cyfarfod yn Hwb Rhuddlan, Clos David Owen, Rhuddlan LL18 2UJ*

Rhaglen

1. Ymddiheuriadau
2. Datgan Buddiant
3. Diweddariad gan y Cadeirydd
4. Adolygiad o'r Cynllun a'r Polisi Bioamrywiaeth
 - a. Diweddariad am y camau gweithredu a gwblhawyd ers 2023
 - b. Diweddaru'r cynllun a chytuno ar gamau gweithredu ar gyfer y dyfodol
5. Hyfforddiant Cynghorwyr yn 2024 – Cytuno ar destun a dyddiadau hyfforddiant cynghorwyr
6. Cytuno ar ddyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf

Steve Wilson - Town Clerk 07775 673706 clerk@rhuddlantowncouncil.gov.uk



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**Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Biodiversity Committee meeting on the 12th
September 2023**

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)
Cllr Val Simmons (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

Members were informed that the meeting was not being recorded
Cllr Gareth Rowlands was present as an observer.

1. Appointment of Chairperson

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed Cllr Val Simmons as Chairperson. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

A draft Terms of Reference for the committee had been circulated for Members approval. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed they be approved, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved**

2. Apologies

Cllr Ivor Beech

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Review of Biodiversity Plan & Policy

The Clerk informed Members that it was a legal requirement within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 for Town Council to maintain & enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions via the Council's biodiversity plan and policy, and by publishing an annual biodiversity report. Placed before Members was a list of 9 completed actions from 2023, along with an action plan agreed by Council on 8th December 2022 for their review.

- a) Completed Actions – Members updated the Clerk on several of the completed actions which will be inserted in the plan before bringing back to the committee

for approval. The Clerk was tasked with asking Ysgol Y Castell for a report on woodland skills undertaken by the trained teacher by the end of term. Proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved**

Members agreed to insert a statement that the Council was proud to have supported various environmental and biodiversity projects delivered by both the Council and community groups. **Resolved.**

b) Future Action – Using the 6 themes of the Environment Wales Act template, the Members proceeded to agree on updates and future actions which the Clerk will insert and amend where necessary before bringing back to the committee for their approval. **Resolved**

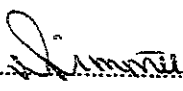
- A 2024 mid- summer consultation event using biodiversity experts to raise awareness and local groups to demonstrate their biodiversity work.
- The Council saves energy with LED lights & insulation within the Hwb and LED lights at the MUGA.
- Investigate a biodiversity area in front of the library which the librarian is happy to support.
- Continue to link with DCC and other town councils and to share Council's biodiversity plans.
- Acknowledge residents gardens that may already be supporting biodiversity.
- Although Council's land ownership is limited look at a strategy for Admiral's Field and Vicarage lane areas using the National Scheme for land management.
- Continue to support the various biodiversity project in Rhuddlan such as the Nature Reserve, CADW, DCC Countryside Services. Rhuddlan bowling club, Keep Wales Tidy, litter picks, allotment, environment association, and DCC wilding project.

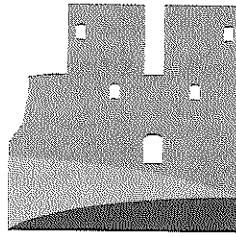
Several future projects/ideas were mentioned:

- a. Potential Beavers visit to the allotment
- b. Odyn visit by Peter Barton-Price and Cllr Gareth Rowlands
- c. Hedge trimming enhancement at Admirals Field & Vicarage Lane areas.
- d. Invite DCC officer Helen Vaughan Evans to Council meeting
- e. Plant more trees
- f. Heddwyn Jones, Glascoed to be asked ref his work on hedges on behalf of Council.
- g. Seek species list gathering
- h. Organise a walk around the nature reserve for Councillors by DCC officers pointing out the various flora, fauna and animals present.
- i. Use Cyfnod to help our biodiversity work.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday December 5th 2023

U.S.

Signed  Cllr Val Simmons (Chair)



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ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

SECTION 6 BIODIVERSITY and RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

POLICY STATEMENT & ACTION PLAN

1. Background

Rhuddlan Town Council covers an area which includes the River Clwyd, Rhuddlan Castle, farmland and a nature reserve. The council is responsible for two playing fields. The council is committed to improving biodiversity in Rhuddlan and the surrounding area.

This Plan recognises its responsibilities under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 which stipulates: authorities "must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems".

Any actions form part of a wider goal which acknowledges that under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Community Council should provide for "a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant cohesive communities".

2. Completed actions from 2023

- 2.1 Three councillors are members of the Rhuddlan Nature Reserve to help support the development and running of the reserve.
- 2.2 Support given to Denbighshire County Council wilding project in various locations within Rhuddlan.
- 2.3 Replacement of MUGA lights to more efficient ones.
- 2.4 Support given to the Rhuddlan Community Group to enable them to purchase a variety of plants in containers throughout the town that encourage insects.
- 2.5 Identification of further sites on council owned land to create wildflower areas.
- 2.6 Consideration of biodiversity in all planning application considerations.
- 2.7 Set up and first meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council Biodiversity Committee

As a statutory consultee the council considers the impact to biodiversity on all planning applications. This action is in line with the Planning Policy (Wales) Act 2016 which states: "planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or population of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity".

The council will further enhance its plan for 2024 using the section 6 template.

Objective	Action	Proposed date	Reporting/Monitoring in 2024
Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	Whole Council introduction workshop with use of WG produced slides	By end Q2/2024	
	Regular Biodiversity committee meetings and review plan and publish 2025 plan	Quarterly End Q4/2024	
	Consider embedding biodiversity in processes considering planning applications/ procurement/reports to council	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Deliver carbon and nature literacy training to councillors	End Q4/2024	
	Support wider community understanding – articles in local publications, social media posts	End Q2/2024	4
Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	Develop and agree a strategy to manage landholdings for the benefit of nature	End Q3/2024	
	Promote species recording	End Q3/2024	Q3/2024 involve the countryside team, castle t and school include birdwatch
	Promote links with local conservation projects	Ongoing	3 councillors linked to Nature Reserve Keep Wales Tidy/Countryside Services/School/ Club/Comm Group/Allotments
Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	Manage landholdings for the benefit of nature	Ongoing	
	Promote links with local conservation projects	Ongoing	
	Apply for bee friendly status	End Q4/2024	Find out what bee friendly status
	Promote private residential biodiversity enhancement (E.g. planting for pollinators, bird and bat boxes) and uptake of schemes like hedgehog street	Ongoing	Via planning
	Consider community consultation for	TBD	Invite guests/stand/residents or in midsummer

	biodiversity enhancement opportunities		
Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	Save energy, reduce waste, sustainable procurement	Plan end Q4/2023	Replacement of MUGA Lights completed Feb 2
<i>Action towards mitigating impact of Climate change, Invasive Non-native species, Habitat Loss</i>	Support community climate action	Ongoing	
	Support action on key biodiversity threats, this can include, control of invasive non-native species, prevention of habitat loss and/or degradation	As required	
	Link with DCC and other Town/Community Councils	Ongoing	
	Share information and evidence with local conservation groups and charities	Share Action Plan	
Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	Promote national environmental recording schemes like Big garden birdwatch, big butterfly count	Ongoing	
	Publish a Section 6 Biodiversity Plan	Complete	
	Appoint a lead Officer or Champion	Complete	
	Create an Environment/Biodiversity Committee to progress actions	Complete	
	Schedule progress updates	Complete	
Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.	Schedule annual review of the plan	End Q3/2023	Complete

Approved by full council on 8/12/2022 – Review in April 2024 meeting.

