

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council Meeting – Biodiversity Committee

Dear Councillor

1st February 2025

You are invited to attend a Hybrid* meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council Biodiversity Committee on Thursday, 20th February 2025 at 7pm. Members of the public wishing to attend by Zoom should inform the Town Clerk by 4pm on 20th February 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 Own, Rhuddlan LL18 2UJ.*

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Review minutes of last meeting held on 13th March 2024 & progress to date
4. Agree priorities and actions for 2025
5. Review of Biodiversity plan and Policy
 - a. Update completed actions from 2024
6. Agree date of future meetings for 2025

Cyfarfod Cyngor Tref Rhuddlan – Pwyllgor Bioamrywiaeth

Annwyl Gynghorydd

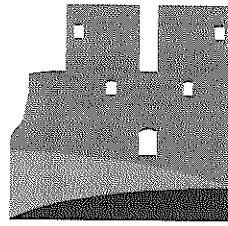
1 Chwefror 2025

Estynnir gwahoddiad i chi fynychu cyfarfod Hybrid* o Bwyllgor Bioamrywiaeth Cyngor Tref Rhuddlan a gynhelir nos Iau, 20 Chwefror 2025 am 7pm. Dylai aelodau'r cyhoedd sy'n dymuno mynychu drwy Zoom roi gwybod i Glerc y Dref erbyn 4pm ar 20 Chwefror fel bod modd gwneud y trefniadau angenrheidiol. Mae croeso i aelodau'r cyhoedd ddod i'r Ganolfan hefyd. ****Gellir ymuno drwy Zoom neu ddod i'r cyfarfod yn Hwb Rhuddlan, Clos David Owen, Rhuddlan. LL18 2UJ.***

Agenda

1. Ymddiheuriadau
2. Datgan Buddiant
3. Adolygu cofnodion y cyfarfod diwethaf a gynhaliwyd ar 13 Mawrth 2024 a'r cynnydd hyd yma
4. Cytuno ar flaenoriaethau a chamau gweithredu ar gyfer 2025
5. Trafod cyfraniad CSDd ac arbenigwyr allanol i fater Cae'r Llyngesydd
6. Adolygu'r Cynllun a'r Polisi Bioamrywiaeth
 - a. Diweddariad ar y camau gweithredu a gwblhawyd ers 2024
7. Cytuno ar ddyddiad cyfarfodydd y dyfodol ar gyfer 2025

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 13th March 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Val Simmons (Chair & Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Steve Wilson (Town Clerk)
Paul Smith (Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk)

Members were informed that the meeting was not being recorded

1. Apologies

Cllr Mike Kermode

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Biodiversity Meeting held on 12th March 2023

The Minutes had been confirmed as a true record. **Resolved**

The Clerk took Members through the various actions that had been discussed highlighting those which have been completed such as the MUGA LED floodlights and particularly the postponement of investigating a biodiverse area in front of the library whilst a potential museum project is being considered.

In addition the meetings future projects were discussed to indicate progress.

Cllr Arwel Roberts noted the flooding issues on Admiral's Field in the lower left hand corner near the allotments. He suggested that the planting of trees and shrubs in this area might relieve this flooding by the trees capillary action of removing the excess waters, and inviting DCC's biodiversity officer to look at the potential of his suggestion. Cllr Roberts also suggested Mr Peter Barton-Price as an advisor on this potential project. **Resolved.**

4. Update from Chair

Cllr Val Simmons had attended the Managing Green Spaces training which she had found very useful.

5. Review of Biodiversity Plan & Policy

a. Completed Actions from 2023 had already been noted in the discussion on Item 3 above with the added note that there are 2 Councillors who are members of the Rhuddlan Nature Reserve to assist their development and management.

b. To Update the biodiversity plan and agree future actions. The Committee read through the circulated 2024 plan and agreed the following actions to complete:-

- Council introduction to biodiversity training by June meeting
- Continue biodiversity committee meetings
- Deliver carbon & nature literacy training by the end of the year
- Place Council's biodiversity actions on the website
- To agree a biodiversity strategy by the end of the year
- Promote the recording of species with DCC and Ysgol Y Castell.
- Continue links with conservation groups.
- Consider our waste recycling strategy
- Always think of sustainable procurement

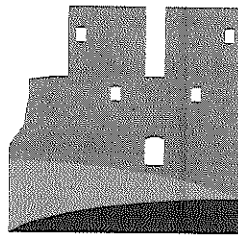
The Clerk stated he would now draft the future actions into our biodiversity plan and send it to the Welsh Government as required by law. **Resolved**

6. Councillor Training 2024

The committee agreed that training should be provided for Councillors 3 times a year in April, July, and September 2024, at 6.30pm previous to the regular Full Council meeting. The topics would be awareness of biodiversity, pollinators, and carbon literacy. This to be arranged face to face in the Hwb or virtually on Zoom by external providers. **Resolved**

7. Next Meeting to be agreed

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.

