

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council Meeting – Biodiversity Committee

Dear Councillor

29th May 2025

You are invited to attend a Hybrid* meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council Biodiversity Committee on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at **6pm**. Members of the public wishing to attend by Zoom should inform the Town Clerk by 4pm on 2nd June 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 **Rhuddlan Community Centre, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan***

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Review minutes of last meeting held on 20th February and any actions arising
4. Review progress against recently approved Biodiversity Plan
5. Admiral's Field biodiversity projects and funding opportunities
6. Date of next meeting 2nd October 2025.

Cyfarfod Cyngor Tref Rhuddlan – Pwyllgor Bioamrywiaeth

Annwyl Gynghorydd

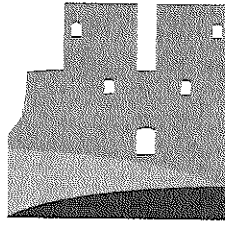
29 Mai 2025

Estynnir gwahoddiad i chi fynychu cyfarfod Hybrid* o Bwyllgor Bioamrywiaeth Cyngor Tref Rhuddlan nos Fawrth, 3 Mehefin 2025 am **6pm**. Dylai aelodau'r cyhoedd sy'n dymuno mynychu drwy Zoom roi gwybod i Glerc y Dref erbyn 4pm ar 2 Mehefin fel bod modd gwneud y trefniadau angenrheidiol. Mae croeso i aelodau'r cyhoedd ddod i'r cyfarfod yn y Ganolfan Gymunedol hefyd. **Gellir ymuno drwy Zoom neu ddod i'r cyfarfod yng **Nghanolfan Gymuned Rhuddlan, Stryd y Senedd, Rhuddlan***

Agenda

1. Ymddiheuriadau
 2. Datgan buddiant
 3. Adolygu cofnodion y cyfarfod diwethaf a gynhaliwyd ar 20 Chwefror ac unrhyw gamau gweithredu
 4. Adolygu cynnydd ar sail y Cynllun Bioamrywiaeth a gymeradwywyd yn ddiweddar
 5. Prosiectau bioamrywiaeth a chyfleodd ariannu Cae'r Llyngesydd
- Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf 2 Hydref 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 20th February 2025

Present:

Cllr Val Simmons (Chair & Mayor)
Cllr Sophie Baker
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Steve Wilson (Town Clerk)

Members were informed that the meeting was not being recorded

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Update from Chair

Current chair Cllr Val Simmons explained that due to personal circumstances she felt she could not continue as the Chairperson, she stated her commitment to remain an active member of the committee. Cllr Val Simmons proposed that Cllr Jackie Burnham becomes chair, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

4. Minutes of Biodiversity Meeting held on 13th March 2024

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

Cllr Arwel Roberts informed the committee that the flooding issues at the Bowls Club and Allotments had been resolved.

5. Review of Biodiversity Plan & Policy & General Discussion

Councillors ran through the plan and concluded that the council had not made as much progress as planned. Councillors discussed the following items:

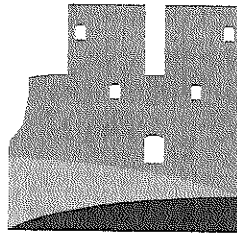
1. Potential biodiversity improvements for Admirals Field including:
 - 1.1. Planting of trees in the wet area adjacent to the path which would also help reduce the flooding.

- 1.2. Planting of pollinator friendly plants to encourage bees.
- 1.3. Creating a wildflower garden on the Bowls Club side of the field adjacent to the path.
- 1.4. Bulb planting around the perimeter of the field.
- 1.5. Shallow small pond.
2. To encourage all Councillors, attend a minimum of two biodiversity training events in 2025.
3. To invite DCC Countryside Officers Garry Davies and Jim Fitzpatrick to a site meeting on Admiral's Field to give expert advice on what to do and best how to do it.
4. To make improvements to the area around the Knights and at the library entrance.
5. Involvement of local groups in tree planting. The Beavers are going to plant some trees at Rhuddlan Nature Reserve.
6. To explore accreditations such as those from "Village and Town Greens"
7. To invite the "Willow Collective" and other local biodiversity groups to the Summer event on 2/8

8. Next Meetings

Scheduled to be held on 5th June 2025, 2nd October 2025 and 5th February 2026.

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 2024/2025

2.1 Three councillors were members of the Rhuddlan Nature Reserve to help support the development and running of the reserve.

2.2 Financial support given to the Rhuddlan Community Group to enable them to purchase a variety of plants in containers throughout the town that encourage insects.

2.3 Identification of further sites on council owned land to create wildflower areas.

2.4 Consideration of biodiversity in all planning application considerations.

2.5 Quarterly meetings of Rhuddlan Town Council Biodiversity Committee held.

2.6 Full council has attended Bio-diversity training for councillors delivered by DCC Countryside Services/

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 2025/2026 using the section 6 template.

Objective	Action	Proposed date	Reporting/Monitoring in 2025/2026
Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	Regular Biodiversity committee meetings and review plan and publish 2025/2026	Quarterly meetings	
	Further biodiversity training for councillors	Twice a year	
	Consider embedding biodiversity in processes considering planning applications/ procurement/reports to council	Ongoing	Ongoing – comment on all planning applications regarding no adverse impact to biodiversity of a planning application.
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 Q4/2025	
	Promote species recording	End Q4/2025	Involve the countryside team and school in birdwatch
	Promote links with local conservation projects	Ongoing	2 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	
	Promote private residential biodiversity enhancement (E.g. planting for pollinators, bird and bat boxes) and uptake of schemes like hedgehog street	Ongoing	Via planning
	Create scrape and wetland wildflower garden at Admirals Field	End Q2/2026	Invite guests/stand/residents or in midsummer
	Support community climate action	Ongoing	
	Create bee friendly area of Admiral's Field via the planting of pollinator friendly plants	End Q1/2026	
	Support action on key biodiversity threats, this can include, control of invasive non-native species,	As required	

	prevention of habitat loss and/or degradation		
	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 Q1/2026	

Approved by full council on 8/05/2025 – Review in May 2026 AGM meeting.

