



Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 *The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty*

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council: Rhuddlan Town Council

Group: 2

Introduction and Context

- 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, one of which is a historical monument. The council is committed to improving biodiversity in Rhuddlan and the surrounding area.
- There are approximately 1,700 households, a population around 4,000 people and a Precept of £199.4k for the last financial year.
- 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".
- The council helps biodiversity through:
 - a. Improving its own land to encourage greater biodiversity.
 - b. Active involvement with local nature reserve, school and local voluntary groups.
 - c. Ensuring planning applications and development enhance rather than negatively impacting biodiversity.
 - d. Providing financial support to local voluntary groups.

Action Report 2023 - 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...		Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	The Town Council's Biodiversity Committee established in September 2023. It meets quarterly to drive improvements to Biodiversity in Rhuddlan.	Clerk ensures meetings take place and actions are implemented.

		Planning applications are reviewed with biodiversity in mind, comment on all responses asking for DCC to ensure there are no adverse effects on local biodiversity and enhancements made including the installation of swift and bat boxes	Clerk runs council through planning applications and ensures appropriate feedback is given in responses
	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Most Councillors have received Biodiversity Training from DCC Countryside Services Officer. Councillors encouraged to attend One Voice Wales further training modules on Biodiversity. The council installed a path around Admiral's Field to make the Playing Field more accessible to people in wheelchairs, mobility scooters and those with prams etc. It also encourages people to visit the Playing Fields in the colder and wetter seasons. The council hold at least 6 litter picks a year involving adults, children, local groups which help children understand the importance of not littering and of recycling. The council invited Denbighshire's Countryside team to its Volunteering Fair and Summer Event in August 2024 to demonstrate the art of hedge laying. The volunteering Fair is open to all volunteering groups including those linked with Biodiversity such as the Rhuddlan Community Group and Nature Reserve.	Chair of Biodiversity Committee encourages councillors to attend training. Training is listed on the council's training plan which is reported in annual report.
2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	A wildlife garden planned for Admiral's Field including: A wetland wildflower garden A large area of wildflowers via turf Raised beds of UK pollinating plants.	Grant application with Keep Wales Tidy awarded.

		Council will consider the impact to biodiversity of all planning applications it considers.	Implemented by May 2026.
3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	As above, New wetland wildflower garden, wild flowering part of Admiral's field and introduction of native pollinators.	May 2026
4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	The council run and promote regular Community litter picks which include both Council owned green areas as well as the nature reserve and once a year the banks of the River Clwyd.	
5	-use improve and share evidence	The council take advice from the DCC Countryside Services Team when carrying out any green works in the town.	
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	Council involvement with Rhuddlan Nature Reserve – 2 councillors are members of the Management Committee, and a Partnership Working Agreement has been signed with the council taking the leadership of obtaining grants for improvements. Rhuddlan Community Group is sponsored to plant pollinators around the town. Biodiversity budget allocated annually. Match funding budget allocated for Nature Reserve improvements. Council funded two teachers from Ysgol Y Castell to attend woodland training so they can deliver this activity and learning to pupils in the school. The council has formally recognised other organisations for their success in Wales in Bloom – Your Neighbourhood awards including Rhuddlan Bowls Club, Rhuddlan Allotments Society, Rhuddlan Nature Reserve and Rhuddlan Town Community Association.	Partnership agreement for Nature Reserve signed Annual Grant awarded Budget allocated Budget allocated Completed in 2023 Done in 2024 and 2025

		The council plans to gain Wales in Bloom Your Neighbourhood Status for Admiral's Field. Grants available to local groups and organisations including those linked with improving biodiversity.	For 2026/27 Ongoing
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Review of Section 6 actions for 2023 to 2025

What has worked well?	The formation of the Council's Biodiversity Committee has been a key element in facilitating the delivery of improved biodiversity performance for the council. It has not been perfect but has gradually gather momentum. The successful Keep Wales Tidy Wildlife Garden grant pack has helped the council focus on this element of council activity. The Biodiversity awareness training for councillors certainly helped put the subject into councillor considerations in meetings. This has been helped by a councillor who is a local farmer sharing his experiences with councillors including involvement in national biodiversity initiatives. The replacement floodlights at the MUGA have reduced energy consumption and the council's environmental footprint. Funding the Rhuddlan Community Groups planting of flowers in tubs around the town has both improved the look of the town, helped improve resident's wellbeing and supported pollinators.
What have the barriers been?	Not all councillors have the motivation, time or willingness to attend further biodiversity training. The council does not have an unlimited budget and the impact of Denbighshire County Council forcing the Town Council to fund the likes of libraries and public toilets limits funding of other projects and activities which will include biodiversity. It is difficult to engage both members of the public and councillors to volunteer with activities, generally it is the same faces. The lack of green spaces under council control/ownership impact opportunity as play areas and sports field are important facilities in the community and the challenge is to enhance these facilities and well as improving biodiversity. Biodiversity is just one aspect of the council's remit.

What will change?	The proposed improvements to Admiral's Filed will focus councillors and the local community to get involved in these projects. They will only succeed with the involvement of the council, residents as well as local groups supported by Keep Wales Tidy. The allocation of a budget to the Council's Biodiversity Committee will allow it to seek out further opportunities and be able to fund and implement.
How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed	The duty will be monitored through full council via the approval of the Biodiversity Committee minutes of meetings held quarterly. The S6 plan will be reviewed annually during December each year and the plan updated.

Approved by full town council on 11th December 2025. Agenda and minute item 12.