

***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6***

***The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty***

***Report 2022***

**Abergele Town Council:**

## **Introduction and Context**

- A short description of the Council, its functions and context in relation to
  - how it could help biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities, for e.g.)
  - spatial scale and place (e.g. how much land does it cover, population, precept?)
  - public service delivery (e.g. is it subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act?)

### ***Mission Statement:***

*As a democratic voice for the community of Abergele, the Council will work towards securing a sustainable and economically vibrant future and a society which is healthy, safe and socially inclusive.*

### ***Aims:***

- *To promote and represent the community's views*
- *To serve those who live and work in Abergele and those who visit the town*
- *To enhance the historic and cultural heritage of Abergele and safeguard its natural and built environment in conjunction with the Power of Wellbeing Act*
- *To work in partnership with all other bodies, whether statutory, public, private, voluntary or community, in order to improve the quality of life and well-being of the community and to promote the town in an active and positive manner.*

### ***To achieve these aims, Abergele Town Council has agreed the following Objectives:***

- *To consult with the community to establish its aspirations for the future*
- *To promote the vitality and viability of Abergele*
- *To encourage and participate in partnership and agency working with the public, private and voluntary sectors to achieve quality services in all areas for the betterment of Abergele and its residents and visitors*
- *To promote sustainable policies that strive to improve the environment to meet the needs of residents and visitors for both the present and future*
- *To help create a socially inclusive and caring community that embraces all residents and which seeks to develop their wellbeing, knowledge and understanding and mutual co-operation*
- *To strive for a pleasant, clean and safe environment*
- *To deliver quality services that provide value for money and to review those services on a regular basis*
- *To support local voluntary groups that seek to assist residents and visitors to Abergele*

<b>Action Report</b>		
Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2022 Annual Report</li> <li>• Take into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters. Developing adaptation &amp; mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• The Council will consider changing mowing regimes by reducing the frequency of cuts to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants, also providing cover for small mammals and reptiles.</li> <li>• No mow May</li> </ul>	<p>Commitments made in documents</p> <p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.</p> <p>Not implemented</p>
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• awareness raising training sessions for members and staff.</li> <li>• encourage the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces.</li> <li>• post details of the actions taken to help biodiversity on the website, social media platforms</li> <li>• waymarker project pending funding</li> </ul>	<p>Members to attend training</p> <p>PlacePlan Facilitator is encouraging this</p> <p>Placeplan Facilitator</p>

<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contributed to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)</li> <li>• Ensured that Green Gele project work takes into account principal species and habitats and creates beneficial additions</li> </ul>	<p>Records of any sites or species safeguarded Placeplan Facilitator to collate</p>
<p>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planted hanging baskets and planters with native pollinator friendly flowers.</li> <li>• Railway station has 8 new pollinator friendly planters installed and maintained by a newly formed Friends of Abergele Train station Community group</li> <li>• Contributed to the planning of a community growing space in the train station.</li> </ul>	<p>Area of habitat increased. Placeplan Facilitator</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided wildlife friendly garden design lessons to St George's primary school. Resulted in a new designed space that the school are working with our Place Plan Facilitator to implement.</li> <li>• Provided 300 trees to begin the project through the Queens Jubilee Planting scheme</li> <li>• This same planting scheme has provided an additional 400 trees to be planted at St Michaels church and Pentre Mawr Park</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked on plans with TFW and Cartrefi Conwy to plant a tree trail on Maes Canol estate.</li> <li>• This will be educational for the 3 local primary schools and provide fantastic new wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Planted 10,000 daffodil bulbs as part of the scheme</li> </ul>	
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable procurement policy which includes ensuring office supplies such as paper, cleaning products and office furniture are sustainably sourced (e.g. locally and/or made from recycled material).</li> <li>• Purchasing a composting bin for our green waste. In time this will be used in our planters and hanging baskets, replacing peat based compost.</li> <li>• Reduced the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non- native species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam</li> <li>• Water Butt agreed</li> </ul>	<p>Areas of invasive species tackled</p> <p>Amount of pesticide applied?</p> <p>Place Plan Facilitator</p> <p>Place Plan Facilitator</p> <p>To be implemented 2023</p>
-use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work with the Biodiversity Officer at Conwy County Borough Council to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues</li> </ul>	Placeplan Facilitator

<p>-support capacity and/or other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• launch an annual award scheme to recognise the achievements of either a resident or local organisation who is championing environmental issues including schools and individuals who have both provided substantial help in maintaining a local nature reserve.</li> <li>• Abergele in Bloom</li> <li>• Require any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project.</li> </ul>	<p>Small budget will provide positive biodiversity benefits</p> <p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit.</p> <p>To be implemented</p>
---------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Review of s6 duty

- What has worked well?  
The creation of wildflower and plant areas has been a success, especially as it has proved attractive to residents in addition to helping biodiversity. Also, there have been cost saving through the reduction of mowing. Design work and practical planting sessions have engaged community groups and created a spark of interest in biodiversity projects.
- What have the barriers been?  
Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice, Placeplan Facilitator has only been in post 18 months and has a large remit. Lack of time to implement all elements. Difficult to work collaboratively with the County council as they are undergoing funding cuts. Community groups are in need of a coordinator that can provide support on events and to establish regular working patterns.
- What will you change?  
Work with Local Environmental Records Centre and the local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice.  
Place Plan Facilitator is leading on many biodiversity projects.  
Consolidate a variety of smaller objectives and projects into a larger single project with clearer aims.  
Work with community groups to deliver smaller projects.

- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

The duty will be monitored through the Placeplan Committee and individual officers reporting back to the Council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through the usual weekly, monthly and annual inspections. The S6 Plan will be reviewed in light of these reports and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Council. At the time of this report's publication, there is no specific time or date set for the next plan to be reviewed, but this will be done within the next six months