

**ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 PART 1 – SECTION 6**

**THE BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS**

**DUTY REPORT 2025**

**ESCLUSHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Introduction and Context**

The Section 6 (S6) Duty requires that public authorities '*must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems*'. To comply with the S6 duty public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes, and projects, as well as their day-to-day activities.

More information about national and local actions and objectives can be found at Wales Biodiversity Partnership using the following link: <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/>

The reporting duty is not designed to be burdensome but should reflect the size and type of organisation regarding the action for biodiversity they can carry out.

Esclusham Community Council provides a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity.

We are committed to promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

In summary:

- The area consists of mainly mixed density, residential properties, and has wide ranging open spaces included within them, tree planting schemes have taken place within our ward, working closely with Wrexham County Borough Council. In some areas there are deep grass verges, where native daffodil bulb has been planted.
- There 1 Infant/Primary/Junior School within the Community.

- The Community Council has a selection of street lighting (maintained by Esclusham Community Council and Wrexham County Borough Council).
- There are 2 Play Areas in the Community which the Community Council makes a financial contribution to the maintenance of on a match funding basis with Wrexham County Council.
- The Community Council has taken part in the Keep Wales Tidy initial scheme, which involved collaborating a community group 'Friends of the Parish Hall. Working in partnership with them they have maintained and established hedgerow's and flower beds around the ward.
- There is an issue with Ash dieback within the ward, and the Community Council will work with Wrexham County Borough Council's Tree Officer to replant as many trees as possible where trees have been felled.

## Action Report

How the Community Council could assist biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, educational activities with our local schools)

Please note in respect of public services delivery - The Council is not subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act as its Precept is below £200,000.

Principal	Action	Monitored by
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Reflect the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Community Council's Annual report.	Commitments to be made in all relevant documents.
	Take into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters. Developing adaptation and mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.	Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Work with local school to encourage a knowledge and awareness of the environmental and sustainability matters amongst local children.  To encourage the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces where possible.  Post details of the actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website, social media platforms	Through feedback from Community Council members (as School Governors) and residents.  Numbers of people taking part in activities
Safeguard principal species and habitats	To contribute to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	Record of any sites or species Safeguarded

<p>Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>Supported Wrexham County Borough Council's, Bio-diversity team in delivered tree, shrub planting, and general maintenance to encourage wildlife back into the area. This is part of the Community Councils collaborative working to help maintain all areas especially walking trails, which are once again becoming a haven for wildlife and includes features such as a community bench's in and around the Ward.</p> <p>To continue to support changed mowing regimes by reducing the frequency of cuts to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants, also providing cover for small mammals and reptiles.</p> <p>To continue to work in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Councils Biodiversity Officer.</p>	<p>Numbers of possible nesting sites provided</p>
<p>Tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>Reduced the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>Continue to work with Wrexham County Borough Councils Biodiversity Officer and team to enhance the biodiversity and ecosystems along the riverside walk.</p>	<p>Areas of invasive species tackled with the help and advice from coastal. Ranger.</p> <p>Amount of pesticide applied</p>
<p>Use, improve, and share evidence.</p>	<p>To work with the Biodiversity Officer at Wrexham County Council (for example) to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues.</p> <p>Working with Wrexham County Council Biodiversity Officer and team to improve biodiversity and ecosystems along the trails and walks.</p>	<p>Use of expert advice</p>

Support capacity and/or other organisations	<p>Require any organisations receiving grant from the Community Council to demonstrate, when appropriate, and how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of the project within our Community.</p> <p>Continue working with Wrexham County Council's, Biodiversity Officer and team to help encourage extra volunteers to improve local wildlife area.</p>	Amount of money spent which will provide positive biodiversity benefits
---	--	---

#### **Review of Section 6 duty**

#### **What has worked well?**

The continued work with the Biodiversity Officer and team, provides a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of biodiversity to the local community.

Native daffodil bulbs were planted, along with seasonal plants for the flower beds.

Tree have been planted on areas within the Community, via Wrexham County Borough Councils tree planting scheme.

#### **What have the barriers been?**

The Community Council can only recommend and try to encourage residents and landowners in the community to embrace biodiversity.

The lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.

## **What will you change?**

To continue working with WCBC's Biodiversity Officer and seek advice whenever necessary.

Promote biodiversity more proactively by using the Community Councils social media and website.

The Community Council has instigated a Biodiversity Sub-committee who will consult with other organisations working within the community and bring forward proposals to support Wrexham County Borough Council in its management and continuing improvement of the biodiversity of ecosystems within our community.

## **How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed?**

The S6 duty will be monitored by the Biodiversity Committee and the Clerk, reporting back to full Council with periodic updates.

The S6 plan will be reviewed in light of this report and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Community Council. At the time of this report's publication, there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed, however, we would aim to review on an annual basis.

Mark A. Andrew  
Clerk to Esclusham Community Council  
31/12/2025

To be reviewed by Council by  
31/12/2026