



**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6**  
**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**  
**Report October 2021 – October 2022 (Post COVID recovery)**



**Neath Town Council**

Short description of PA & its functions and context in relation to biodiversity (e.g. management of land, influence over land management, or indirect influence through procurement, funding projects, etc)




Neath Town Council have the following sites under its care which have areas of 'green and open spaces':-

- Neath Castle
- Melyn Community Centre
- Cimla Community Centre
- Fairyland Allotment Site
- Old Road Allotment Site

Biodiversity has been addressed this year by Members. It has been agreed that the Council will extend its periods of grass cutting from 2 to 3 weeks to allow for cross pollination. Additionally, the creation of three new wild flower borders in its three communal areas has been met with positivity from the community.

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<p>Action carried out to:</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making &amp; procurement</p>	<p>Biodiversity has been included in the Council's Annual Return this year.</p>	<p>Town Clerk</p>
<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity &amp; its importance</p>	<p>Discussed via an Estates Committee meeting where a representative of each Allotment Site is present.</p>	<p>Town Clerk  Allotment Societies</p>
<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>Town Clerk/Gardener  Allotment Societies</p>
<p>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p> 	<p>Speak to Hanging Basket providers to discuss increasing cross pollination friendly flowers. Changed mowing regimes by reducing the frequency of cuts to</p>	<p>Town Clerk/Contractors   Gardener</p>


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	<p>encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants, also providing cover for small mammals and reptiles.</p> <p>3 key Grants received from Keep Wales Tidy to improve and support biodiversity in these areas.</p>	<p>Gardener</p>
<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p> 	<p>Communicate with NPTCBC who we loan the Hanging Basket containers from to use and encourage the use of a composting bin for green waste. In time this will be used in our planters and hanging baskets. Continue to monitor the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non-native species.</p> <p>Consider a feasibility study of future installations of 'green roof' bus shelters which will replace all old shelters at the time of decay, where appropriate and where funding will allow.</p>	<p>Gardener/NPTCBC</p> <p>Allotment Representative</p>  <p>NPTCBC</p>
<p>-use, improve and share evidence</p>	<p>Shown via social media/information boards and advertising of sites.</p>	<p>Town Clerk</p>
<p>-support capacity, and/or other organisations</p> 	<p>Continue to support an annual award for both Allotment sites which recognise the achievements of either a resident or local organisation who is championing environmental issues on each site.</p> <p>Establishing a 'communal area' in Fairyland Allotments which includes supporting and maintaining a small nature reserve.</p>	<p>Allotmenters</p> <p>Fairyland Allotment Society</p>
<p>Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible</p>	<p>Implementation of wild flower gardens in all three sites has been met with positivity in the community.</p> <p><u>What has worked well?</u></p>	



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	<p>The creation of wildflower and plant areas has been a success, especially as it has proved attractive to visitors in addition to helping biodiversity. Also, there have been some cost savings through the reduction in mowing.</p> <p>Award of 3 grants in key areas for promoting and improving biodiversity.</p> <p><u><i>What have the barriers been?</i></u>  Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.</p> <p>What will you change?  Increase knowledge base with Gardener – possible future training.</p> 
<p>Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan</p>	<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p> <p>The duty will be monitored through the Estates Committee and Allotmenters and NTC staff reporting back to the Council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through the usual weekly, monthly and annual inspections.</p> <p>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 plan to be reviewed, but this will be done within the next six months.</p>
<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<p>Annually.</p> 