**Marshfield Community Council**

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

Plan to comply with the S6 duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. Adopted December 2019

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| 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) | Marshfield Community Council is a local authority at the community council tier of local government in Wales.  It is directly responsible for land at Groes Corner, and leases and manages allotment sites at Marshfield Road and Church Lane from Newport City Council. The Council is Custodian Trustee for Marshfield Village Hall and leases the grounds around the Hall from Newport City Council. The management of the Hall and grounds is in the hands of the Village Hall Management Committee, a registered charity, although the Council takes responsibility for the play areas and multi-use games area constructed within the Village Hall grounds.  The Council is able to make purchases and payments for the benefit of local residents and can work in collaboration with local groups and other organisations such as Newport City Council and Natural Resources Wales for some projects. | |
| Action carried out to: |  | Monitored by: |
| -embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement | Grounds maintenance contracts. Collaboration with VHMC.  Allotment management.  Planters.  Planning consultation responses.  Community projects. | Full Council |
| -raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance | Ensure Members are aware of the duties included in S6.  Collaboration with VHMC.  Guidance to allotment committee and tenants.  Published statement of support. E.g. Website, Facebook.  Encouragement of relevant community projects. | Full Council |
| -safeguard principal species and habitats | Need to find out about local species and habitats. Contact Newport City Council and Natural Resources Wales. | Full Council |
| -restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks | Could include allotment site, Village Hall grounds, Groes Corner. Could work with churches, school and other local organisations with suitable land.  Liaise with Newport City Council on ground maintenance work and their adherence to S6 principles. | Full Council/Village Hall Management Committee |
| -tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species | Encouragement to follow biodiversity principles.  Monitoring all land for invasive species.  Work against fly-tipping and pollution of reens. | Full Council |
| -use, improve and share evidence | Local environment record centres  Citizen science | To be decided |
| -support capacity, and/or other organisations | Support for local groups creating biodiversity relevant projects. E.g. Scouts, Brownies, school, Magpies | Full Council |
| Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible | Allotments Tenant’s Handbook advises on composting, leaf mulch, growing organically, use of pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilizers, invasive species and encouraging beneficial wildlife. Biodiversity principles based on this advice is encouraged.  The Council supports the Bee Friendly Scheme and has allowed bee hives to be sited on an allotment plot.  There are ponds and natural areas on site.  Allotment sites have constructed rain water collection systems for tenant’s use to water crops. | |
| Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan | Contact Newport City Council and Natural Resources Wales to learn more about biodiversity issues in the area.  Liaise with VHMC and grounds maintenance contractor to explore improvements to biodiversity within Village Hall grounds, including children’s play areas.  Consider new projects that could improve local biodiversity. | |
| How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? | The Finance & General Purposes Committee will monitor the Council’s business to ensure the S6 duty has been taken into account. When S6 matters are included they will be recorded in Council minutes and in the plan.  The plan will be reviewed annually and a further report created before the end of 2022. | |