

## **Martletwy Community Council**

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

#### **INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT**

Martletwy Community Council ward is predominantly made up of rural communities with various small settlements, surrounded almost entirely by farmland. This report deals only with the duty of the community council and does not necessarily impact on farmers and landowners in the ward.

The area mostly consists of fields, trees and watercourses such as the Cleddau. Most buildings are either traditional stone or single storey.

The Community Council is subject to the biodiversity and ecosystems resilience duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 and is required to provide a report outlining what they have done to comply with the aforementioned duty.

The Community Council comprises 6 councillors. It has a Precept less than £11,500 with an electorate of 455.

#### **AIMS**

It is the Community Council's aim to:

- a) embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement.
- b) Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance within the community.
- c) Safeguard principal species and habitats.
- d) Restore and create habitat and resilient ecological networks where viable.
- e) Tackle negative factors where viable. These may include reduction of pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species.
- f) Use, improve and share evidence.
- g) Support capacity/and or other organisations.

#### **ACTIONS TO DATE**

1. When considering their planning responses, the Community Council remains mindful of the applications impact on biodiversity. Where required they query unnecessary tree works, consider the impact of local drainage on watercourses, and other relevant factors arising.
2. When considering procurement of materials, the Community Council endeavours to seek supply from local suppliers to reduce delivery miles.
3. When considering procurement of supplies, the Community Council endeavours to use suitable materials which will enhance biodiversity and reduce waste.
4. When considering the use of paid labour or contractors, the Community Council endeavours to use local tradesman and businesses in order to reduce road miles and put back into the local economy.
5. The Community Council is responsible for two local play areas and is looking to enhance the green spaces on the sites. They planted over 70 saplings provided by the national park and Woodland Trust.
6. The Community Council gifted every family with children in the ward a sapling from the trees provided by the national park and Woodland Trust.

## **Martletwy Community Council**

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

7. Newly received grant funding (Doing the Small Things) has enabled the Community Council to commence volunteer litter picking sessions. The grant funding will also enable the setting up of regular swap shops for books, clothes and other household items.
8. The Community Council looks to apply for funding and support for biodiversity projects whenever feasible. The most recent application is for a free Orchard Package in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy. If successful it will provide trees, native bulbs, and a picnic bench which can be installed in Martletwy play area.
9. There is a privately run Community Garden in the ward. It is not within the remit of the Community Council but is a valuable resource for those who are involved.
10. The Community Council is currently considering ways to enhance additional domestic recycling to complement the local authority's recycling programme.
11. The Community Council are quick to report highway matters that may impact on the biodiversity of the area.

#### **REVIEW OF S6 DUTY**

##### a. What has worked well

- i. The consideration of aspects of planning applications that may impact on local biodiversity is a positive action and will continue.
- ii. Doing the Small Things grant funding will be very enabling with regard to the removal of litter, thereby enhancing the local area and removing dangerous items from the reach of wildlife. Plans to reduce household waste with a swap shop will also compliment the local authorities recycling programme.
- iii. Issues with the maintenance of the saplings has seen lessons learned which will be taken forward.
- iv. The use of local resources and labour will work well.
- v. Funding and support applications continue to be successful.

##### b. Going forward

- i. Continue to consider what further action can be taken to ensure the actions and functions of the Community Council meet the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty as laid out in Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Part 1, Section 6.

##### c. Monitoring and Review

- i. The s6 duty will be monitored by the Community Council regularly with new plans and ideas to be added as appropriate.
- ii. The plan will be reviewed annually.