

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Report 2022**

Name of Town or Community Council: JOHNSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

Johnston Community Council provide a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Responsibility for a number of green spaces include 3 play areas and 13 acres of pond, woodland and meadow.
- Organising planters and encouraging householders for the annual Johnston In Bloom competition.
- Funding - we encourage projects in the Council's area. This impacts on biodiversity through cascading funding criteria.

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

We serve approximately 2000 residents. The precept for 2023-24 is £36000

Action Report

| Action carried out to: | (For example) | Monitored by: (for example) |
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| Embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2022 Annual Report. • Taken into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood services matters. Developing adaptation & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change. | <p>Commitments made in documents</p> <p>Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications.</p> |
| Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance | | |
| Safeguard principal species and habitats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured no negative impacts on protected species | <p>Records of any sites or species safeguarded ;</p> <p>Supported the Local Authority for bat protection near the old school.</p> |
| Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted planters with native pollinator friendly flowers (provided by community volunteers). | <p>Area of habitat increased.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported a local community woodland (The Cunnigar) which is now a haven for wildlife and includes features such as a community benches. • The woodland, pond and meadow areas have been enhanced in conjunction with the County Council in early 2023 and significant work will continue to enhance this are further in the coming years. • Changed mowing regimes by reducing the frequency of cuts at lower end of Glebelands to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants, also providing cover for small mammals and reptiles. • Installed nesting boxes in the Cunnigar, to provide safe places for species of birds that are struggling to nest. | 6 nesting sites provided |
| Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • Reduced the use of pesticides to only where absolutely necessary such as to control invasive non- native species such as Japanese Knotweed. | Working with Local Authority teams to control invasive weeds on a regular basis to reduce further spread. |
| Use improve and share evidence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of enhancement is shred to various community and county councillors and “good news” stories will be shared with local media. | |
| Support capacity and/or other organisations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual award scheme (Johnston In Bloom) to recognise the achievements of either a resident or local business that provide and display flowers throughout the summer. • Required any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how | |

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| | <p>this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Primary school in their ambitions to develop the wetland to the rear of the school. • Challenge the Local Authority where increased biodiversity can be obtained within our village. | |
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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. Creating a new “woodland walk” around the Gleblands field which focuses on keeping the natural habitat unchanged has improved not only resident services but has increased biodiversity and is encouraging an array of species to flourish. Additionally, the reduction in mowing frequency continues to help financially.

- What have the barriers been?

Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice continues to be a challenge.

- What will you change?

Organise awareness raising and training sessions for members and staff.

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

The duty will be monitored through the Environmental, Sustainability and Planning Committee and individual officers reporting back to the council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken.

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 3 years.