

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Reporting on Section 6

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report - August 2025

Name of Town or Community Council: HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

- Holywell Town Council is an elected body of fifteen councillors with several statutory powers and duties. It operates at grass roots level and is nearest the electorate and local community. The geographical area covered by the council includes the wards of Holywell Central, Holywell East, Holywell West, and Greenfield. Both Holywell and Greenfield are within the County of Flintshire.

- ***how we help with:***

- ***biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities, for e.g.)***

The Council implemented its Biodiversity Policy in November 2020, and the policy (similar to all Council policies) is reviewed periodically on a cyclical basis, to ensure its continued suitability and effectiveness, and adherence with the Council's current aims and objectives.

- ***spatial scale and place (e.g. how much land does it cover, population, precept?)***

Holywell and Greenfield have an aggregated population of circa 9,000 and there are circa 6,500 residents registered on the electoral roll. Its current local taxation precept paid by residents is £87.89, that generates precepted income of £307,000 across the 3,493 units allocated in the area's tax base.

- ***public service delivery (e.g. is it subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act?)***

The Council had a turnover that exceeded £200,000 in each of the financial years since 2017/18 and from 2019/20 this triggered an annual report, that outlined how the Council had supported the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The latest annual report completed for the year 2024/25 identified the following core contribution areas, aligned to the Flintshire County Council Well-being Plan:

1) Community Safety

Liaison with North Wales Police, CCTV coverage in the town centre, deployment of mobile CCTV cameras at targeted community hot spots, Councillor representative on Community Liaison Meetings, funding of summer play schemes.

2) Economy and Skills

Encourage volunteers and community engagement, liaison with local businesses, establishment of a business showcase page on Facebook for all local businesses to use and promote their businesses, launch of business discount voucher scheme.

3) Environment

Wales in Bloom participation, hanging basket displays in the town centre and other areas, establishment of wildflower verges, community litter picks, annual participation in the match fund scheme to upgrade existing play areas across the community.

4) Healthy and Independent Living

Contributions to the Mayoral Charities, grants and contributions to community groups, contribution to Holywell Leisure Centre, offering use of the Council Offices to community groups free of charge, installation of outdoor gym and trim trail.

5) Resilient Communities

Remembrance Sunday Service and parade, Christmas Lights Switch On event, other community events, annual Community Endeavour Awards, the continued operation of the Eco School Uniform Initiative.

Action Report

Action carried out to:	Evidence	Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Accredited Bee Friendly town, installation of bug hotels, implementation of heritage grant scheme involving the planting of trees and installation of bat and bird boxes on the active travel route from the Strand estate to Pen y Maes woods, attend partnership meetings with Greenfield Valley Trust, support for local groups such as the Friends of the Holway and Transition Holywell & District, expansion of the floral basket displays in the town centre and other areas, annual entry into the Wales in Bloom competition, running of the schools Wales in Bloom competition, planting of wild flowers on grass verges, town centre planter adoption scheme, enhanced	Development Committee
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance		
-safeguard principal species and habitats		
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks		
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species		

-use improve and share evidence	biodiversity area completed with bird and bat boxes as part of the Tower Gardens gateway project, establishment of a council committee to consider biodiversity initiatives (Development Committee). Awarded Silver Gilt at the Wales in Bloom awards 2024 with a score of 82/100. The scoring themes comprised of horticulture, environment, and community.	
-support capacity and/or other organisations		
Review of s6 duty		
- What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change? The reporting committee has committed to the continued development of the Wales in Bloom initiative and associated biodiversity considerations. - How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? The s6 duty will continue to be monitored through the Development Committee. The s6 plan will next be reviewed in September 2028 in line with the statutory three year review cycle. The Council’s Biodiversity Policy is reviewed periodically.		