

ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 PART 1 SECTION 6

THE BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

REPORT 2021

WELSH ST DONATS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Introduction and Context:

Welsh St Donats Community Council covers a large rural and agricultural area with approximately 210 dwellings in four hamlets, Welsh St Donats, Maendy, Tair Onen and Prisk, and part of Hensol Forest (managed by Natural Resources Wales). The Community Hall and Church in Welsh St Donats are the only community facilities. The precept for 20-21 is £7,000.00.

The Community Council is responsible for maintaining the following areas:-

1. Welsh St Donats

The pond and surrounding area, including a bench and hedges.

2. Ystradowen

The grass verge opposite the entrance to the Highgrove Estate.

3. Prisk

The triangle of grass at the entrance to Prisk and the Village Green, including a bench.

4. Maendy

The flowerbed at Maendy corner and a bench.

ACTION REPORT

| Action carried out to: | | Monitored by: |
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| -embed biodiversity and decision making & procurement | Reflect the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Community Council's 2019 Annual Report. Take into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters, such as footpath diversion orders and neighbourhood service matters. Developing adaption & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change. | Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in decisions on planning applications and annual review. |

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| -raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance | Posted details of the actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website. | Through feedback from Council members and residents. |
| -safeguard principle species and habitats | <p>Ensured no negative impacts on protected species.</p> <p>Work with local Natural Resources Wales officers to report and monitor invasive species e.g. Japanese Knotweed.</p> | Annual review and discussion at monthly community council meetings. |
| -restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks | Changed mowing regimes by reducing the extent of cuts to encourage wildflowers and other pollinator friendly plants, also providing cover for small mammals and reptiles. | Annual review. |
| -tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce based solutions, address invasive species | <p>Reduce use of pesticides on Community Council maintained areas to only where absolutely necessary.</p> <p>Reduced use of paper and wall fittings and fixtures through moving to greater use of online communication for Council business.</p> | Annual review and feedback from Councillors and residents. |
| -improve and share evidence | <p>Work with the Biodiversity Officer, Vale Council to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues.</p> <p>Taken advice from Natural Resources Wales and South East Wales Biological Records Centre.</p> | Use of expert advice when required. |
| -support capacity and/or other organizations | Require any organizations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how this will contribute to | When applicable |

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| | supporting biodiversity | |
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REVIEW OF s6 DUTY

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| <p>What has worked well?</p> <p>The Churchyard has been cut leaving a metre wide border around the boundary to encourage biodiversity. Prisk Triangle is cut after spring flowers have seeded. To be reviewed at AGM May 2022.</p> |
| <p>What have the barriers been?</p> <p>Fly-tipping and littering remain a major local issue with little evidence that these issues are taken seriously by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Welsh St Donats Community Council continue to monitor this and press for appropriate action from the Council.</p> |
| <p>What will we change?</p> <p>We will continue to seek ways to increase biodiversity within the Welsh St Donats area.</p> <p>After being notified of NRW Condition Assessment Report on SSSI Pysgodlyn Mawr (2014), the Community Council requested a site meeting with NRW to find out what steps had been taken to address the shortcomings identified in the Report and what the plan is for the future to preserve and enhance wildlife in the lake and surrounding areas. The meeting will take place on 26.5.21. To be reviewed at AGM May 2022</p> |
| <p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p> <p>The Report will be reviewed annually at the AGM and a Report will be submitted to Wales Biodiversity Partnership (S6BiodiversityDuty@gov.wales) every three years. The next Report will be submitted in 2022.</p> |