

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Report 2019**

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 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 2019-20 is £33000

Action Report

Action carried out to:	(For example)	Monitored by: (for example)
Embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2019 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>

	<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 bench. The woodland, pond and meadow has been untouched and left in natural state for over 30 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. 	Reported Japanese Knotweed at Silverdale / Arnolds yard to Local Authority.
Use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
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 this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project. Support the Primary school in their ambitions to develop the wetland to the rear of the school. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Also, there have been some cost savings through the reduction in mowing.

- What have the barriers been?

Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.

- What will you change?

Work with the Local Environmental Records Centre and the Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice.
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.