

LLANGOLLEN RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY REPORT 2019

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Llangollen Rural 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 including children's play areas war memorial sites and the Noddfa cemetery.
- Organising planters and hanging baskets at a number of locations throughout the Council area.
- Funding projects in the Council's area which impacts on biodiversity through cascading funding criteria.

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

The Community Council area covers the three villages of Garth, Trevor and Froncysyllte. It lies on the south-east border within the purlieu of Wrexham Borough County Council (WCBC) and adjacent to Denbighshire. It is within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and includes part of the World Heritage site of the Pontcysyllte aqueduct and Llangollen Canal. The Community Council works with these organisations and others associated with their activities, such as the River and Canal Trust, in partnership on biodiversity and sustainability issues.

Directly the Council maintains only a few green spaces, the Noddfa cemetery at Garth, the Pump field at Garth, playgrounds at Garth, Trevor and Froncysyllte, the Clinker path in Trevor and planters and hanging baskets in Garth, Trevor and Froncysyllte. Other green spaces are either privately-owned or the responsibility of Wrexham County Borough Council.

The Council area covers 533 hectares and a population of 2059 (last census data available). The 2019/20 precept is £56,090.

ACTION REPORT

| ACTION CARRIED OUT | DETAILS | MONITORED BY |
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| Biodiversity embedded into decision-making and procurement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitments to biodiversity and natural areas in Council's 2019 Annual report• Biodiversity taken into account when considering local planning applications and other associated matters such as protection of footpaths, maintenance of hedgerows and stone | The Council have appointed one of their members as a biodiversity champion to ensure biodiversity aspects are considered at meetings and in decision-making |

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| | <p>walls, access to green spaces and other neighbourhood service matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consultation with Wrexham Borough County Council and AONB on developing adaptation and mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change. | <p>On-going consultation with WCBC and AONB on these aspects</p> |
| <p>Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular articles in quarterly community news on local wildlife and bird species in the area December 2019 newsletter article on Lottery funded Heritage project <i>Our Picturesque landscape</i> activities. Worked in partnership with AONB and Heritage Lottery-funded <i>Our Picturesque Landscape</i> to reconstruct clinker path from Garth and Trevor Community Centre to Llangollen canal, ensuring biodiversity aspects were safeguarded, over 100 new trees planted and volunteers from local community groups (including scouts and schools) involved in delivering the project Working with partners to tackle the spread of non-native invasive species (Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam) in | <p>Feedback from local residents and local residents involved in monitoring wildlife maintain environment and monitoring habitats and writing articles for community news</p> <p>Residents feedback</p> <p>Numbers who took part in the activity Feedback from local residents Monitoring also provided to Community Council through AONB funding sources Project nominated for Wrexham Area Civic Award 2019</p> <p>Survey undertaken by Picturesque Landscape Heritage Lottery funded project identifying problem and issues associated with woodland by aqueduct.</p> |

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| | <p>Dee Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved green pathways through wooded area between Trevor Station and Trevor Old Post Office • Run annual picturesque gardens competition for Garth, Trevor and Froncysyllte • Posted details of actions taken on Community Council website. • Presentation to Community Council on Picturesque Landscape and AONB projects within Community Council area • Future presentation to Community Council on AONB Dark nights initiative to minimise Light Pollution | <p>Residents feedback</p> <p>Number of residents who participate</p> <p>Hits to site</p> <p>May 2019</p> <p>Clerk to arrange in 2020.</p> |
| Safeguard principal species and habitats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with local landowners and Wrexham Borough Council Biodiversity Officer to identify principal species and habitats within Community Council purlieu. | <p>Consultation and on-going discussions with WCBC, ANOB on SACs, SPAs, SSSIs, protected wetlands and local wildlife sites at Ty Mawr, Tan-y-cut woods and Froncysyllte quarries that fall within the purlieu of the Community Council</p> |
| Restore and re-create habitats and resilient ecological networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with local landowners and Wrexham Borough Council Biodiversity Officer to identify principal species and habitats within Community Council purlieu | <p>Number reported of habitats and ecological networks restored and recreated.</p> |
| Tackle negative factors for e.g. reduced pollution, use nature-based solutions, address | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured Pump field, Garth from encroachment by cars | <p>Residents feedback</p> |

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| <p>invasive species</p> | <p>to protect local biodiversity and green environment</p> <p>Regular Litter picks by local community volunteers to remove plastics and non-compositable rubbish and maintain tidy environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance issued to local residents on the use of garden bonfires following incident • Future contracts for Community Council-funded work to include preference for nature- based solutions or environmentally-friendly solutions | <p>Number of litter picks and number of residents involved reported to Community Council regularly</p> <p>Residents feedback</p> <p>Number of contracts awarded taking account of biodiversity will be monitored by Community Council Biodiversity champion</p> |
| REVIEW OF DUTY | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has worked well? • What have been the barriers? • What will you change? • How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinker path project very successful and good community involvement and participation • Involvement of local volunteers in maintaining environment and monitoring local habitats • Lack of awareness of biodiversity issues and funding restraints • Improve local understanding of biodiversity through quarterly newsletter and Community Council website Involve further local people, schools and other organisations • The S6 duty to be monitored on an on-going basis by the Community Council's | <p>Review of arrangements at December Community Council meeting</p> |

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| | <p>Biodiversity champion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The S6 plan to be reviewed annually at Community Council meeting. | |
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