

Sealand Community Council Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty September 2024

Introduction and Context

The council's unwavering commitment to promoting sustainability and biodiversity is evident in its pursuit of sustainability goals and using sustainable practices whenever possible. The council provides various services to the local community, few impacting biodiversity, demonstrating our dedication to these crucial environmental issues.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of species on Earth. The latest State of the Nature Report 2023 acknowledged since 1970, more than half of the flowering plants, mosses, and their relatives have been lost from areas where they used to thrive in the United Kingdom, 54% of flowering plants and 59% of bryophytes (mosses and their relatives: liverworts and hornworts) across the United Kingdom have decreased in where they are found. This alarming trend underscores the urgent need for action to protect our biodiversity.

Invertebrates such as insects, spiders, and millipedes are found, on average, in 13% fewer places now than in 1970. However, there have been much more significant declines in insects that play essential roles in pollination and crop pest control. Pollinators such as bees, hoverflies, and moths have decreased by 18% on average. At the same time, predatory insects, like the 2-spot Ladybird, which helps control crop pests, have declined by over a third (34%) —Source: State of the Nature Partnership (2024).

The Council serves approximately 3300 residents—Source: Office for National Statistics - Census (2021).

The precept for 2024- 2025 is £64,000

The Council does not own land or property, which limits its ability to influence biodiversity within its area. We do not own any vehicles.

Actions		
Grass Cutting	This is done by Flintshire County Council to maximize the number of plant and insect species.	Flintshire County Council
Replacement of dead trees	Removal of dead trees along road verges is undertaken by Flintshire County Council and, as appropriate, Sealand Primary School.	Flintshire County Council and Sealand Primary School
Flower Planting and Tree Maintenance	Aura Wales does this to maintain the two recreation fields at Sealand.	Aura Wales

Review of s6 duty

What has worked well?

The cutting regime has been successful in particular areas, such as the recreational fields, considering the wet weather over the Spring and summer periods. The unprecedented rainfall has seen a surge in grass growth across the county, creating more demand for dedicated members, which has helped biodiversity. Also, Flintshire County Council's reduction in mowing appears to have resulted in some cost savings along with the formation of wildflowers across the community.

What have been the barriers?

The Council can only endorse and inspire residents and landowners in the community to embrace biodiversity through its ethos.

Rainfall throughout the year has increased the need for additional grass cuts and weed removal within the community.

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

Flintshire County Council and Sealand Primary School will monitor the duties above and report back to the Council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through regular inspections.

The S6 plan will be reviewed upon receiving these reports and any other evidence or information made available to the Council. At the time of this report's publication, no specific time or date has been set for the plan's review, but this will be done within the next 12 months.

Ashley Griffiths - Clerk of the Council – 16th September 2024