

# SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## BIODIVERSITY REPORT

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Section 6 Duty

October 2025

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### Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Approved By	Review Date
1.0	October 2025	Clerk	Full Council	October 2026

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## 1. Section 6 Duty Statement

Sealand Community Council, as a public authority under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, has a duty to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and, in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.

The Council will fulfil this duty in the exercise of all its functions, including decision-making, procurement, and community engagement.

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## 2. Introduction and Context

The Council's commitment to promoting sustainability and biodiversity is demonstrated through its approach to environmental management and partnership working.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of species on Earth. The State of Nature Report 2023 highlights significant declines across the United Kingdom. Since 1970, more than half of the UK's flowering plants and mosses have declined in their distribution, alongside significant reductions in insect populations. This reinforces the need for continued local action.

The Council serves approximately 3,300 residents (ONS Census 2021) and operates with a precept of £64,000 for the financial year 2025–2026.

The Council does not own land or property. Whilst this limits direct control, it does not remove the Council's statutory duty to contribute to biodiversity conservation through influence, partnership, and responsible decision-making.

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### **3. Ecosystem Resilience**

In accordance with Welsh Government guidance, the Council considers ecosystem resilience through the following principles:

- **Diversity** – supporting a variety of species and habitats
- **Connectivity** – maintaining links between habitats
- **Scale** – ensuring actions contribute to wider landscapes
- **Condition** – improving the quality and health of ecosystems

These principles are embedded within the Council’s activities and partnership working.

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### **4. Actions to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity**

#### **Grounds Maintenance (Grass Cutting)**

Grass cutting is undertaken by Flintshire County Council in a manner that supports biodiversity, including selective mowing practices and allowing wildflowers to establish where appropriate.

#### **Tree Management and Replacement**

Dead trees along road verges are removed and replaced by Flintshire County Council and, where appropriate, Sealand County Primary School. This supports habitat continuity and maintains tree cover.

#### **Flower Planting and Green Space Management**

Flower planting and maintenance of trees at recreation fields support pollinators, enhance biodiversity, and improve community green spaces.

#### **Weed Management**

Weed control is undertaken with consideration for biodiversity alongside safety and operational requirements. This is delivered by Flintshire County Council and North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA).

#### **Sustainable Operations and Decision-Making**

The Council integrates biodiversity into its operations by:

- Using recycled paper to reduce reliance on raw materials
- Using eco-efficient printing systems to reduce waste and pollution

#### **Energy Efficiency and Lighting Improvements**

The Council is committed to reducing environmental impact through energy efficiency. This includes:

- Progressively replacing older halogen lighting stock with **energy-efficient LED lighting**
- Installing **modern photocell controls** to optimise energy use and reduce unnecessary light pollution

These measures contribute to reduced carbon emissions and help minimise ecological disruption, particularly for nocturnal wildlife.

### **Partnership Working**

The Council works closely with Flintshire County Council's Biodiversity Officer and other stakeholders to:

- Access advice and funding opportunities
- Deliver biodiversity improvements
- Support wider county objectives

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## **5. Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (KPIs)**

The Council will monitor progress using the following indicators:

- Number of trees planted or replaced annually
- Number of biodiversity planting areas (e.g. pollinator boxes)
- Area managed under biodiversity-friendly practices
- Number of partnership initiatives undertaken
- Progress in transitioning to LED lighting infrastructure

Key outcomes to date include:

- Installation of pollinator-friendly planting areas
- Increased wildflower growth
- Improved habitats for pollinators
- Enhanced community awareness

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## **6. Review of Three-Year Period Ending October 2025**

Over the past three years, partnership working has enabled the delivery of effective biodiversity outcomes despite limited land ownership.

Successes include:

- Well-maintained playing fields and verges

- Implementation of selective mowing practices
- Increased wildflower growth
- Enhanced habitats for pollinators
- Improved green infrastructure through tree replacement

These approaches have also improved cost efficiency and community satisfaction.

Sustainable office practices have reduced environmental impact, and collaboration with partners has strengthened delivery.

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## **7. Barriers**

The Council recognises the following challenges:

- Limited land ownership restricts direct intervention
- Increased weed growth due to reduced herbicide use and weather conditions
- Financial and resource constraints limit large-scale projects

The Council addresses these challenges through partnership working and prioritisation.

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## **8. Future Actions**

The Council will continue to enhance its biodiversity approach by:

- Strengthening collaboration with Flintshire County Council and One Voice Wales
  - Reviewing open spaces and identifying opportunities for biodiversity improvements
  - Expanding pollinator-friendly planting areas
  - Promoting biodiversity through communication channels
  - Supporting biodiversity education with Sealand County Primary School
  - Continuing the transition to energy-efficient lighting systems
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## **9. Monitoring and Review**

- The Clerk is responsible for overseeing delivery of this plan
  - Progress will be reviewed annually
  - Outcomes will be reported to Full Council and recorded in meeting minutes
  - The plan will be formally reviewed within 12 months
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## **10. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

This report supports the following well-being goals:

- **A Resilient Wales** – through biodiversity protection and ecosystem resilience
- **A Healthier Wales** – through improved natural environments and green spaces

The Council applies sustainable development principles in its decision-making.

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## **11. Addendum: Achievements and Forward Actions**

### **Achievements (2025)**

- Pollinator-friendly planting introduced at Welsh Road play area
- Biodiversity-sensitive mowing practices implemented
- Strong partnership working established

### **Forward Actions**

#### **2026–2027**

- Maintain and monitor biodiversity enhancements
- Continue partnership working

#### **2027–2028**

- Explore additional biodiversity opportunities (subject to funding)
- Increase community awareness

#### **2028–2029**

- Review progress since 2025
  - Update biodiversity priorities and Section 6 plan
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## **12. Approval and Signature**

Ashley Griffiths  
Clerk of the Council

Date: 20 October 2025