

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

Name of Community Council: EAST WILLIAMSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

EAST WILLIAMSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL supplies a wide range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These are provided either through direct action or indirectly by funding of local charitable organisations, and include :

- The management of three children’s ‘green’ play parks and family park areas.
- The management of an award winning community nature reserve, woodland park and nature trail.
- Sympathetic management of a number of areas of ‘village green’ and ‘common’ within the Council area.
- Assistance to community allotments scheme.
- Funding assistance to qualifying local community charitable organisations in the Council area. This impacts upon biodiversity through cascading funding criteria.

The Council promotes sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

It serves approximately 1700 residents. The Council precept for 2019-20 is circa £27,000

	Action Report	
	Intent of Action	Resultant Action
1.	To make biodiversity integral to formal decision making	<p>1. EWCC commits in its Environmental Policy to ensuring that all decisions made by councillors reflect and comply with all relevant legislation, both local and national. The Council is committed to the prevention of pollution and it seeks to continuously improve its environmental performance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively minimising waste by reducing avoidable production of waste and reusing and recycling waste products wherever practicable. 2. Maximising efficient use of natural resources through relevant ‘best practice’ guidelines.

		<p>3. Operating a procurement system which ensures, in so far as is practicable, that it purchases materials from recycled or sustainable sources.</p> <p>4. Reducing the amount of energy consumed by efficient use of equipment.</p> <p>5. Continuing to encourage other organisations involved with the Council to adopt its environmental principles. Reviewing the Policy on an annual basis.</p> <p>2. EWCC takes into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and seeks to ensure that wherever possible any granting of planning consent preserves green corridors, wild-life habitat, footpaths, mature trees and hedge-banks and the like. It similarly reviews the draft Local Development Plan prepared by the County Council. It enables public consultation on this and submits the findings thereon to County Council.</p>
2.	To restore and create habitats	<p>1. EWCC leases 25 acres of parkland from the local Community Association (a registered charity). It works closely with the Association to fund the sympathetic maintenance of the park and its long-term development in accordance with the plans drawn up with advice from the local county council biodiversity officers.</p> <p>Routine mowing etc contracts are let directly by the Council</p> <p>Additional funding is provided to local volunteer groups to enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of essential tools and machinery • New planting schemes • Development of community allotment scheme • Manufacture / installation of bird and bat boxes • Bat surveys • Training (H&S, chainsaw use, hedge-laying etc.) • Etc. <p>2. Public awareness is raised by the entering of competitions and winning of a number of awards from national environmental bodies.</p>
3.	To support other organisations	<p>1. EWCC actively supports other local organisation in their commitment to these aims, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating installation of solar power to Community Hall

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making access available to local college and schools for training days, nature rambles etc in park
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Review of s6 duty

- What have the positives been?

The community park and woodland and community green areas continue to thrive and mature, encouraging an ever increasing bio-diversity of trees, plant and wildlife. Support, in terms of use of green spaces, is very healthy

- What have challenges been?

Difficulty in encouraging the necessary numbers of volunteers, particularly in the younger age groups.

The cost and logistics of addressing the issue of ash die-back disease in our woodland areas.

- Progress will be monitored through regular discussion and collaboration with other local stakeholders.