



## Abergavenny Town Council

### Section 6 Environment Act (Wales) 2016 Biodiversity Report November 2019

<p>Short description of PA &amp; its functions and context in relation to biodiversity (e.g. management of land, influence over land management, or indirect influence through procurement, funding projects, etc)</p>	<p>Abergavenny Town Council provides a range of services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Co-ordinating Abergavenny in Bloom which includes the provision of planters and hanging baskets in the town centre.</li> <li>- Financial support to a number of organisations supporting biodiversity.</li> <li>- Grants for projects in the Council's area.</li> </ul> <p>The Town Council does not own or manage any land but through partnership working, grant aid, projects and procurement it is able to influence and contribute towards biodiversity</p>	
<p>Action carried out to:</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making &amp; procurement</p>	<p>The Town Council has adopted a Strategy &amp; Action plan with one of the priority areas being Protect and Enhance the Environment. This document is regularly reviewed with an annual revision in April. Through recent procurement, the Town Council has awarded the contract to plant and maintain the planters to a company that specialises</p>	<p>Strategy &amp; Action Plan Progress reports</p>

	<p>in planting pollinator friendly planting and uses only peat free compost and sources plants from a nursery that sells only peat free plants.</p> <p>The Town Council comments on planning applications and where appropriate will comment on impact on trees and habitats.</p>	Impact of comments on planning application recommendations
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<p>The Town Council through the Abergavenny in Bloom initiative works closely with a number of voluntary organisations such as Bee Friendly Monmouthshire and local 'Friends' groups who are active in managing the towns parks, community orchard and meadows. Through the use of signage, residents are made aware that the specific areas are planted with pollinator friendly species.</p> <p>The Town Council continues to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- encourage the community as a whole to volunteer in the context of nature/green spaces.</li> <li>- post details of the actions we have taken to help biodiversity on our website.</li> <li>- include information in the annual report delivered to households.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>More information available on the council website.</p> <p>Information on importance of biodiversity included in the annual report</p>
-safeguard principal species and habitats	<p>Abergavenny Town Council is in discussion with Monmouthshire County Council regarding the role of the Town Council in the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy with the town. This will include the Gavenny river corridor and Castle Meadows area which is a floodplain for the river Usk.</p> <p>Through partnership working, the Town Council has contributed to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites.</p>	Monitoring as part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy

<p>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>The Town Council, through grant aid, supports local groups that are creating and maintaining different habitats including woodland and hay meadows.</p> <p>The Town Council has recently commissioned landscape advice to replant a number of areas throughout the town creating new habitats with an emphasis on pollinator friendly and drought tolerant planting.</p> <p>Specify pollinator friendly species in town planters and hanging baskets</p>	<p>Feedback from grant recipients</p> <p>Creation of new habitats</p> <p>Plants used</p>
<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>Abergavenny Town Council is leading on the promotion of the water Refill scheme which promotes the reduce in the use of single use plastics which reduces plastic pollution.</p> <p>The Town Council officers reuse and recycle office paper</p>	<p>No of refill stations</p>
<p>-use, improve and share evidence</p>	<p>The Town Council co-ordinates Abergavenny in Bloom meetings to share ideas, knowledge and skills.</p> <p>Attendance at Green Infrastructure Development meeting</p>	<p>No of In Bloom meetings arranged &amp; attendance</p>
<p>-support capacity, and/or other organisations</p>	<p>Through Abergavenny in Bloom, the Town Council has been the catalyst for voluntary groups to combine efforts, skills and knowledge.</p> <p>The Town Council has launched an annual Abergavenny in Bloom award scheme to recognise the achievements local organisations and individuals who are championing environmental issues.</p> <p>The Town Council grant criteria requires any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity.</p>	<p>Annual award evening</p> <p>Grant feedback reports</p>

## Review of S6 duty

### What has worked well?

- Environmental organisations working more closely together under the umbrella of Abergavenny in Bloom

### What have the barriers been?

- More volunteers are required to maintain and enhance habitats
- Lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.
- Capacity of the Town Council to work with partners to bring about change

### What will you change?

- Work with the MCC on Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Liaise with other organisations as required
- Make other public bodies aware that the Town Council has a statutory duty and is interested in doing more to enhance biodiversity

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

- The duty will be monitored through progress reports on the 'Protect and Enhance the Environment' action table which forms part of the overall Strategy & Action Plan. Progress is reported each month to the Environment Committee.
- In April 2020, there will be a full revision of the Town Council's Strategy & Action Plan and at this time the Strategy will be strengthened to reflect actions under Section 6 under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.