

***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6***

***The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022***

**CAIA PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL:**

**Introduction and Context**

Caia Park Community Council serves approximately 12,602 residents and 5,402 households. It is one of four Wrexham town centre Community Councils. It operates from its own offices in Prince Charles Road from which it funds and runs a successful benefits and debt advice centre. The Council has no other landholdings or property. The Council employs 6 part time and one full time staff members.

The precept requirement for 2021/2022 was £ 230,040 and as such falls within the requirement to report annually on its contribution to the Public Service Board Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Plan.

The Community Council area comprises of five electoral wards (two of which are recognised as areas of high multiple deprivation) It has a high level of social housing and includes a significant amount of retail premises in the Town Centre.

The following are located within the Community Council boundary:

- There are six equipped play areas, 2 multi use games areas and a skate park. These are owned by Wrexham County Borough Council, but their maintenance and repair are funded by the Community Council via a service level agreement.
- The areas of open space in the community (primarily The Dunks) including football pitches are owned and managed by Wrexham County Borough Council. Some is protected in perpetuity under the Owain Glyndwr scheme.
- There are three primary schools, one Welsh medium secondary school and two nursery facilities
- The river Gwenfro runs through three of the five electoral wards
- There are two community venues available to the community. St Peter's Hall which is owned and run by The Church in Wales and Pentre Gwyn Community Centre which has an attached playing field and allotment site. This is owned and managed by a trust with its trustees drawn from within the Caia Park Community.
- There are two adventure playgrounds. Gwenfro Valley which is currently run by Wrexham Play Development Team assisted by a voluntary committee and the other based at The Venture. Both are financially supported by the Community Council
- Various other supportive agencies are located within the community e.g. Caia Park Partnership, Deva House Day Centre for Older People and a medical centre housing a G.P practice, district nurses and dental facilities.

**Action Report**

- How the Council assists biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities)

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<p>In 2019, along with a number of other community councils in Wales, Caia Park Community Council formally declared a climate change emergency.</p> <p>Converted the internal and external lighting in the Community Council Office to led lamps</p>	<p>Evidence within reports of the Council considering biodiversity as part of its decision-making process.</p> <p>Included the capital costs within the annual budget and maintaining an Environment/Amenity Reserve financial allocation.</p> <p>Amount of money spent on projects</p>
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<p>The Community Council has participated in and encouraged community clean ups. Each ward had designated days for rubbish collection with skips procured by the local Housing Estate Office. Funding offered by Community Council for further initiatives.</p> <p>Members individually involved with the promotion of Keep Wales Tidy litter hub based at Caia Park Partnership.</p> <p>Support offered to community litter pickers via the purchase of refuse sacks for distribution.</p> <p>There is the opportunity to promote environmental awareness with young people via the Community Council funded play sessions (activities, projects etc)</p>	<p>The amount of rubbish collected.</p> <p>Ongoing events within some Wards supported by Keep Wales Tidy.</p> <p>Lobbying the Principal Authority to provide an effective litter picking service.</p> <p>Assess level of resident's participation in litter picks.</p> <p>Monitored via the biannual reports provided by the service level providers.</p>

<p>-safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<p>Community Council involvement along with other partner organisations with the Green Infrastructure (GI) Initiative</p> <p>Supporting the Principal Authority's Arboricultural Officer by responding positively to applications for Tree Preservation Orders</p> <p>Be mindful of environmental and biodiversity impacts when considering planning applications</p> <p>Community Council funded tree guards for some trees located in vulnerable positions.</p> <p>Regular dialogue with Principal Authority over the maintenance of the riverbanks along the river Gwenfro to balance the environmental and ecological needs as well as ensuring the health and safety of residents is considered if the areas become too overgrown.</p>	<p>Regular dialogue with Wrexham County Borough Council's ecology/biodiversity officer. Attendance and membership on the GI steering group</p> <p>Involvement with local initiatives (tree planting etc)</p> <p>Comments made on applications.</p> <p>Comments made on applications.</p> <p>Monitor progress and condition</p> <p>Meetings taking place to agree a suitable service level agreement and frequency of maintenance.</p>
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<p>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>Part of the surrounding curtilage of the Council Offices have been planted with native species trees and wildflowers</p>	<p>Project carried out as part of the Green Infrastructure (GI) Initiative. Maintenance ongoing</p>
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<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>Lobbied the Principal Authority to significantly reduce the use of Glyphosate weed killer particularly in open/public areas and seek alternative solutions to weed control.</p>	<p>Ongoing dialogue with Principal Authority Use of Glyphosate has been reduced Alternative methods are being trialled</p>
<p>-use improve and share evidence</p>	<p>Regular dialogue between County Councillors and Principal Authority regarding the condition of the river Gwenfro (pollution, debris flood risk etc)</p>	<p>Timely intervention by Principal Authority.</p>
<p>Support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>The Community Council funds an annual gardening competition which is organised by a local environmental group. This culminates in an awards evening recognising and rewarding successful entrants.</p> <p>Financial and administrative support for the Trustees of Pentre Gwyn Community Centre</p> <p>Provide funding for play provision within the community at Gwenfro Valley and The Venture and funding for youth provision delivered via Caia Park Partnership</p> <p>Include an annual grants budget within the Council's overall budget which community groups can apply for.</p>	<p>Level of entries received Attendance at awards evening CD of event prepared by Caia Park Environmental Group</p> <p>Ongoing dialogue and monitoring reports received from Trustees. Attendance at Trustees Meetings by a member of the Council</p> <p>Regular monitoring reports received. Collaboration at other community events</p> <p>Number of grant applications received and awarded. Amount of community activity/events it supports</p>

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## **Review of s6 duty**

- **What has worked well?**

The rubbish collection days are successful in improving the quality of the environment and are appreciated by residents.

The Green Infrastructure Project has largely completed its work and has made a significant difference within the community on issues of biodiversity and ecology.

The gardening competition (now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year) continues to promote community pride as well as raising awareness. This has resumed for 2022 following COVID

- **What have the barriers been?**

The Community Council does not own any land and can only lobby, recommend and encourage other landowners to embrace biodiversity.

Competing budgetary demands can restrict new initiatives and have cost implications.

Effective dissemination and distribution of information to residents within the community is a challenge and can be costly. Not all embrace social media and so inclusivity can be challenging.

The Covid restrictions of the past two years have severely limited activities.

### **What will you change?**

Increase liaison with Wexham CBC's Biodiversity Officer and seek advice whenever necessary.

Encourage and support community groups and residents more to fully participate in events and projects to raise awareness.

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

- The Duty will be monitored by Members and the Clerk with periodic agenda items at Council meetings
- The plan will be developed and reviewed in response to new initiatives, evidence and information that may become available to the Council.