



Prestatyn Town Council

Biodiversity Policy Report 2025

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

Reporting on Section 6

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INTRODUCTION

This document reports the actions that have been undertaken, together with ongoing projects that Prestatyn and Meliden Town Council and its residents have been involved in to meet the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.

Section 6 of this Act puts a duty onto public bodies and local authorities to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity' in a manner consistent with the exercising of their normal roles and functions. Whilst doing this, public authorities are also obliged to 'promote the resilience of ecosystems'. It also requires those bodies to have regard to the lists of habitats and species of 'principal importance' published as a result of Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act. Each public body must report at least every three years on how it is complying with the biodiversity duty.

Prestatyn and Meliden Town Council serve approximately 21,000 residents.

The precept figures for 2025 – 2026 is £634,875.

BACKGROUND

Prestatyn and Meliden Town Council (PTC) provide a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity.

Direct Schemes

- Pendre Gardens
- The Boulevard
- Bench planters
- 21 flower beds throughout the town
- An annual / biannual planting scheme which includes tier planters, troughs and hanging baskets

Indirect Schemes

PTC also has an indirect impact on other biodiversity schemes by supporting local organisations and initiatives:

- Friends of Prestatyn Coronation Gardens
- Wales in Bloom
- Men's Sheds
- Friends of the Ffrith Community Park
- Friends of Prestatyn Railway Station
- Hedgehog Help Prestatyn
- Prestatyn Litterpickers
- Countryside Services

PTC have also set up allotment sites and support the running of them in partnership with Denbighshire County Council, such as by supplying a polytunnel.

PTC has provided funding in recent years by awarding grants for projects in the area that improve biodiversity and bring benefits to the environment. This impacts on biodiversity through cascading funding to deliver worthy causes, such as those listed below:

- Friends of Prestatyn Coronation Gardens – supporting the purchase of compost, plants, trees and equipment
- Friends of Prestatyn Railway Station – enhancement of the verge with the planting of new wildflowers and general tidying of area
- Friends of the Ffrith Community Park – assistance in purchasing troughs to be planted with bulbs, and general area maintenance
- Litter picking equipment purchased to assist in various cleaning projects throughout the town, including the clean-up of Barkby Beach.

More recently new bench structure was added to the Coronation Gardens to help residents connect more with local green spaces, facilitated by PTC with help from the Probation Service and a donation of paint. Lilies are also preserved throughout the winter months ready to be replanted around the town in partnership with the Botanical Gardens.

PTC promotes sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices wherever possible, such as asking organisations receiving grants from the council to demonstrate how they will support biodiversity as part of their project. Additionally, as part of the annual Mayoral awards scheme, residents or local organisations that are championing environmental issues are recognised by PTC. This helps to encourage local awareness and sustainable practices.

FUTURE PLANS

PTC intends to look into the following schemes and initiatives:

- To help tackle air pollution:
 - A Go Local campaign to encourage local shopping and car-free shopping, which will also raise awareness about what is on offer and happening in the Prestatyn and Meliden area
 - Encouraging more tree planting initiatives
- Work with Denbighshire County Council and Countryside Services to improve the environment through a variety of projects, such as tree planting, the development of land and improving species' habitats.
- Work more closely with Denbighshire's Talking Points to help locals find out about volunteering with environmental community activities to help improve biodiversity and local wildlife areas.
- Air quality monitoring and awareness through schemes such as air quality monitoring walks and alternative-to-car journeys.
- Encouraging local businesses to move to plastic-free by publishing a local directive detailing the names of businesses who have voluntarily signed up.
- Work with Plastic Free Prestatyn Strategic Group (PFPSS) to further their plans and plastic bottle-statue initiative.
- Investigate the possibility of drinking water taps to help encourage the use of reusable drinking cups.

ACTIONS

The following table breaks down specific target areas addressed in meeting with PTC's commitment to enhancing the biodiversity and resilience of the area. Evaluations are made once actions are undertaken and the report will be updated as needed.

Target	Action	Evaluation
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	PTC renewed its commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2024/5 Annual Report. One of the key aims for PTC is that people value and look after the environment and support community resilience. Consider biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications and other associated matters. Look into helping the area tackle climate threats with adaptation & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.	Commitments have been made in relevant council policies and documents, such as the Financial Assistance Policy 2025. Consideration of biodiversity is demonstrated in decisions on planning applications. Ongoing
Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Revisit and engage with the PFPSS group and encourage community forum leaders. Utilise and increase awareness of Denbighshire's Talking Points to help locals find out about volunteering with environmental community activities. Increase student interactions and volunteering opportunities. Air quality monitoring and awareness through schemes such as air quality monitoring walks and alternative-to-car journeys.	

Target	Action	Evaluation
Safeguard principal species and habitats	Contribute to the management of protected sites and species, including Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Ensure no negative impacts on protected species. Manage land around them to buffer and join them up as part of resilient ecological networks. Look at providing more help for (and awareness of) local species, such as Artic Terns, hedgehogs and bats.	PTC has awarded financial help to Hedgehog Help Prestatyn. PTC helped to raise funds and awareness to save Prestatyn Nature Reserve from private housing development, ensuring its protection for future generations. The site is managed sympathetically to benefit both the local community and resident wildlife.
Restore & create habitats and resilience	Maintain hanging baskets and planters with native pollinator friendly flowers throughout Prestatyn and Meliden High Streets. Encourage planting schemes that increase the habitat. Ensure that gardeners employed only use non-chemical pesticides that may affect the environment.	PTC provides funding for the core activities of the Prestatyn in Bloom Committee, which works hard throughout the year to champion the local environment. Prestatyn won the Wales in Bloom competition in 2025 (see <i>APPENDIX 2</i>) and will enter Britain in Bloom in 2026. There is an annual / biannual planting scheme which includes tier planters, troughs and hanging baskets throughout Prestatyn. This standard is maintained. Sustainable methods to help improve soil quality are used, such as sheep fleece.

Target	Action	Evaluation
Improving beaches and open spaces	Arrange and undertake Beach Clean exercises across the coastline several times during the year which reduces the negative impact of pollution along the coast and further afield through tidal flow. Work with PFPSS and Prestatyn Litterpickers. Arrange and support town litter pick events to encourage a reduction in the attraction of vermin Conducting environmental audits (with partner organisations) and supporting local beach / environmental clean-ups. New structures to encourage outdoor activities, awareness of the local environment and the use of open spaces.	Ongoing (<i>see Appendix 1</i>) The PTC office acts as a litter picking focus, with the provision of litter picking bags and other equipment for local litter pick events on loan free of charge. Prestatyn beach was rated the second cleanest in Britain (first in Wales) in 2023 by visitors, and the Great British Beach Clean, a 10-day initiative organised by the Marine Conservation Society notably took place. PTC has provided funding for new street furniture and other environmental enhancements, through grants. PTC supports community-led activities, such as the town centre planting undertaken by volunteers from the Friends of Coronation Gardens.
Pride of Place	Funded by the Local Regeneration Fund – currently in the consultation / planning phase.	Ongoing

Target	Action	Evaluation
Tackle negative factors, e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	Reduce use of plastic materials by encouraging local businesses utilising the local Business Forum to move plastic-free. Publish a local directory detailing the names of businesses signed up to this voluntary incentive which can be accessed by locals and visitors through social media.	PTC aims to work effectively alongside PFPSS and local businesses to obtain this target.
Use improve and share evidence	Work with the Biodiversity Officer at Denbighshire County Council to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues. Take advice from the Local Environmental Record Centres (LERCs) on local sites and species of interest. Provide any data collected through local surveys to the LERCs.	Ongoing Ongoing Tree trimming was undertaken recently in Ty Pendre and a tree report was provided.
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Maintain annual award scheme to recognise the achievements of either a resident or local organisation who is championing environmental issues. Require any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how this will contribute to supporting biodiversity as part of their project Work in partnership with local groups and the Local Wildlife Trust to provide extra volunteers to improve local wildlife area.	As part of the annual Mayoral awards scheme, residents or local organisations are recognised by PTC for this. This has been incorporated into PTC's Financial Assistance Policy 2025. An area in which PTC strives to continuously improve.

REVIEW OF SECTION 6 DUTY

What has worked well?

The creation of wildflower and plant areas has been a success, helping Prestatyn to win Wales in Bloom 2025, and it has especially proved attractive to residents in addition to helping biodiversity.

Soil quality development and the regeneration of plants for the flower beds, planters, troughs and hanging baskets.

What have the barriers been?

Some poor planning regarding tree-planting areas through a lack of expertise to identify changes needed or best practice.

What will you change?

Monitor projects and initiatives more closely and work closer with the Local Environmental Records Centre and the Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice.

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

The initial report was designed to be a 3-year undertaking, which allowed sufficient time for developing best practices and understanding in the area of biodiversity.

This report will be updated as needed and reviewed on an ongoing basis, however, at a minimum it will be reviewed annually and presented at the A.G.M.

The duty will be monitored through the Community, Development and Regeneration Committee and individual officers reporting back to the council on the success or otherwise of initiatives and actions. The Section 6 plan will be reviewed in light of these reports and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Town Council.

DOCUMENT REVIEW TABLE

CHANGES

Review Date	Committee / Meeting / Author	Updates / Changes
December 2025	Legal & HR Support Officer (DB)	Whole document reviewed and updated
5 th January 2026	Legal & HR Support Officer (DB)	APPENDIX 2 (Wales in Bloom Judgement) added

REVIEWS

Review Date	Committee / Meeting	Approved/Amended	Minute Number	Members
30 th November 2022	Full Council	Approved	214	16 Cllrs
3 rd May 2023	AGM	Approved	15	17 Cllrs
8 th January 2026	Policy review Committee			3 Cllrs, (+2 officers)

APPENDIX 1 – Photograph taken during event to tackle marine litter impact at Prestatyn



APPENDIX 2: WALES IN BLOOM JUDGEMENT 2025

 Standard Marking Sheet	Name of Entry Prestatyn in Bloom
	Judge Jim Goodwin
	Date of Assessment 15 July 2025

Category: Town

MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION									Total marks awarded in sections A, B & C	Medal level awarded in sections A, B & C
A Horticulture 40%	A1	8	A2	8	A3	8	A4	8	32	
B Environment 30%	B1	9	B2	10	B3	9			28	
C Community 30%	C1	8	C2	9	C3	9			26	

Total Score out of 100: 86	Overall Award: GOLD
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Award Guide: Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points; Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points; Silver, Good 60-74 Points; Bronze, Satisfactory 50-59 Points. 49 Points and below – certificate of participation.

Introduction and Overall Impression:

My first impressions were much better this year. More colour and effect in the Town Centre. It was good to start at the highest point, and to be led on a tour that was both inspirational and enjoyable with local knowledgeable hosts. The balance between the three core values was better this year, the tour kept to time, and it was good to meet volunteers socially at the end. Pleased to be interviewed and a first-class presentation. No gremlins this time. You have achieved a category win and Gold medal on this occasion. My congratulations it was an extremely close result, which was very difficult to separate, but your environmental considerations just gave you the edge. It was pleasing to see how far you had come since last year. I left with fond memories.

Judges Feedback Section A – Horticulture:

This had improved this year. Floral effects seen were much better and contained subjects with some height. The Town Centre was much improved with business support, but it would be good to see hanging baskets reintroduced in some areas. There were two beds of Begonia's which had suffered in the dry conditions, which could have been righted, but a small factor in a much-improved performance in this section. Keep up this good work and seek to extend where possible. Finally good to see a front garden again which has won its category.

Judges Feedback Section B – Environment:

You scored very highly in this section again. Prestatyn is very environmentally aware from the Eco Garden, Allotments, Dunes, Orchard and Morfa project which all work together to make this element excellent in all respects. It doesn't stop there, Hedgehogs, the Ffrith and the Mountain Top all combining to enhance this section. Well done on including all these important factors with experts on hand to explain. I've singled out the Eco Project for a special mention. This is a first-class development with future proposals. There is much to merit here and many congratulations to all involved in this Eco project.

Judges Feedback Section C – Community:

Your IYN projects give good support to your Campaign. The Station was very colourful. Coronation Gardens is much improved now the dying tree has been converted into an excellent sculpture. The Ffrith continues to mature, not to forget Tiny Tots and the Hedgehog Sanctuary. All forming into good voluntary Community support. Good presentation which filled any gaps.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
A1	<u>Overall Impression</u> Taking account of all relevant factors, how strong is the impact of the entry in creating a memorable impression? Are designs and materials used appropriate to their locations? Emphasis here is on coordination and overall quality.	High impact with excellent attention to detail delivering the desired results in an appropriate and consistent manner.	Most areas are high impact with very good attention to detail although some inconsistencies.	Good overall impact although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact but others need to be more vibrant with better design.	Although generally satisfactory , more attention to detail is required in order to increase impact and improve consistency of design.
A2	<u>Maintenance of Planted Areas</u> Are the areas within the entry maintained to an appropriate standard, including cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass maintenance, tree management and maintenance? <i>(See B3 for maintenance techniques)</i>	Excellent standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding.	Standards are very good with few exceptions. Horticultural maintenance is managed consistently.	Standards of horticultural maintenance are good and fairly consistent. A few exceptions where further attention is required.	Standards are generally satisfactory . However, the horticultural maintenance programme requires further attention to detail in some areas.
A3	<u>Plant Selection</u> Are the plants or trees, used in the planting schemes, suited to their growing conditions, locations and purposes? Is there a diverse range of plant-species to attract a variety of insects and wildlife? Is there year-round interest, where appropriate?	Excellent plant selection with extensive year-round interest, and almost no exceptions.	Plant selection is very good overall with only a few exceptions and ample year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally good , but there is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally satisfactory , however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
A4	<u>Plant Quality</u> Are the plants or trees vibrant and grown to their full potential? Are they generally free of pests and diseases?	Plant quality is excellent , plants are very healthy, vigorous and grown to their full potential.	Plant quality is very good , plants are mostly healthy and vigorous, with only a few exceptions.	Plant quality and health is generally good , but not always consistent. Lack of vigour in some areas.	Plant quality and health is generally satisfactory , but could be improved.
B1	<u>Local Identity & Pride of Place</u> Is there a sense of place, with appropriate acknowledgement of local heritage (including biodiversity) and its relevance for the community; e.g. art in the landscape, signage, interpretation, etc. Consider the pride taken in hard landscape (including streets), open spaces (including grass areas, wild areas and beaches if appropriate), street furniture maintenance, etc. To include cleanliness, absence of litter, graffiti vandalism, flyposting/temporary signage, chewing gum, and effective dog fouling control measures.	Extensive evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. An excellent impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in excellent condition.	Considerable evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A very good impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in very good condition.	Some evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A good impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in good condition.	Little evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A satisfactory impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in variable condition.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
B2	<u>Natural Environment</u> Is there an understanding of what biodiversity means locally? Have efforts been made to create, restore or maintain appropriate habitats to support wildlife? What has been done to assess the effectiveness of any interventions? E.g. through surveys. Is nature being considered in all activities, rather than just restricting wildlife-friendly practices to a specific project or area?	The natural environment is managed to an excellent standard supporting an extensive range of flora and fauna, with little improvement required. Extensive effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across all activities.	The natural environment is managed to a very good standard across the whole entry, supporting a considerable range of flora and fauna. Considerable effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across most activities. Very little effort would lift it to excellent.	The natural environment is managed to a good standard supporting a range of flora and fauna. Some effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across some activities. Requires further work to improve it in places.	The natural environment is managed to a generally satisfactory standard supporting some flora and fauna. Little effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across very few activities. Needs significant improvement in places.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
B3	<u>Environmental Management</u> Have steps been taken to employ sustainable or ecological gardening practices? E.g. Avoiding chemicals like pesticides and using other biological and physical controls like hand weeding or companion planting. Eliminating the use of peat, implementing solutions like composting, reducing the use of plastics and recycling those used. Taking measures to minimise the use of water. Where local environmental issues have been identified, have plants or greening solutions been considered, e.g. as rain gardens, green roofs/walls, or as barriers for pollution?	Excellent evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts. Extensive use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.	Very good evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts. Considerable use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.	Good evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts. Some use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.	Satisfactory evidence of effort to garden sustainably, conserve resource and minimise negative impacts. Little use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.
C1	<u>Year Round Activity and Future Commitment</u> Evidence of forward planning and year-round activities, initiatives or events, highlighting where they are adding value and demonstrating the strengths or uniqueness of the entry.	Excellent evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The annual programme of activities is exceptional.	Very good evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.	Good evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.	Satisfactory evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning but some areas of improvement needed.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
C2	<u>Communication, Education, and Awareness</u> Use of suitable interpretation, enabling learning and a greater understanding of purpose, and environmental importance. Engagement with schools, young people or other groups. Promotion within the immediate area through local and regional communications. Appropriate communications and media involvement evidenced.	Excellent use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are extremely well evidenced.	Very good use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are very well evidenced.	Good use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are well evidenced. A few missed opportunities.	Satisfactory use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are evidenced but limited and there is room for improvement.
C3	<u>Support and Funding</u> Has the entry made every effort to be inclusive, and engage the support of a wide variety of local groups and organisations? Participation should be representative of the local community. Evidence of fundraising and on-going support from a range of businesses and organisations appropriate to the size of the entry, making it viable and able to continue moving forward.	The range of groups and organisations engaged are an excellent representation of the wider community. Excellent levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is sustainable and outstanding.	The range of groups and organisations engaged are a very good representation of the wider community. Very good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is very good and will be sustainable over time.	The range of groups and organisations engaged are a good representation of the wider community. Good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is good and, with effort, will be sustainable over time.	The range of groups and organisations engaged are a satisfactory representation of the wider community. Satisfactory levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is satisfactory and fairly sustainable over time.

Judges/Entrants notes:

- The form has expandable sections under overall impression and judges' feedback allowing the judges to provide comprehensive and meaningful comments as much as they deem necessary.
- **Maintenance of Planted Areas:** The maintenance schedule should take account of biodiversity needs through the seasons; these will vary depending upon setting and location. Examples could include avoiding hedge trimming in nesting season or leaving some grass longer at certain times of year etc.
- **Plant Selection:** Prioritising perennial or pollinator-friendly plants is encouraged where appropriate. If annual bedding is used, groups should carefully consider the provenance and buy from local nurseries that do not use peat, or, if possible, to grow their own.
- **Natural Environment:**
 - The use of sustainable practices and materials should be encouraged wherever possible.
 - When creating, restoring or maintaining habitats to support wildlife, any features should be appropriate to the particular place. They could be as varied as ponds, 'dead' hedges, or the connection of several habitats to make 'pollinator pathways'. When used inappropriately something as simple as a bug hotel can become a bird feeder.
 - Assessing the effectiveness of interventions is incredibly important and all groups should be encouraged to measure their impact. This can be through a simple survey, or through contributing to a broader citizen science project or national monitoring scheme.
- **Environmental Management:**
 - Groups should minimise their use of plastic, choosing alternative materials where possible, and where unavoidable switching to better plastics such as recycled, recyclable or compostable products. Groups should repeatedly re-use items like plant pots and trays.
 - Groups are encouraged to identify local environmental issues, and tackle them, using plants. These can be very simple or low-cost interventions, e.g. adding a green roof to a bin store, or planting a hedge to reduce pollution near a main road.