



BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Introduction

Argoed Community Council recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. As a community council, we have our areas of land to manage and we also work closely with Flintshire County Council in managing and maintaining the areas of public land within our communities.

The Welsh Government's Environment Act, 2016 places a duty of town and community councils to seek to enhance and maintain biodiversity within our communities. Managing areas for wildlife can provide opportunities for community groups, volunteers and schools to become involved – contributing to their health and wellbeing also. The healthier the natural environment around us is, with a variety of habitats and species, the more resilient it becomes.

1. Policy Statement

This policy is intended to outline our responsibilities and our aims in enhancing and maintaining biodiversity in the Argoed and New Brighton Ward. It is essential that appropriate guidance is sought and that the Councillors, Clerk and other workers of the Council work with partners to benefit and enhance the biodiversity in the area.

2. Scope of the policy

All employees and elected members are expected to promote the principles of this policy and endeavour to ensure that sufficient funding and resource is made available to sustain it.

3. Responsibility for implementation of the policy

The Council has overall responsibility for the effective operation of the policy.

4. Aims and Responsibilities

The Council recognises the importance in incorporating actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity at every opportunity and commits to the following:

- a) To embed biodiversity in everything that we do.
- b) To ensure that goods and services are sourced from sustainable and ethical suppliers.

- c) To raise community awareness of biodiversity issues and create opportunities for community engagement.
- d) To safeguard any special sites and species and improve their management.
- e) To restore, create and manage habitats.
- f) To tackle pollution and any invasive plant species.
- g) To use and collect evidence of biodiversity.
- h) To use pesticides only when necessary and then in a targeted application only.
- i) To consider biodiversity issues in any decision-making.
- j) To work with partners such as Flintshire County Council, North Wales Wildlife Trust and local farmers to ensure biodiversity is enhanced throughout the Argoed and New Brighton Ward.

5. Monitoring and review of this policy

A biodiversity report will be approved and published on an annual basis and the Council as a whole is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the policy and making recommendations for work that may be undertaken in support of the policy.

This policy was reviewed and adopted by Argoed Community Council on 6 December 2022.