

USK TOWN COUNCIL

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

Usk Town Council Biodiversity Statement

The Town Council recognises the importance of biodiversity. Biodiversity is recognised as underpinning human health and can contribute to physical and mental wellbeing. The widespread reduction in species across the UK coupled with the impact of climate change threatens a major environmental disaster.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduces a new duty on public authorities in Wales to maintain and enhance biodiversity and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems in the exercise of their functions.

The Town Council as a public authority will comply with this duty in relation to the scope of its activities.. The Town Council has identified four specific areas where it will take proactive action:

1. Financial Assistance

The Town Council provides grants to local organisations for a variety of purposes. Depending on the nature of the proposal it may be appropriate to ask the applicant to incorporate biodiversity considerations or impose conditions on the grant.

2. Floral Decorations/Planters/Arboretum

The Town Council works closely with the Usk in Bloom which involves various community groups and local businesses. The group undertakes additional planting and enhancement to the town. The plants are and will continue to be sourced locally and the type of plants used are reviewed to ensure they are pollinator friendly. Usk in Bloom constantly reviews its contribution to biodiversity.

3. Sustainable Procurement

Due to the scope of the Town Council's activities expenditure on goods and services is very limited. Where it is practical to do so and consistent with achieving value for money the Town Council will use local suppliers (defined as within South Wales), will look to use products made from sustainable resources or that use recycled materials. The Town Council will adopt arrangements to ensure packaging and end of life equipment is recycled.

4. Raising Awareness

Usk Town Council has well established networks with Monmouthshire County Council, local community groups, including Usk in Bloom, the Usk Environment and Conservation Group. UTC also works with the local schools, and businesses and uses social media to impart

information. They can raise awareness about the serious challenge of tackling biodiversity, which is as important as climate change, plastic pollution, and carbon neutral, issues which are all inter linked.

UTC appreciates as a council's function can change there will be a need to review and update the biodiversity statement.

November 2022