

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Section 6 Reporting Schedule

Name of Public Authority – Higher Kinnerton Community Council (HKCC)

<p>Short description of PA & 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>In accordance with HKCC’s Environmental Policy, HKCC aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance biodiversity, the environment and open spaces within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.</p> <p>Protection of the environment and open spaces included as a key thematic in the Higher Kinnerton Village Plan 2018-2030 with a key objective to preserve, protect and act to increase wildlife, hedgerows and tree within the village.</p> <p>In light of the Village Plan objective and following a successful application to secure grant funding from the Landfill Disposal Tax Community Scheme (administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action) for a 2-year period from April 2019, a Nature Wardens Project (“the Project”) was launched in Summer 2019.</p>	
<p>Action carried out to:</p>		<p>Monitored by:</p>
<p>-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<p>In light of the Village Plan objective to protect the environment & open spaces and following a successful application to secure grant funding from the Landfill Disposal Tax Community Scheme for a 2-year period from April 2019, a Nature Wardens Project (“the Project”) was launched in Summer 2019. The project involves improvements to existing habitats and creation of new habitats and has been devised to focus on benefitting three species listed in Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, namely bees and other pollinators, bats and hedgehogs and also trees.</p> <p>In accordance with HKCC’s Environmental Policy, HKCC aims to avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing and to encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.</p>	<p>HKCC with support from Plas Dewr Trust</p>
<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<p>With support from Plas Dewr Trust, a local outdoor and environmental education charity, the Nature Wardens Project was launched in Summer 2019 and has delivered volunteer training in biodiversity and several community engagements events to increase knowledge</p>	<p>HKCC with support from Plas Dewr Trust</p>

	and awareness of biodiversity including bee and hedgehog awareness events and tree planting sessions.	
-safeguard principal species and habitats	The Project involves improvements to existing habitats and creation of new habitats and has been devised to focus on benefitting three species listed in Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, namely bees and other pollinators, bats and hedgehogs and also trees.	HKCC with support from Plas Dewr Trust
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	As above and in addition the Project has involved improvements to the wildlife area and willow arch in Park Avenue Play Area.	HKCC with support from Plas Dewr Trust
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	The Project includes hedgerow improvements to mainly ivy hedges with old boxus and small amount of hawthorn present to remove ivy growing in excess and planting of new hedgerow including dog rose hawthorn crab apple etc. As part of the Project, free trees were secured from the Woodland Trust and to coincide with the “Bigclimatefightback” were planted in Park Avenue Play Area.	HKCC with support from Plas Dewr Trust
-use, improve and share evidence	At the beginning of the Project, baseline recordings were taken such as photos of all the areas of the village scheduled for improvements and enhancements and a baseline assessment written. The baseline recordings and assessment will be reviewed at the end of the Project as part of the evaluation exercise. In addition, additional planting should strengthen the bee population in the village, and we hope to monitor this by asking residents to take part in The Great British Bee count and by sharing their findings with the community	HKCC with support from Plas Dewr Trust
-support capacity, and/or other organisations	With support from Plas Dewr Trust, a local outdoor and environmental education charity, the Nature Wardens Project is being delivered by a group of volunteers who during the Village Plan consultation process expressed interest in undertaking environmental improvements within the village.	HKCC with support from Plas Dewr Trust

<p>Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible</p>	<p>In addition to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting the resilience of eco systems, the Project will also benefit residents in the village with environmental improvements contributing to general wellbeing and with organised activities and events improving community cohesion.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Project will benefit three species listed in Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, namely bats bees and hedgehogs, to be better catered for and sustained as a result of the Project. The planned installation of bat boxes around the village including maternity roosts should continue to give long term benefit. Additional planting should strengthen the bee population in the village, and we hope to monitor this by asking residents to take part in The Great British Bee count and by sharing their findings with the community. We expect that by participating in the Project residents have increased awareness and understanding of biodiversity and eco-systems and also be better connected to their community and this community cohesion will continue beyond the funded period.</p>
<p>Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan</p>	<p>The Landfill Disposal Project profile and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action monitoring requirements facilitate and prompt regular detailed review the review of the Project. In addition, the Village Plan is regularly reviewed and updated. Consequently, enablers and barriers to action and/or improvements to forward plan are identified, recorded and addressed such as financial constraints or requirements for improved forward planning and communication within the volunteer group to assist with achieving the Project outcomes and Village Plan objective to protect the environment and open spaces.</p>
<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<p>A key requirement of the grant funding involves sharing the successes and challenges of the Project to enable the Wales Council for Voluntary Action to demonstrate and publicise what the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme is delivering for the benefit of communities in Wales. Consequently, detailed 6 months returns are completed which effectively monitor and review compliance with the S6 duty. In addition, HKCC undertake regular reviews of the Village Plan including delivery of key objectives to ensure a objectives are achieved.</p>