

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Section 6 Reporting Schedule 2025

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

<p>OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL</p> <p>COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO BIODIVERSITY</p> <p>Short description of the Council & its functions and context in relation how it could help biodiversity (through functions with regard to management of land, grant funding, education activities etc), spatial scale and place (e.g. how much land does it cover, population, precept?), public service delivery (e.g. is it subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act?)</p>	<p>Higher Kinnerton is a rural village in North Wales with a population of 1,466 situated approximately 7 miles from the historic city of Chester. The Community Council has seats for nine members who represent the interests of the community.</p> <p>Although the Community Council is not subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, HKCC recognise the importance of protecting and enhancing the environment.</p> <p>Whilst not owning any land, the Community Council manages an open space area in the village and has also fostered good working relationships with Flintshire County Council (FCC) as the landowner of a number of areas and open spaces in the village. This has facilitated biodiversity improvements within the open space area managed by HKCC and within areas owned by FCC. HKCC has also engaged with FCC in its capacity as highway authority to plant pollinating bulbs and wildflowers within green and open spaces throughout the village</p> <p>HKCC also proactively engages with other community groups, local businesses and residents to encourage and support biodiversity enhancements and to raise awareness of biodiversity issues.</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 is 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 trees within the village.</p> <p>Having secured grant funding in 2019 from the Landfill Disposal Tax Community Scheme HKCC were able to deliver several long term biodiversity initiatives and improvements via the Nature Wardens Project.</p> <p>Additionally, HKCC have implemented a village heritage trail with of particular focus on village heritage and a focus on nature and biodiversity in the surrounding village.</p>
<p>Action carried out to:</p>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="float: right; width: 150px;"> <p>Monitored by:</p> </div>

<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, a Nature Wardens Project (“the Project”) was launched in Summer 2019. The Project involved 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. In addition to the Project, HKCC has worked collaboratively with Biodiversity Officers at Flintshire County Council (FCC) to organise bulb planting events and the planting of wildflowers seeds in various areas around the village. Additionally, HKCC are also planning to implement a village heritage trail with of particular focus on village heritage and a focus on nature and biodiversity in the surrounding village.</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 local volunteers and FCC.</p>
<p>-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<p>HKCC has organised several community engagement events to increase knowledge and awareness of biodiversity including bee and hedgehog awareness events, tree planting sessions, the distribution of bird food, bat boxes and bulbs within the community.</p> <p>HKCC has also worked collaboratively with Biodiversity Officers at Flintshire County Council (FCC) to organise bulb planting events and the planting of wildflowers seeds in various areas around the village. In late 2024, HKCC worked with Biodiversity Officers to secure 1000 bulbs for planting around the village which were planted by the village volunteer group.</p> <p>HKCC frequently raises awareness of biodiversity via the monthly village newsletter such as promoting the Heritage Trail and encouraging residents to take part in initiatives which promote biodiversity such as “No Mow May” and Welsh Government initiatives.</p> <p>With support from HKCC, the Higher Kinnerton Environmental Group was formed in 2023 with membership being open to anyone who lives within the boundaries of the village of Higher Kinnerton. The Group proactively supports and promotes awareness of biodiversity and its importance.</p>	<p>HKCC with support from FCC and local volunteers</p>

-safeguard principal species and habitats	The Nature Wardens Project and the various HKCC led initiatives have involved 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 FCC and local volunteers
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	The Nature Wardens Project and separate initiatives organised by HKCC have involved improvements to the wildlife area and willow arch in Park Avenue Play Area, hedging improvements in various locations around the village, creation of a number of wildflower areas and distribution of pollinator bulbs, bat boxes and hedgehog homes to residents.	HKCC with support from FCC and local volunteers
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	The Nature Wardens Project included 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 planted in Park Avenue Play Area. Additional hedging has been planted in the Park and on Bennetts Lane Corner. Pollinator friendly plants are selected for the various planters in the village and new pollinator and wildflower areas have been created and left to re-wild. Seeds have been sown from local wildflowers and plants collected by residents from roadside verges and bulbs are regularly planted throughout the village.	HKCC with support from FCC and local volunteers
-use, improve and share evidence	At the beginning of the Nature Wardens Project, baseline recordings were taken such as photos of all the areas of the village scheduled for improvements and enhancements which were used to inform decisions regarding the locations which have been improved and enhanced via the replacement of hedging which the Ecologist and Biodiversity officers at FCC concurred provided limited environmental benefit and should be replaced with native hornbeam, hawthorn and holly to improve the biodiversity of the hedging and improve visual amenity for residents. In addition, FCC shared evidence regarding various FCC biodiversity focussed initiatives and supported HKCC with the creation of wildflower areas and bulb planting sessions with HKCC and FCC sharing evidence such as photo of the areas when in flower. The additional planting should strengthen the bee and butterfly population in the village. Photos of bulbs and	HKCC with support from FCC and local volunteers
-support capacity, and/or other organisations	The Nature Wardens Project has been delivered by a group of volunteers a number of whom during the Village Plan consultation process expressed interest in undertaking environmental improvements within the village and who, with other volunteers, continue to support and assist with environmental improvements such as maintaining the willow arch, assisting with tree and hedge planting and maintenance and planting bulbs and pollinator-friendly plants. As part of the	HKCC with support from FCC and local volunteers

<p>What will you change?</p>	<p>HKCC will continue to ensure the collaborative working relationship that has been forged with the biodiversity officers at FCC continues in order to harness invaluable support and resource for initiatives and projects to further enhance and support biodiversity. HKCC will aim host awareness raising events, facilitate collaboration between residents and volunteer groups who wish to support biodiversity enhancements and will continue to utilise the village newsletter and the website to help ensure residents have increased awareness and understanding of biodiversity and eco-systems.</p>
<p>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</p>	<p>HKCC will continue to embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and budget planning and ensure due consideration to biodiversity is included in any relevant policies, plans and projects, as well as HKCC's day to day activities and ensure a review of the S6 plan is undertaken annually.</p>