



Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

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

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council:	Towyn and Kinmel Bay Town Council
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<u>Group:</u>	3
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Introduction and Context

Towyn and Kinmel Bay Town Council (TKBTC) serves a geographically large area relative to its size, with a resident population of 8,350 across approximately 3,851 households. According to data from the 2020 Census, the area is home to a slightly older demographic, a characteristic common in smaller seaside towns, and demonstrates higher-than-average levels of deprivation compared to the Welsh national average.

The towns saw significant development during the 1930s, with many residential properties built on small plots. While recent flood defence improvements, commenced in 2024 and due to be completed in 2025/26, have greatly mitigated the risk of coastal flooding, there remains a risk of non-coastal flooding from the nearby River Elwy and River Clwyd. As a result, development in the area is approached with caution, and new builds or alterations to existing residential properties are subject to strict conditions and oversight.

During peak holiday seasons, the town's population can rise by approximately 40,000- 50,000 due to the presence of numerous holiday parks located within Towyn and Kinmel Bay. Despite this seasonal influx, there is a notable shortage of residential green space and private gardens. This limits opportunities for plant biodiversity, year-round habitat provision, pollinator forage, and broader food chain sustainability within residential zones.

Outside the settlement boundary, much of the surrounding land comprises of pasture and unused fields. These areas, while green in appearance, are often ecologically barren—lacking in diversity and offering minimal support for pollinators and wildlife—earning the description of "green deserts." In contrast, the smaller green areas directly managed by TKBTC are cared for with intention and in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. These spaces are developed to promote biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and community well-being.

TKBTC currently serves 6,216 registered electors across 3,851 households, with a precept of £322,646 for the 2025–26 financial year.

The Council delivers a variety of services that have a direct impact on local biodiversity, including:

- **Planting and maintenance** of raised planters, tree planting, mass bulb planting along verges, and installation of hanging baskets.
- **Support for green spaces** such as Tir Prince Park, where the Town Council has funded projects including the installation of LED Solar Street lighting and hosting 'Playing Out' sessions for children.
- **Grant funding to local schools and groups**, including support for a recent Educational Garden Event aimed at enhancing outdoor learning and environmental awareness.

- **Public engagement and education**, using community events and youth activities to raise awareness of local ecosystems, climate action, and conservation.

TKBTC directly maintains the following biodiversity-focused areas under land lease or maintenance agreements with Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC):

Chester Avenue Woodland

Managed to sustain a diverse range of native trees, plants, and shrubs. Public access is preserved, while safety and biodiversity are prioritised through regular maintenance and storm damage response.

Ffordd Y Berllan Field

Features of the site include hedgerows that are managed outside of nesting seasons, a designated meadow area specifically maintained to support pollinators and enhance the diversity of plant and bird species and wildlife corridors which provide safe passage for wildlife to move between different habitats, ensuring genetic diversity and access to food, water, and shelter.

Owain Glyndwr Community Garden

The site is actively maintained to support pollinators through the planting of herbs, flowers, and nectar-rich species. A polytunnel has been installed to facilitate the growth of fruits and vegetables, enhancing both biodiversity and community engagement in sustainable practices. Regular maintenance includes watering, weeding, harvesting, and general site upkeep. In 2024, twelve fruit trees were planted to further diversify the habitat and support local ecosystems.

Planters throughout Kinmel Bay and Towyn

Installing planters filled with native flowers and plants in Towyn and Kinmel Bay has proven to be a valuable contribution to both the environment and the community. These planters not only beautify the area, making it more visually inviting, but they also provide essential habitats for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. By offering food, shelter, and improved connectivity for various species, the planters support biodiversity and promote a healthier local ecosystem. Additionally, they help enhance air quality and encourage plant diversity, further enriching the community's natural environment and fostering a greater appreciation for nature.

Additional Biodiversity Areas Within the TKBTC Wards (Managed by Other Authorities):

- **Tir Prince Park** – Protected grass areas to support biodiversity (CCBC)
- **Kendal Road Park** (CCBC)
- **Kinmel Dunes** (CCBC)
- **Raised Beds at Kinmel Bay Square** (CCBC)
- **Park Avenue Land** (Welsh Government)
- **Tir Prince Raceway Pond** (Private – Tir Prince Group)
- **Kinmel Bay Cob** (Mixed ownership: Welsh Water/private)
- **Dutton's Field (Manor Way)** (Privately owned)
- **Towyn Allotments** (CCBC)
- **Clwyd Park** (CCBC)
- **Owain Glyndwr Park** (CCBC)
- **Tir Llwyd Industrial Estate** (CCBC/Welsh Government)
- **St Asaph Avenue Playing Field** (Managed by a local charity)
- **Quarry Line Path** (CCBC)

By continuing to invest in green infrastructure and environmental initiatives, TKBTC aims to strengthen its role in enhancing local biodiversity and promoting long-term well-being for residents.

The Council's Commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

TKBTC contributes to the goals of the Act by:

- Supporting grassroots and community-led projects and events
- Collaborating with local schools, services, and community groups
- Advocating for improved infrastructure, transport links, and flood resilience through engagement with key partners such as Natural Resources Wales, Network Rail, and Conwy County Borough Council

Action Report 2023 - 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...	Monitored by:
1	Embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement The Town Council has prioritised biodiversity in planning and development activities, ensuring that planting projects have been designed with the local ecosystem in mind. This has included incorporating native plant species, enhancing wildlife habitats, and ensuring that developments do not negatively impact the environment. When considering planning applications, the biodiversity impact has been key factor in decision-making, ensuring that any new developments or infrastructure projects support the natural environment rather than harm it. The Town Council has actively participated in discussions related to climate change and flood resilience, focusing on how these issues intersect with biodiversity and ecosystem health. Biodiversity has been integrated into the Town Council's policies and procedures as this ensures that all activities align with environmental sustainability and the principles outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. When TKBTC has commissioned services such as grounds maintenance and landscaping, the Town Council has included biodiverse requirements, including the use of native plants, the avoidance of harmful pesticides and herbicides, and the ongoing maintenance of wildlife habitats. Councillors and staff will continue to attend training sessions to better understand the links between biodiversity, climate action, flood resilience,	Scrutiny of minutes and agendas, follow up procedures as part of best practice.

		and community well-being, ensuring that nature is considered in all decision-making processes. This approach encourages all Councillors to incorporate environmental considerations into their decisions, fostering a culture of sustainability within the Town Council. When commissioning services (grounds maintenance, landscaping etc) include biodiverse requirements such as the use of native plants, avoid pesticides/herbicides and manage hedgerows outside of nesting seasons and maintain wildlife habitats. Councillors and staff have attended training sessions to better understand the links between biodiversity, climate action, flood resilience, and community well-being, ensuring that nature is considered in all decision-making processes.	
	Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Councillors who serve as school governors actively promote biodiversity by engaging with Eco Councils in both primary schools, supporting initiatives that aim to create greener, cleaner, and more sustainable learning environments. This collaboration helps embed environmental awareness at a young age and encourages practical action, such as tree planting, wildlife-friendly gardening, and reducing waste. The Town Council has actively supported local primary schools and community groups in delivering biodiversity-focused initiatives, including the Crime Beat Community Youth Garden Event and various children's educational activities held in the Community Garden. These projects aim to engage young people in environmental learning, promote hands-on experience with nature, and foster a long-term commitment to protecting and enhancing local biodiversity.	Encourage Councillors and others to report events, meetings and plans across TKBTC the community and CCBC.

		TKBTC Community Grant Awards recognise local environmental groups. In the 2024-25 Awards the Great and Green Environmental Award was presented to a local volunteer litter picking group who specialises in supporting the local young children to understand the importance of taking pride in their local area and keeping their green spaces/beaches clean on litter free. Councillors and Keep Wales Tidy regularly involve the local children in community litter picks at the Chester Avenue Woodland. This educates the children on environmental issues such as single use plastic, the importance of recycling and the role of the wildlife in the community. Environmental factors and sustainability considerations were integrated into the development of the Community Place Plan, ensuring that local biodiversity and green infrastructure priorities were reflected in future planning. The Town Council has partnered with a local Willow Coppice Group to support the ongoing maintenance and sustainable harvesting of willow at Chester Avenue Woodland, promoting traditional skills and habitat management. To keep the community informed and engaged, the Town Council regularly shares informative posts via its social media platforms and newsletters, raising awareness about biodiversity, promoting educational events, and providing updates on ongoing and upcoming environmental projects. Picnic and standard benches have been installed throughout parks and along key pathways to provide comfortable resting spots for residents and	
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		visitors. These installations not only encourage people to spend more time outdoors but also offer opportunities to observe and engage with the surrounding natural environment, fostering a greater appreciation for local biodiversity.	
2	Safeguard principal species and habitats	The Town Council has taken a proactive approach to protecting and enhancing local green spaces and biodiversity. Bollards have been installed in key locations to safeguard parks and dune systems, helping to preserve these sensitive areas. To support local wildlife, bug hotels, habitats, and hibernacula's have been established across the Towyn & Kinmel Bay area, including installations at both local primary schools, offering educational and ecological benefits. The Council actively participates in the Dune Management Forum, contributing to collaborative efforts to manage and protect the unique coastal dune environment. Tiny Forests have been planted at four sites—Ffordd y Berllan Field, St Asaph Avenue playing field, Chester Avenue Woodland, and Owain Glyndwr Park demonstrating the Council's commitment to increasing urban biodiversity and engaging the community in nature-based climate action. Reduced grass cutting at the Ffordd Y Berllan Field wildflower area has been implemented to support biodiversity by creating a richer habitat. This approach provides essential nectar, pollen, and shelter for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, while also offering a safe environment for small mammals and birds. By allowing native	Encourage Councillors and others to report events, meetings and plans across TKBTC the community and CCBC.

		plants and wildflowers to flourish, the Town Council is fostering a more resilient and diverse ecosystem within the park. The Town Council continues to maintain the Resource Centre Garden, ensuring it remains a welcoming and ecologically supportive space, supports pollinators, and contributes to a healthier natural environment within the community.	
3	Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Work has been completed to protect the historic Quarry Line Path, which was originally restored by community volunteers. This important green corridor serves as a vital habitat for a diverse range of plant and wildlife species, supporting biodiversity and offering a peaceful natural space for the community to enjoy. Tree and bulb planting initiatives have been organised by TKBTC along Foryd Road, St Asaph Avenue and Towyn Road. These efforts have improved the local ecosystem, contribute to the aesthetic value of the area, and provide vital support for pollinators and other wildlife. The Town Council has transformed a previously disused green space on the Owain Glyndwr Estate into a thriving Community Garden. After being unused for two decades, the area has been revitalised with pollinator-friendly plants that attract a variety of insects, birds, and bees. Native species of flowers and trees have been carefully planted to provide crucial food sources and habitats for local wildlife. Additionally, wildlife boxes have been installed to offer shelter to diverse species, further supporting biodiversity in the area.	Encourage Council and others to report events, meetings and plans across TKBTC the community and CCBC

		The Town Council successfully planted over 1,000 trees to create a 'Tiny Forest' in Kinmel Bay. This initiative was designed to establish dense, native woodlands that foster local wildlife and offer valuable educational opportunities for the community.	
4	Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	TKBTC has installed two fountains in the Tir Prince pond to enhance water quality. The pond undergoes regular cleaning and maintenance to ensure its environmental health. Tree surveys are conducted quarterly to monitor and maintain the health of the trees under TKBTC ownership, ensuring their continued vitality and contribution to the local ecosystem. The Town Council actively supports and promotes community litter picks, regularly partnering with local groups, schools, and volunteers to keep beaches, parks, and public areas clean and well-maintained. The Town Council has adopted effective recycling practices to reduce waste sent to landfills, contributing to environmental sustainability and fostering a cleaner, greener community.	Encourage Councillors and others to report events, meetings and plans across TKBTC the community and CCBC
5	Use improve and share evidence	The Town Council has collaborated with the Biodiversity Officer from the Local Authority to ensure the use of best practices and to enhance knowledge of local biodiversity issues, projects, and schemes. In addition, advice has been sought from the LC Ecologist and representatives from Llais Y Goedwig to further support and guide biodiversity initiatives in the area.	Use of Expert Advice (CCBC Ecologist and Llais Y Goedwig Representative). Keep Wales Tidy and OVW Keep Wales Tidy Officer.

6	Support capacity and/or other organisations	The Town Council recognises individuals who are championing environmental issues through the Community Awards, celebrating their efforts in enhancing local sustainability and biodiversity. The Council actively promotes grants for local groups and organisations seeking to undertake environmental-related activities, such as tree planting and educational events with the introduction of a small grant scheme. In partnership with the Chester Avenue Willow Harvesters, the Council supports coppicing sessions and the maintenance of the willow maze. The Town Council also supports a local primary school by providing maintenance for their planters, encouraging young people to engage with nature and environmental stewardship.	Amount of money spent, and activities undertaken, which will provide positive biodiversity benefits. Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit.
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Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

What has worked well?

TKBTC has seen success in several areas where they have actively supported environmental initiatives and promoted community engagement.

The 'Tiny Forest' project in Kinmel bay was a great success. Residents and volunteers including children, participated in planting native trees in four areas, this not only supported biodiversity but also provided educational value for the community. The project created a long-lasting green space for both people and wildlife to enjoy.

The installation of LED Solar powered streetlights in various locations such as Tir Price Par, Ogwen Avenue and Green Avenue have proven effective in promoting energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprint. These lights have provided improved public safety while reducing reliance on traditional energy intensive lighting sources.

The Owain Glyndwr Community Garden has been another significant project that has made a positive impact on both the local community and the environment. The garden provides a shared green space for residents to participate in gardening, learn about sustainable practices and contribute to a communal effort. The garden has been designed to support biodiversity by incorporating native plants, flowers and shrubs that provide food and shelter for pollinators, birds and other wildlife. This project has helped increase local green cover which benefits the overall ecosystem and contributes to improved air quality and soil health in the garden.

The introduction of a willow coppice group at Chester Avenue Woodland has significantly enhanced the area. By replanting the correct species of willow and regularly harvesting it, the group has helped maintain the health and vitality of the woodland. The willow is harvested and the willow maze is regularly

	maintained, which not only ensures its continued growth but also promotes new shoots. This process helps reduce competition for sunlight, water, and nutrients among the trees, allowing the most vigorous and healthiest willows to thrive. As a result, the overall biodiversity of the woodland has improved, while the risk of disease and pest infestations has been minimized. The coppicing practice also creates a sustainable resource for the community while supporting the long-term ecological balance of the forest. Installing planters filled with native flowers and plants in Towyn and Kinmel Bay has proven to be a valuable contribution to both the environment and the community. These planters not only beautify the area, making it more visually inviting, but they also provide essential habitats for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. By offering food, shelter, and improved connectivity for various species, the planters support biodiversity and promote a healthier local ecosystem. Additionally, they help enhance air quality and encourage plant diversity, further enriching the community's natural environment and fostering a greater appreciation for nature.
What have the barriers been?	Financial constraints are a common barrier when it comes to supporting long term environmental projects. While there are some available grants, funding may not cover all necessary aspects, such as maintenance, educational activities or infrastructure improvements. Without adequate funding, projects such the Owain Glyndwr Community Garden, local tree planting efforts or other biodiversity enhancing initiatives may struggle to thrive over the long term. Ongoing maintenance such as replacing benches, providing materials for planting and paying for water or compost is costly. Volunteer reliance is a struggle as much of the Town Councils Initiatives relies on the dedication of volunteers for example the watering of the planters. While community engagement has been positive, maintaining a constant volunteer base has been difficult especially as seasons change or other commitments take priority for individuals.

	A further barrier that the Town Council has faced is the lack of specialist knowledge and expertise in certain environmental areas. While the Council has made great strides in supporting biodiversity and environmental projects, tasks such as designing ecologically sustainable spaces, managing invasive species or implementing nature-based solutions may require knowledge beyond what is available within the Council itself.
What will you change?	Work more closely with the Local Authority Ecologists, Llais y Goedwig and the Willow Coppice experts as these organisations can offer expertise, support and collaboration to ensure that the Town Councils projects align with best practices for biodiversity and sustainability.
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	The duty will be monitored through the Full Council. The S6 report will be reviewed considering these reports and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Council. TKBTC will ensure that the S6 Report is inclusively and openly reviewed at 3-year intervals by the Full Council.

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	- that own or occupy an office building only and - whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	- that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, - whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or - that can influence those who own or manage land.	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- Objective 2:** Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- Objective 4:** Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Objective 6:** Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery