

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 Section 6 - The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**  
**Report for December 2019**

**Acton Community Council**

**Introduction and Context**

Acton Community Council is one of four Wrexham Town Centre Community Councils created in 1985. It owns one building, the Maesydre Power House and has no other landholdings. The Council serves approximately 13,659 residents and 5795 households (based on the 2011 census). The precept for 2019-20 is £148,500.

The Council is committed to encouraging and promoting sustainability goals and practices whenever possible. It seeks to encourage the retention of green open spaces, mature trees and green corridors for wildlife, use of native plants and a broad spectrum of tree species.

Situated within the five wards of the Community of Acton:

- Acton Park is owned and managed by Wrexham County Borough Council and has Tennis Courts and a bowling green within its curtilage. The Community Council funds a Seasonal Park Ranger Post through a Service Level Agreement arrangement with Wrexham County Borough Council
- The area consists of mainly mixed density residential property and has some open spaces included within them, mature tree planting schemes and several estates have deep grass verges
- It includes part of the town centre shopping area with a large supermarket and a Civic Quarter containing the Law Courts, Former Police Station, RWF Memorial, the Memorial Hall Swimming Baths and Peace Gardens at Bodhyfryd that is bordered by Holt Street, Chester Street and Powell Road.
- There are four Primary/Junior Schools within the Community and one Secondary school together with the former Groves High School site that is currently vacant.
- There is an Owain Glyndwr protected open space known locally as the Spider Park and St John's Field
- The Former Rugby Playing Field at Dean Road/ Holt Road is defined as Open space and is owned and managed by Glyndwr University with Wrexham County Borough Council owning the access off Dean Road.
- A natural informal open space known as Borrás Bog borders Bieston Close, Huntsman's Corner and the Llanypwll Link road
- The Nine Acre Field is a former recreation ground with a Pavilion owned by Wrexham County Borough Council and now designated as Education land.
- There are Children's playing fields situated at Aran Road, Ffordd Garmonydd and Acton Park that are owned by Wrexham County Borough Council and part funded by the Community Council under a Service Level agreement arrangement. There are also private developer funded play areas on the Redrow estate off Holt Road
- The Green at Little Acton is a large open space where the Little Acton Community Centre is sited
- The Acton Community Resource Centre is owned and managed by Wrexham County Borough Council and part funded by the Community Council under a Service Level Agreement arrangement.

**Action Report**

How the Council assists biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities)

Please note in respect of Public services delivery - The Council is not subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act as its precept is below £200,000

<b>Action carried out to:</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Monitored by</b>
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in its response to the Wrexham Unitary development Plan Taken into account biodiversity considerations when considering planning applications	Comments made in documents  Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in consultation responses and objections to planning applications
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	The Seasonal Park Ranger is required to produce annual surveys and a report on biodiverse activities within Acton Park Supported friends of Acton Park and the Angling Club in their work to improve the Park and public participation by Children, School Groups and other local groups to use the park as a resource	Through Feedback from the Park Ranger, Friends group , Council members and residents  Recording number of people taking part in activities
Safeguard principal species and habitats	Championed case of the mature “bird and bee” oak tree as part of the woodland trust tree of the Year competition	Submission document
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological works	Encourage Wrexham Biodiversity and Planning Officers to maintain and manage habitats and expand ecology via planning comments	Planning Comments
Tackle negative factors ie reduce pollution, use nature based solutions address invasive species	Reduction in use of pesticides at Ffordd Garmonydd Play area and Acton Park Play area and seeking alternate solutions	To provide funding for alternate proposals through Service Level Agreement
Use improve and share evidence	Data collected as part of Annual Wildflower and Bat Surveys has been forwarded to the Ecology Officer	Information submitted to Wrexham County Borough Council
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Worked in partnership with Arboricultural Officer in supporting TPO. Provided funding for Seasonal Park Ranger post and Acton Play areas and for a Young People project to work with 8-18 year olds providing informal environmental education opportunities. Made provision within the Council's budget for Environmental schemes within the Community Streetscene	Outcome of Planning and TPO applications  Reporting under the Service Level Agreements provide evidence for positive biodiversity benefits  Amount of money spent

## Review of s6 duty

### What has worked well?

Funding of the Seasonal Park Ranger has enabled an annual survey of Wildflowers and Bats to be carried out in Acton Park with the results being sent to the Wrexham Ecology Officer. School/ Group activities have facilitated a tree study, nature walk looking at birds, bird boxes and significant tree species: Grass cutting at the Park has left some open ground for the growth of wildflower meadow. The Council is supportive of the Friends of Acton Park and the Seasonal Ranger in the various clean up sessions.

The Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council and the Caia Park Partnership have enabled a focus of biodiversity matters and facilitated informal education of young people in growing their own plants and vegetables.

Financial support to the Friends of Acton Park and the Angling Club have improved the biodiversity within the Park and improved the management and water quality of the lake and identified blue green algae at an early stage, a grant to purchase a water aerator will help prevent the development of blue algae on the lake.

### What have the barriers been?

The Council owns no land and can only recommend and encourage other land owners in the Community to embrace biodiversity

### What will you change?

Work with the Wrexham Local Biodiversity Officer and seek advice whenever necessary. Will seek to encourage the planting up of hardscape/paved areas and publicise the work of Groundwork and other ecology groups on the Councils website.

### How and When will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

The Duty will be monitored by the Council Members and the Clerk reporting back to the Council through a regular agenda item at Council meetings.

The s6 plan will be developed and reviewed in response to such reporting and any other evidence or information that may be made available to the Council. At the time of Publication of this report there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed but this will be done in the next six months.

Signed for Acton Community Council



Chair



Clerk to the Council

Date 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019