

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Reporting on Section 6 – Reporting Template for Town and Community Councils

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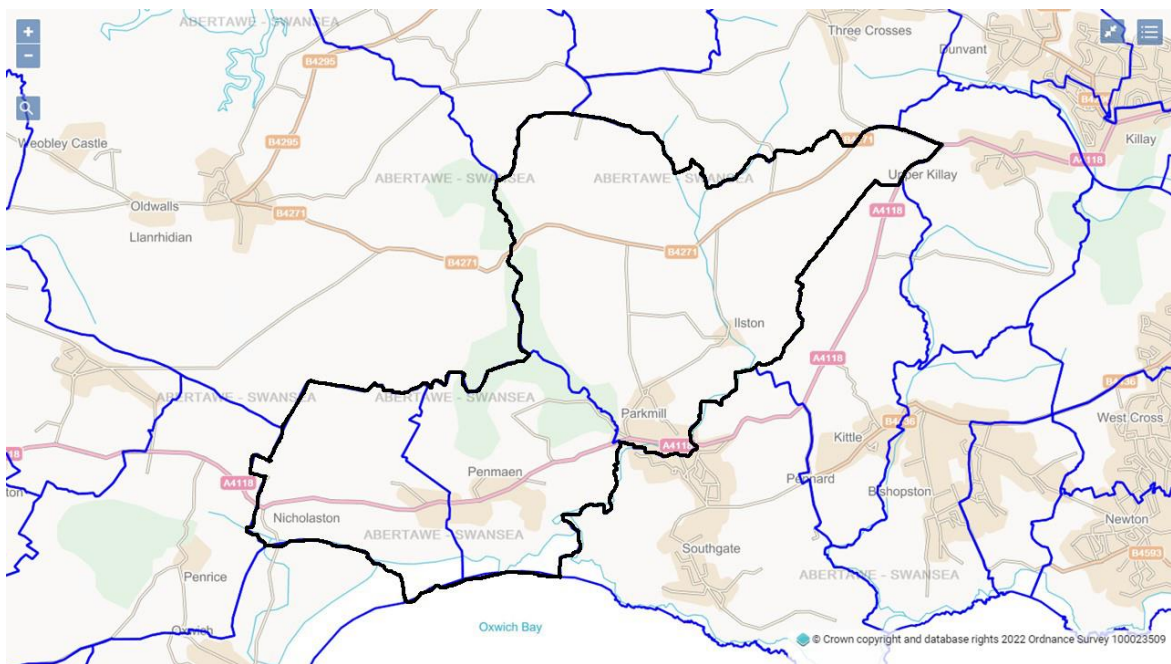
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Name of Town or Community Council: Ilston Community Council

Introduction and Context

- A short description of the Council, its functions and context in relation to
 - how it could help biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities, for e.g.)

Ilston Community Council (ICC) covers the wards of Penmaen, Nicholaston and Ilston. Within these wards are the communities of Perriswood, Penmaen, Nicholaston, Parkmill, Lunnon and Ilston with 247 dwellings and 396 registered electors. We currently have a precept of £5265 up to the end of March 2023 when it will rise to £6688.50.



The area covered by the community council is very rural and has many designated sites within it. These include many Special Sites of Scientific Interest, Ilston Quarry Nature Reserves and part of the Gower Ash Wood Special Area of Conservation amongst others.



ICC does not own or manage any land and does not own or rent any buildings. We are not subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WGF) Act but have committed to have regard of the act in decision making.

Action Report

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	ICC have committed to using email as the main method of communication and to limit what is printed out. We often use recycled paper and aim to do this in all instances and to use recycled ink cartridges. Our used cartridges are sent off to be recycled. We aim to embed biodiversity into planning decision making by looking at the impacts of planning applications on biodiversity, i.e. looking to see if hedgerows will be removed or trees cut down.	
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	ICC have shared information on our website and on our mailing list about reduced mowing regimes, the importance of pollinators and environmental schemes. Two of our councillors are local nature reserve wardens.	

<p>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>We have been involved in the reduction of the speed limit in Parkmill to 20mph to reduce pollution which adversely affects our biodiversity and have installed a speed indicator device to show the speed that vehicles are travelling. We have produced a traffic report which aims to reduce help traffic flow, reduce speeds which in turn reduces vehicle pollution. Signs have been put up to say please drive carefully through our village.</p> <p>We have instigated and put up signage to deter litter dropping, illegal parking and overnight camping to limit litter polluting the environment, erosion caused by vehicle in the wrong places and the associated deterioration of the environment due to illegal camping and associated waste.</p> <p>We have liaised with Swansea Council and to instigate the spraying of Japanese Knotweed in Ilston, Pennard Valley and Parkmill and liaised and informed the local community about this issue.</p> <p>We have supported the Gower Commons Community Action Group in their bid to reduce accidents involving animals as they graze the commons. These grazing animals are essential in keeping the different habitats on the common intact. Without them the land would revert to woodland. We are currently liaising with the commons action group in order to write a report about the use of roads across the commons.</p> <p>We have planted flower bulbs in Lunnon, Ilston, Parkmill and Penmaen and have planted a native lime tree on the green in Penmaen to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II. We will also plant more spring flower bulbs. We have reporting fly tipping incidents to Swansea Council and have aided them in investigations of the culprits.</p>	
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<p>-use improve and share evidence</p>	<p>We are currently liaising with NRW and Welsh Water regarding the water quality of the Parkmill stream with the intention of improving the river water quality and also the bathing water quality at Three Cliffs Bay. This will thereby improve the surrounding habitat which includes part of the Gower Ash Woods SAC and Pennard Valley SSSI.</p> <p>We are currently liaising with the Countryside Access Team to improve and shore up the footpath in Parkmill to limit erosion and also to improve signage to it to reduce off path erosion. We are working with Pennard Community Council and other stakeholders to tackle erosion of the dunes and footpaths in and around Pennard Golf Course dune system and Three Cliffs Valley.</p> <p>We have pressed the NT and lobbied our local Councillor to permanently close the car park in Penmaen opposite Rose Cottage. The intention is that the area will be re-wilded and this will encourage the livestock that is important to the ecological health of Cefn Bryn to return to this area. We understand that Welsh Water will create an earth bank (berm) roadside to prevent vehicles parking in this area.</p>	
<p>-support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>We working closely with the Gower Heritage Centre, Swansea Council and Tourism Swansea Bay and also recently with the Gower Inn.</p>	
<p>Review of s6 duty</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change? <p>Reduction of speed limit has resulted in reduced air pollution. In the long term, this will increase pedestrian use.</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed – invasive species control and reporting to the community</p> <p>Barriers - Covid – Huge increase in visitor numbers who come to enjoy the UK's first Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However, increased pressures on the environment, pollution, erosion, litter.</p>		

Covid did mean that the ICC instigated a mailing list to contact our residents and share information about biodiversity and environmental issues amongst other things.

We are a small council who are restricted by other bodies as we do not own any of the land in our area.

- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

Biodiversity will be added as an agenda item each month and the report will be considered and reviewed yearly at the June meeting.

