

Rhosybol Community Council Environmental Policy and Promoting Biodiversity

1 Introduction

The Council is committed to working towards the Well-being goals of the Future Generations Act 2015, which places an emphasis on protecting the environment, using resources sustainably and protecting the health and prosperity of future generations. Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 all Town and Community Councils have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience

2. Council's Policy

- recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses its resources efficiently and proportionately,
- aims to become a low carbon organisation through better management of its resources, water, and energy,
- integrate environmental and sustainable principles into the Council's operational procedures,
- promote best practice and endeavour to improve the environmental performance wherever practicable,
- wish to maintain healthy functioning ecosystems and encourage a biodiverse natural environment within the community.

3. Practical Measures

3.1 Administration.

- Use as little as possible materials and eliminate or change wasteful practices.
- Use recycled materials.
- Recycle all materials to be able to do so reasonably • Circulate documents to reduce copying.

3.2 Promote sustainability.

- When drafting the council's spending plans.
- When council members are appointed to represent them on bodies and organisations.

3.3 Energy, Water and Waste Management

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Reduce the amount of waste produced by the Council's activities by implementing waste minimisation systems. Examples could include using digital methods for distributing meeting papers and double-sided printing where printing is unavoidable.
- Use all available recycling routes to reduce waste going into landfill.

3.3 Environmental Procurement

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Buy products and services, which cause the least harm to the Environment.
- Use local labour and materials wherever possible to minimise the environmental impact of travel miles
- Reduce its use of single plastics, such as drinking straws, plastic cups, laminated pouches etc

4 Managing Green Spaces and Promoting Biodiversity

Within the constraints of cost and practicality, the Council will:

- Implement management procedures that supports and enhance local biodiversity.
- Recognise that longer grass holds more carbon and by not cutting grass it improves soil health, whilst being good for biodiversity.
- Consider biodiversity when considering planning applications and associated issues. Provide adaptation responses and mitigate the impact of climate change.
- Lead and promote the principles of biodiversity within the community where appropriate in order that they can then make their own decisions.
- Consider biodiversity when considering providing financial assistance