



Cyngor Tref Caerfyrddin  
Carmarthen Town Council

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

**Reporting on Section 6**  
**December 2022**

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6**

**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022**

**Name of Town or Community Council: Carmarthen Town Council**

**Introduction and Context**

Carmarthen Town Council provides a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity.

Council serves the area of Carmarthen and its population of around 14,000 residents. It has 18 councillors, covering the North, South and West Wards of Carmarthen. The annual precept of Council for 2022/23 is £788,885.

Carmarthen Town Council is responsible for many services in the town, including:

- Carmarthen Park, incorporating the tea shop, velodrome and rugby ground;
- Other public parks in Carmarthen including Johnstown Park, Penllwyn Park, Parc Hinds and the play areas at Russell Terrace, Maes y Wennol and Allt Iwan;
- Most of the town's public footpaths;
- St Peter's Civic Hall;
- Carmarthen Cemetery;
- The town's hanging basket scheme and other floral displays;
- Providing grants specifically for projects and initiatives that promote or support the environment or sustainability.

The Council first published a 'Biodiversity and Environment Development Action Plan' in September 2018 and it also has a Council Sub-Committee - the Sian Johnston Committee - which deals specifically with matters relating to the environment and sustainability. This makes recommendations to the Town Council on these matters

The council provides community support via its dedicated Community Wellbeing and Events Officer and promotes the principle of sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability whenever possible.

Carmarthen Town Council falls within the auspices of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and reports to the Public Services Board annually on its well-being duty.

**Action Report**

<b>Action carried out to:</b>	<b>November 2022</b>	<b>Monitored by:</b>
<b>-embed biodiversity into decision making &amp; procurement</b>	The Siân Johnston Environmental Working Group has been established to ensure that Council both consider and implement environmental considerations	Carmarthen Town Council

	in their day to day activities and longer term plans.	
<b>-raise awareness of biodiversity &amp; its importance</b>	A children's climate conference, initially planned for March 2020 will now take place in March 2023. This is arranged and hosted by Carmarthen Town Council at St Peter's Civic Hall.	Carmarthen Town Council
<b>-safeguard principal species and habitats</b>	Sections of our parks and green areas are designated to be left uncut to preserve habitats. Planning applications are considered in the context of the environmental impact. Safeguarding of habitats, the development of sustainable homes and the planting of new developments are regular considerations.	Carmarthen Town Council
<b>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</b>	Council will include bat boxes on the Grandstand at the park to protect this vulnerable animal, which has four endangered species.  Council has signposted Keep Wales Tidy Local Places for Nature project to local community groups and offered spaces to accommodate these projects.  A butterfly garden has been installed at Carmarthen Park and new projects will be considered in 2023.	Carmarthen Town Council
<b>-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</b>	The tree planting programme carried out (150 trees planted at Carmarthen Cemetery) will help reduce air toxins and harmful gasses.  The Council's hanging basket scheme (160 baskets) and other plant and flower receptacles provides natural habitat for certain species and also serves to improve the physical appearance of the local environment.  Council is currently producing its five year plan which has the procurement of electric	Carmarthen Town Council

	<p>vehicles and the installation of an electric charging at the depot as some of the aims.</p> <p>The feasibility of providing electric charging points for e-bikes at Carmarthen Park is also being considered.</p>	
<b>-use improve and share evidence</b>	<p>The climate conference taking place in March 2023 will provide opportunities to share good practice.</p> <p>Information will be shared with other local council at regular networking events such as SLCC West Wales, helping everyone through shared information and experiences.</p>	Carmarthen Town Council
<b>-support capacity and/or other organisations</b>	<p>Carmarthen Town Council has established links with Carmarthen Together, a local group with the aim of tackling the climate crisis. Council also has a good working relationship with HwbTywiHub who support men's mental wellbeing. Amongst their activities has been planting areas of the town with pollinators on behalf of Council.</p> <p>The 'Sian Johnston /Red Solar Farm Grants' help to provide sponsorship and support for all manner of environmental and sustainability related projects undertaken by different local organisations.</p>	Carmarthen Town Council
<b>Review of s6 duty</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?</li> </ul> <p>Working with community groups such as HwbTywiHub and making new connections with Carmarthen Together has been extremely beneficial. Sharing of resources, expertise, and the general will to do good has already brought about real positives for the environment and this will grow in the coming months and years.</p>		

The coronavirus pandemic was a huge barrier which meant that Council had to cancel the Children's Climate Conference planned for March 2020. It's good to note that this will be held in March 2023.

The pandemic was also a barrier to local groups being able to work on projects but fortunately this has restarted now and stronger links have been made for the future.

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

The s6 duty will be monitored on an annual basis as part of Council's annual report. The content of the plan will be regularly reviewed by the Siân Johnston Working Group and more formally reviewed every three years.