

## Pontardawe Town Council

## Environmental Act (Wales)2016 Statement

Pontardawe Town Council Manages land at its Parks and Community Halls in Ynysmeudwy, Trebanos and Rhyd-y-Fro. It also has influence over land in the Cwmdu Nature Reserve in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council. It manages and has influence via procurement for both Parks and Halls. As a Town Council it also has influence through various community and third-party organisations via Partnership working and grant provisions. In 2018 Pontardawe Town Council was commended by One Voice Wales for Environmental projects

Action carried out to:

Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement

Doing – Liaise with Neath Port Talbot Council in Cwmdu, ‘Working with Nature Project’ Tree Risk assessments and Management Plan. Recycled plastic benches.

Proposed – Review of Cleaning products used at halls with the intention of utilising more eco-friendly products/ bulk buying to reduce packaging. Review of weed killers used by Town Council and Contractors. Request hanging basket flowers include bee friendly varieties. We will also ensure that Biodiversity is embedded in decision making. (Perennial planting, local varieties, bee friendly, limiting cuts, meadow grass areas etc)

Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance

Proposed - Publish the Environmental (Wales) Act 2016 plan on web site, on Social Media & in the Community Mag. Get Schools and Communities involved in changes. - Longer Term – Use experience gathered to produce information for schools and Households on creating biodiverse spaces within gardens, playgrounds etc

Safeguard principal species and habitats and restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks

Doing – Liaising with Neath Port Talbot Council (‘Working with Nature’ Team) to ensure eco-friendly management of the Nature Reserve. Following Natural Resource Wales guidance on fallen trees, creation of habitat piles, Bat & Bird boxes

Proposed –Continue to liaise with the Neath Port Talbot Council, Working with Nature team on an informal basis. Instigate Ash dieback plan for Cwmdu in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council. Involve Green infrastructure Officer at Neath Port Talbot Council with the changes to be made at the Parks/ Halls. Longer term -Liaise with Riverside Eco practitioners.

Tackle negative factors: i.e. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species, Ash Dieback

Doing – Knotweed eradication at Parks/Footpaths by Town Council employees and Contractors. Knotweed & invasive species removal at Cwmdu during ‘Working with Nature Project’

Proposed – Continue both, also review pesticides and weed killers used by contractors and staff. Review cleaning products & bulk buying at Halls to introduce more eco-friendly products. Bulk buy to reduce packaging. Longer Term - Address wider community participation to instigate behavioural changes. Ash Dieback Plan in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council.

Use, Improve and share evidence

Proposed – Review Natural Resource Wales area statements. Work with Partners (Short, medium, long term goals) Roll out Ynysmeudwy model to all other parks / halls / Town Council owned green spaces. Encourage others to follow plans. Social media campaigns, Web Site, utilise Environmental community platforms and Community festivals

Support Capacity, and/or organisation

Proposed – Community Engagement during projects (Friends groups/ Third Sector/ Communities/ Schools etc)

Key Outcomes: use narrative and metric where possible

This will be Pontardawe Town Councils mission statement for 'Today, Tomorrow and the Future'  
Proposed - High Level statement published every three years supported by working documents that show actions, achievements, project completions, new projects

Review points - Enablers / Barriers to action, improvements to forward plan

Enablers are collaborative working  
Barriers are - Financial, Institutional capacity, behavioural and time frame

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

Eco and Wellbeing Committee to meet quarterly then report to full Council