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| **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 – Liaison with Neath Port Talbot Council and Pontardawe Conservation volunteers in Cwmdu nature reserve. Tree risk assessments and Management Plan carried out biannually on tree on all Town Council owned land. Contractors undertake environmentally friendly cuts to retain meadow areas where possible in Parks. Very limited and directed use of Glyphosate by contractors and never widely sprayed. Only recycled plastic benches purchased during bench replacement. |
|  |  | Proposed –Biodiversity embedded in decision making. (Perennial planting, local varieties, bee friendly, limiting cuts, limiting use of chemicals, meadow grass areas within Parks etc) |
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| Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance |  | Doing - Environmental (Wales) Act 2016 plan published on web site in 2019, and reviewed and published in 2022. Schools and Communities involved in changes via volunteer days.  Longer Term – Use experience gathered to produce information for schools and Households on creating biodiverse spaces within gardens, playgrounds etc |
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| Safeguard principal species and habitats and restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks |  | Doing – Liaising with Neath Port Talbot Council to ensure eco-friendly management of the Nature Reserve. Contractors follow Natural Resource Wales guidance on fallen trees, creation of habitat piles, encourage placement of Bat & Bird boxes  Longer Term – Look at more ambitious projects in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council ie Grass roofs for bus shelters |
|  |  | Doing –Continue Ash dieback plan for Cwmdu in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council and roll out to trees on other Town Council owned land. Involve Green infrastructure Officer at Neath Port Talbot Council with the changes to be made at the Parks/ Halls and encourage volunteer groups to also liaise. |
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| Tackle negative factors: i.e. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species, Ash Dieback |  | Doing – Knotweed eradication at Parks/Footpaths by Contractors. Knotweed & invasive species removal at Cwmdu by volunteers, continuing the work of the ‘Working with Nature project’. Continue to limit the use of pesticides and weed killers used by Contractors and staff |
|  |  | Proposed – Roll out Ash Dieback plan to trees on Council owned land outside Cwmdu  Longer Term - Address wider community participation to instigate behavioural changes. |
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| Use, Improve and share evidence |  | Proposed – Review Natural Resource Wales area statements. Work with Partners (Short, medium, long term goals) Continue to 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 |
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| Support Capacity, and/or organisation |  | Proposed – Community Engagement during projects (Friends groups/ Third Sector/ Communities/ Schools etc) |
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| 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. Eco and Wellbeing to be fundamental part of Council agenda with projects supported by Council minutes that show actions, achievements, project completions, new projects |
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| Review points - Enablers / Barriers to action, improvements to forward plan |  | Enablers are collaborative working |
|  |  | Barriers are - Financial, Institutional capacity, behavioural and time frame |
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| How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? |  | Eco and Wellbeing Committee created but permanent Agenda point for Eco and Wellbeing within each Ordinary General Meeting |
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Created 2019 - reviewed and updated November 2022