

Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Policy Statement, Action Plan and Review 2025-2026 Mostyn Community Council

Policy Statement

The Council recognises its responsibilities under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which requires public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and, in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems.

This 2025-2026 report reviews activity recorded during the municipal year and updates the Council's Section 6 action plan for future review.

Background

Mostyn is a village and community in Flintshire, Wales, lying on the estuary of the River Dee and located near Holywell. It includes the wards of Mostyn and Rhewl. It has a privately owned port that has historically been associated with colliery and ironworks activity and, in more recent times, offshore wind and specialist shipping activity.

The Council holds no land assets. It does, however, hold responsibility for community street lighting and continues to consider environmental impact when dealing with lighting, streetscene matters, procurement, waste reduction, planning responses, and community engagement.

During 2025-2026 the Council continued to use its limited powers to influence biodiversity by working with Flintshire County Council, monitoring environmental concerns raised by members, and considering opportunities connected to pollinators, trees, litter reduction, paperless working and community green spaces.

Council Context and Legal Framework

Mostyn Community Council is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations framework in relation to public service delivery and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 duty in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Welsh Government guidance for town and community councils confirms that Section 6 reporting and action planning should be proportionate to the council's functions and should reflect practical steps taken through decision-making, procurement, land or asset management where applicable, community engagement, and partnership working.

2025-2026 Activity Summary

- Paperless meetings: in July 2025, Councillor Ray Knight suggested paperless meetings moving forward and Council resolved to trial the suggestion. In September 2025, Council resolved that members would follow agendas digitally on their own devices unless paper copies were required.
- Fly-tipping monitoring and reporting: members continued to raise fly-tipping issues including the Coastal Path, Lime Bank, the top road, usual hot spots, and Bychton Hall land. Matters were reported or escalated where Council had authority to do so.
- Pollinator and orchard opportunities: in September 2025, Council considered Flintshire County Council's pollinator-friendly planter scheme and resolved to inform the Biodiversity Team that existing planters needed replacement before involvement could proceed, and to explore Local Places for Nature orchard pack options.
- Training and awareness: the Clerk and members noted biodiversity and Section 6 topics through SLCC/One Voice Wales communications, including environmental governance, biodiversity targets and Section 6 duty requirements.
- Volunteer knowledge: in January 2026, Councillor Ray Knight reported that he was a volunteer with North Wales Wildlife Trust and would report back with tips and recommendations. In February 2026, he reported attending a wildlife volunteers day near Caerwys.

- Natural Environment opportunities: in March 2026, Council received Flintshire County Council's Natural Environment update covering pollinators, urban tree planting, pesticide-free weed control and nature-friendly features. Council resolved to submit an expression of interest for trees and to request clearance of the perimeter of the Maes Pennant recreational field.
- Community litter-picking recognition: in October 2025, Council resolved that a couple who consistently litter-picked the Lletty Hill area should receive a Community Endeavour Award.
- Dog waste and bins: members continued to report dog waste dispenser/bin issues and resolve actions including ordering replacement dog waste bags and reporting bin requests to Streetscene.
- Planning and habitat consideration: planning matters continued to be considered by Council and the Planning Working Group, with environmental and amenity concerns forming part of wider discussions where relevant.

Section 6 Action Plan

Section 6 Objective	Action carried out / proposed	Monitored by / evidence
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Consider environmental implications when purchasing lighting, utility services, office supplies and other goods. Continue the move away from unnecessary paper through digital agendas, while retaining paper provision where required for accessibility or member need. Continue to avoid unnecessary single-use products where practicable.	Council minutes; accounts and purchase records; Clerk and member feedback; streetlighting and procurement decisions.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	Continue to receive and share biodiversity updates from One Voice Wales, SLCC, Flintshire County Council and relevant environmental partners. Use council meetings, website/social media, drop-in events and community communications to share information about local biodiversity opportunities.	Council minutes; communications log; community feedback; reports from Environmental Representative.
Safeguard principal species and habitats	Continue to consider biodiversity, amenity, drainage, habitat and environmental impact when commenting on planning applications and consultations. Ask Flintshire County Council and relevant bodies to be mindful of habitats when undertaking Streetscene, public rights of way, coastal path and open-space works.	Planning responses; Streetscene reports; minutes of Planning Working Group and Full Council.
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Follow up Flintshire County Council Natural Environment opportunities including trees, pollinator planting, wildflower areas, pesticide-free weed control and other nature-friendly features. Submit an expression of interest for trees and request clearance of the perimeter of Maes Pennant recreational field as resolved in March 2026.	Expression of interest; response from Flintshire County Council; future project records; Full Council minutes.
Tackle negative factors, including pollution, fly-tipping, waste and invasive pressures	Continue to report fly-tipping and waste issues to Flintshire County Council/Streetscene where possible. Support community litter-picking and recognise local volunteers. Maintain attention to dog waste provision, bin requests, drainage/water leaks and waste issues affecting community spaces.	Environmental Matters reports; Streetscene actions; Councillor reports; Community Endeavour Award records.
Use, improve and share evidence	Use meeting reports from the Environmental Representative, Flintshire County Council Natural Environment updates, One Voice Wales training/webinars, Wildlife Trust volunteering and community reports to inform Council decisions.	Council minutes; webinar/training attendance records; councillor reports.
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Continue to support schools, community groups and local organisations where lawful and budgeted, including community play, recreation and engagement projects. Encourage local environmental action by sharing opportunities, recognising volunteers and signposting to partner schemes.	Financial assistance records; community event records; school/community feedback; meeting minutes.

Review of Section 6 Duty

1. What has worked well?

- The trial and later adoption of digital agenda use reduced reliance on paper while allowing members to request hard copies where needed.

- Environmental matters were included as a regular Full Council agenda item and continued to be reported by the Environmental Representative.
- Council strengthened links with biodiversity and environmental information sources, including Flintshire County Council Natural Environment updates, One Voice Wales/SLCC events and North Wales Wildlife Trust volunteering knowledge.
- Community litter-picking was recognised formally through the Community Endeavour Awards, helping to reinforce positive local action.
- Council considered practical nature recovery options, including pollinator-friendly planters, Local Places for Nature orchard packs and tree planting opportunities.

2. What have the barriers been?

- The Council holds no land assets, so many biodiversity actions depend on Flintshire County Council, landowners or partner bodies.
- Existing planters were identified as needing replacement before participation in the pollinator-friendly planter scheme could proceed.
- Fly-tipping on private land and other third-party land limits the Council's ability to act directly, although members can report issues and seek partner action.
- Capacity is limited by the small scale of the Council and the need to prioritise statutory functions, finance, planning and streetscene pressures.

3. What will the Council change or continue?

- Continue to follow paper-reduction practices and record where digital working can be used appropriately.
- Follow up the March 2026 expression of interest for trees and the request for clearance around Maes Pennant recreational field.
- Review whether replacement planters can be budgeted for so future pollinator-friendly schemes can be supported.
- Consider setting up or supporting a litter-picking hub or Spring Clean Wales-style activity, subject to volunteer capacity, risk assessment and partner guidance.
- Continue to invite and engage relevant partners, including Countryside and Coast Officers, Recycling Team, Flintshire County Council, Wildlife Trust contacts and local community groups at drop-in events or meetings.
- Keep biodiversity and Section 6 duty training under review through One Voice Wales, SLCC and Flintshire County Council updates.

Forward Action Plan 2026-2029

Action	Lead / partner	Target period	Review measure
Follow up Flintshire County Council tree expression of interest and Maes Pennant perimeter clearance request.	Clerk / Environmental Representative / FCC Natural Environment Team	2026-2027	Outcome recorded in minutes and any planting/clearance action documented.
Assess replacement planters and potential involvement in pollinator-friendly planting or Local Places for Nature orchard packs.	Full Council / Clerk / FCC Biodiversity Team	2026-2027 budget cycle	Budget consideration and any expression of interest recorded.
Maintain digital agenda approach and review paper use annually.	Clerk / Members	Annual	Reduced routine printing; exceptions recorded for accessibility/member need.
Explore community litter-picking hub or Spring Clean Wales-style event.	Environmental Representative / Members / Volunteers	2026-2028	Event or hub feasibility reported to Council.
Continue environmental reporting at Full Council meetings.	Environmental Representative	Ongoing	Environmental Matters minute item retained.
Use planning consultation responses to raise biodiversity, drainage, habitat, tree, amenity and environmental concerns where relevant.	Planning Working Group / Full Council	Ongoing	Planning comments and minutes evidence consideration.

Conclusion

Mostyn Community Council has limited direct land-management powers, but the 2025-2026 minutes show continued attention to environmental matters, fly-tipping, waste reduction, paper reduction, local volunteering, pollinator opportunities and tree-related schemes. The Council should continue to use its meetings, planning responses, procurement decisions, community engagement and partnership working to maintain and enhance biodiversity wherever reasonably practicable.

Review and Adoption

This Action Plan should be reviewed and evaluated alongside the Council's Section 6 reporting cycle and amended by Full Council where appropriate.

Adopted by Full Council on: _____

Minute reference: _____

Signed: _____

Chair of Mostyn Community Council