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| ***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6******The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022*** |
| **Name of Town or Community Council: Rossett Community Council** |
| **Introduction and Context**The Community of Rossett is made up of the villages of Rossett itself, Burton, Lavister and Trevalyn. The population is approximately 3,500. There are currently just under 1400 houses in the area.It is situated in the Wrexham County Borough Council area, almost equidistant between Wrexham and Chester.The Council employs 4 members of staff including two Wardens, one for the Parks and one Street Warden. The Community Council comprises of two electoral wards with a total of 14 Councillors. The Precept for the current year is £68,000.The following are located within the Community Council boundary:* There are 3 equipped play areas of different sizes covering approximately 9000m2. These are overseen and maintained on a daily basis by the Wardens but are inspected regularly by Wrexham County Borough Council via a service level agreement.
* The river Alyn runs through both wards and includes the Weir in Burton.
* There are two village halls available to the community. Rossett Village Hall is currently run by a management committee consisting of members of the community. The other is the Presbyterian Church Hall, which also holds the pop-up post office for the community once a week.
* The Community Agent for Rossett organises and runs a weekly Community Café for the older members of the community to come together and socialise. This is always well attended by locals from the community and volunteers to help run the morning.
* Various other supportive agencies are located within the community e.g. a G.P practice, dental facilities and a pharmacy.
* The Council are currently supporting the build of a Hub for the community with planning secured and building options being decided.
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| **Action Report*** How the Council assists biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding, education activities)
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| Action carried out to: |  | Monitored by: |
| -embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement | Be mindful of environmental and biodiversity impacts when considering planning applicationsConversion of street lighting to LED lights in 2019. | Councillors comments made on applications.Loan repayments for project over a 7 year plan to reduce energy costs.  |
| -raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance | The Community Council is active with sharing events and awareness posts through social media and on the public noticeboards.The Community Council supported events such as No Mow May. Back in 2019 & 2020 the community council held a ‘Best Pollinator Garden’ competition to help towards raising awareness of bees and butterflies within the community’s gardens.In 2019, Rossett Community Council became members of the Bee Friendly Action Scheme.The local primary school have a bug hotel. They have a well-established gardening club and the children grow their own plants and vegetables, they have a planting tunnel on school ground and have also planted a bee friendly garden with plants flowering across the season.During the pandemic RCC set up a Scarecrow Festival which saw many entrants. This enabled community members to walk a trial to see them all during a time where people were only allowed about for walks/exercise. The Scarecrow Festival has continued each year since then successfully, helping to keep the community active and walking around the village as opposed to driving.  | Ongoing with social media posts and community noticeboards. Supported through advertising on Facebook. Pictures sent in from members of the public’s gardens. This was judged by a member of the council who was very familiar with bees as a bee keeping family. Certificate of recognition. Continuous work and support towards the scheme.Constant work with school children maintaining these pollinators. Using resources from home to create scarecrows and then reducing air pollution through walking the trails. |
| -safeguard principal species and habitats | Less mowing from Wrexham County Borough Council.Safeguarding the hedgerows by trimming back post nesting season.Supporting the Principals Authority’s Arboricultural Officer by responding positively to applications for Tree Preservation Orders. | Support from the Community Council for this.Trimming done at the right time of year and not excessively done.Councillors comments made on applications.  |
| -restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks | Planters around the village are planted with native plants from the Welsh Government Planting for Pollinators guidance. A Wildflower Garden was planted in 2021 in Greenfields Park, using native wildflowers in order to encourage bees and bugs to pollinate. | Maintained by the Community Council and Warden. Changed on a seasonal basis and buds that can be kept till the following year are done so.Watched over by a local resident, a keen gardener. Notice given to contractors who maintain the green space of the park to leave the area from mowing/trimming.  |
| -tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species | The Community Council has a floods committee who look to monitor and tackle any flood issues. Whilst it is mainly property damage dealt with there is support there for any damage done to green land and spaces. Barrier planting is fully supported by the Community Council as and when it can be used.Speed Awareness Schemes have been looked into in order to reduce air pollution in the village. Street and Park Wardens are regularly on litter picking duties to keep the villages tidy.  | Flood Committee meets regularly and reviews flood plans, risks and preventions.Scheme is in progress of being set up to help reduce speeding and thus air pollution.Monitored by all councillors and reported to Clerk. |
| -use improve and share evidence | Evidence of littering/fly tipping is shared with the Community Council and where necessary Wrexham County Borough Council. Members of the Community Council are on hand to report any damages to environment as well as the Wardens who work regularly out in the community.  | Use of social media and websites to report. Matters dealt with in real-time in order to fix. |
| -support capacity and/or other organisations | The Community Council donates towards an annual flower show with BRHS. Support of local projects including through donations included in Community Councils overall budget, which groups can apply for.  | Annual event that the Community Council contributes towards.Grant applications received, discussed by Council and awarded as seen fit. |

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| **Review of s6 duty** |
| * **What has worked well?**

The conversion to LED lights has come at a good time just before energy prices increased and has lowered the amount of energy used for them.The Planters around the village have really helped keep biodiversity at the forefront of everyday living and are a picturesque reminder of how the community council are helping encourage pollination.Having a parks warden and street warden employed by Rossett Community Council has been extremely beneficial to keeping litter off the public spaces and parks and maintaining a clean and tidy village.* **What have the barriers been?**

With a lack of land space that isn’t already delegated to parks there is only so much the council can propose to work with. With more land, the council could set up more biodiverse solutions like allotments, public gardens etc. The council can only recommend and encourage other landowners within the community to embrace biodiversity. Competing budgetary demands can restrict new initiatives and have cost implications. Effective dissemination and distribution of information to residents within the community can be challenging where not all embrace social media, making inclusivity a challenge.The COVID-19 restrictions of the past 2 years have severely limited activities. Limited volunteer work has been able to go ahead and restrictions on choices and actions being made by volunteers has halted some works.* **What will you change?**

The Community Council would like to increase their awareness of what they can achieve to help towards biodiversity within the villages. They will increase liaison with Wrexham County Borough Council’s Biodiversity Officer and seek advice where necessary.The will look into more funding opportunities to help with potential projects, perhaps towards leasing land for allotments allowing for growing community food. We will seek advice and training from the specialist officer at One Voice Wales to improve and create a good robust Biodiversity Action Plan.* **How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?**

The s6 duty will be monitored by Members and the Clerk with periodic agenda items added to regular council meeting. The s6 plan will be reviewed on a yearly basis at the Annual Council Meeting and revised again every 3 years in line with the legal requirement. |