

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIODIVERSITY REPORT

Under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 all local authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.

This means that councils should be seeking opportunities to maintain and enhance the wildlife that these areas support and manage the habitats so that they are in as natural and resilient a state as possible.

The duty also supports our wider remit under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 so that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities.

Tenby Town Council recognises the important role it can play in protecting the natural, human and built environment of this historic town and its surroundings whilst also actively promoting its improvement.

The Council is determined to fulfil this role by setting a good example, ensuring that our organisation has environmentally responsible attitudes and practices within its own sphere of operation and to use its influence to actively encourage and promote a partnership approach involving businesses, community groups and other agencies to pass on the local environment to future generations in a better condition than it is today.

The Council believes that it must be ever conscious of these factors when undertaking any of its activities in the Town and, whilst promoting the economic and social well-being of the Town, will ensure that the principle of sustainable development is incorporated into all aspects of its work and decision making.

Protecting and enhancing the environment and the provision of a safe and enjoyable environment for all those who live and work in, and visit, Tenby is an integral part of the aims of the Town Council.

In recognition of these aims and responsibilities, Tenby Town Council commits itself, whenever it has a regulatory or influential role, to:

- a. Give consideration to ways of minimising its own use of natural resources, make the most efficient use of energy and encourage other to do the same
- b. Improve the environment by encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport as alternatives to the private car.
- c. Minimise, and where possible, eliminate all forms of pollution.
- d. Promote the reduction of waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use and recycling of resources.

- e. Protect, restore and enhance the diversity of the area's wildlife and countryside.
- f. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of the town's built environment.
- g. Avoid environmental damage by assessing and monitoring environmental impacts rather than responding to them afterwards.
- h. Promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and environmental issues by raising staff awareness, through open consultation with the local community, by acting as a resource guide for the provision of information and by assisting those who aim to raise awareness or environmental and sustainability issues within the local community.
- i. Work in partnership with our contractors, suppliers and others to comply with all regulatory requirements at a local, national, European and international level and to encourage continuous improvement in environmental performances and practices.
- j. Protect the health and well-being of all residents of, and visitors to, Tenby and to improve and safeguard the quality of the environment in which they live, work or spend their leisure time.
- k. To periodically review progress and improve areas of non-compliance.

HOW WE WILL DO THIS

1. We will continue to utilise the latest LED technology in lighting of council buildings and Christmas Festive Lighting Displays and adopt other eco-friendly measures in all council operations (e.g. the use of more battery charged equipment as part of our maintenance responsibilities)
2. Continue to support the Plastic Free Tenby group in its actions and endeavours and support and encourage new and existing action groups in their environmental and biodiversity objectives (e.g. in helping to facilitate voluntary litter picks around the town and beaches)
3. Continue to support the town's floral displays in public gardens and within the streetscape and look into the further use of pollinators in various locations in managed open public space, e.g. the Jubilee Play Park.
4. Manage the boundary hedgerows and trees around Tenby New Cemetery in such a way as to provide the best possible habitat for wildlife and to continue to support the Parochial Church Council's biodiversity scheme for the management of Tenby (St Mary) Old Cemetery.
5. Continue to ensure that identified areas of green open space in Tenby are preserved in the Local Development Plan.
6. Assess all planning applications to ensure biodiversity safeguards are in place (e.g. the inclusion of bat roosts in application sites where there are signs of bat activity/habitation).
7. Continue to promote biodiversity in an indirect way as a local body of influence.