



BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

BER Action Plan Monitoring Report March 2022

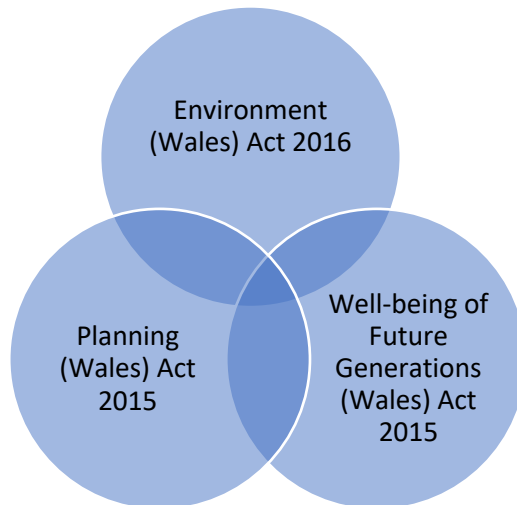
WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL



Introduction

Welshpool Town Council Welshpool Town Council is meeting legislative requirements under Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 by producing and working to achieve this Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan. It sets out how the Council will behave, the actions it will take and how it will record those actions that aim to maintain or improve the biodiversity and ecosystem resilience of the parts of the town for which it is responsible or has influence.

Legislation requires that *the consideration of biodiversity becomes an integral part of the decisions and actions that public authorities take in relation to Wales*



This diagram shows how Welsh Government envisages Wales meeting its obligations by living within its environmental means, considering each of the three legislative directives in decision making.

Well Being of Future Generations Act (2015) Wales (WBFG), which recognises the link between biodiversity, dynamic ecosystems and well-being, and sets this out clearly in its overall objective to, *'Promote the sustainable development principle, in particular to act as a guardian of the ability of future generations to meet their needs and encourage public bodies to take greater account of the long-term impact of the things they do.'*

The Act places a duty upon Welshpool Town Council to take all reasonable steps towards meeting local well-being objectives and publish a report annually detailing its progress in meeting the objectives contained in the local well-being plan.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 dictates that all public bodies *'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems'*.

Welshpool Town Council is required to prepare and publish a plan on how it intends to comply with this Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.

Area Statements are prepared to help Public Authorities comply with their Section 6 duty. The following extract is taken from Welsh

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Government's Guidance for Section 6 – The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystem Duty.

Area Statements produced by Natural Resources Wales between 2017 and 2019 provide an evidence base for the sustainable management of natural resources, at the appropriate scale for action to take forward the Welsh Ministers' priorities in the Natural Resources Policy. Local priorities for the sustainable management of natural resources will also be identified as area statements are developed to inform local wellbeing plans. All of Wales will be covered by one or more area statement.

Area Statements:

- *Provide evidence to support Public Authorities in complying with the Section 6 duty*
- *Provide evidence to support action across public services and support collaborative, innovative action through local partnerships.*
- *Feed into assessments of local well-being and Local Well-being Plans and act as an evidence base for Public Service Boards.*

Welshpool Town Council is responsible for management of natural resources within its estate; it comments on planning applications and these comments are passed to Powys County Council and inform their planning decisions.



Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School pupils planting at Burgess Field

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Summary

Overall there has been a real effort to implement actions to benefit the environment. It is evident the majority of staff consider this to be important and are proud to be responsible for helping to make decisions that can have a positive impact on biodiversity and the resilience of our ecosystem and town services.

Two successful funding applications meant that over 3,500 trees, shrubs, plants and bulbs have been planted along with 40 sq. m. of wildflower turf. Voluntary help from individuals, schools and groups resulted in all planting being completed in time. Achieving this had a very positive impact upon relationships and there is much potential for further initiatives in partnership with Powys County Council and local people, schools, groups, organisations and businesses. Welshpool has benefitted from the expertise of Keep Wales Tidy and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust staff.

Replacement vehicles have been leased at very competitive rates, as their predecessors had come to the end of their useful lives. EVs do not cost the Council any more than a conventional vehicle, indeed, with the increase in fuel costs it is likely we will demonstrate some savings.

Staff have been inventive in seeking ways to improve our resilience and their good ideas are being replicated, for example one of the TIC staff takes old leaflets to Arddleen Primary School where they are sent for recycling, raising much needed funds for the school.

Printing and copying Council papers is now approximately half that of the previous year. Documentation is hand delivered by a volunteer who walks the route, thus reducing postage and stationery costs.

Process

Monitoring was undertaken by Councillors Richard Church, Geoff Lanagan and Alison Davies.

All staff were provided with the action plan in advance of the monitoring visits for reference. They had been closely involved in the development of the plan which was approved in July 2021. The period for this initial monitoring was from the adoption of the Plan, July 2021 to end of February 2022, ie 7 months.

Interviews were carried out during the first week of March 2022. Site visits had been undertaken to several locations over the previous weeks.

Abbreviations:

PCC	Powys County Council
NRAP	Nature Recovery Action Plan
KWT	Keep Wales Tidy
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
HD	Hafren Dyfrdwy
SoNaRR	State of Natural Resources Report

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1. Internal actions relating to the plan

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Wellbeing objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed / completion date & responsibility
a) The draft plan will be reviewed and recommended for adoption by the working group and then adopted by the whole council	Town Clerk, Mayor & Environment Sub-Committee (ESC)	Draft Plan validated and ratified ready for adoption Plan Adopted	Buy in from each section, led by Town Clerk	2,3,4		Town Clerk & Mayor, ESC 28.7.21
The plan was adopted by Full Council on 28 th July 2021						
b) Develop and support staff to become internal champions who understand the legislative requirements as they apply to their service areas.	Key staff with support through briefings from Town Clerk and ESC	Briefings produced, terms of reference agreed by Council. Monitoring report	Champions take lead within own dept. Increased knowledge and skills. Improved communication and job satisfaction. Annual monitoring reported to Council	2,3,4,		Set up by ESC March'22 Ongoing Mayor, ESC, Town Clerk, 1st meeting of new Council
It was evident from the monitoring visits that there is strong buy-in from all staff; there is a strong sense of ownership. Legislative requirements are identified and applied. TWC has benefitted from expertise within the Town Council for example regarding risk, health and safety etc.						

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Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Wellbeing objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed / completion date & responsibility
<p>c) Celebrate achievements and have regular relevant item in news updates relating to successes / challenges in relation to S.6.</p> <p>Support groups to promote relevant activities</p>	<p>Kimberley Davies Internal and Community Champions.</p>	<p>Article in each edition relating to S.6. Consider annual awards for projects which develop biodiversity at a local level etc. Website/Social Media/Presentations etc.</p>	<p>Raised awareness</p>	<p>2,3,4</p>		<p>March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC</p>
<p>Regular updates for activities, events and changes are made through our own Facebook page, wider social media, posters and local news outlets. New website is about to go live, Social Media & marketing training undertaken by 2 staff.</p> <p><i>Next steps – improve social media presence through training. improved website visits. regular PR to media.</i></p>						
<p>d) Develop a process for S.6 proofing all decisions made by the Council</p>	<p>Town Clerk/ Strategy & Policy Committee</p>	<p>S.6 embedded within the Council’s work, appearing regularly in Council papers</p>	<p>Increased responsiveness to S.6</p>	<p>2,3,4</p>		<p>March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC</p>
<p><i>Next step is to create a checklist for proofing decisions</i></p>						

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Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Wellbeing objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed / completion date & responsibility
e) Align the Council's policies with this action plan	Town Clerk / Strategy & Policy Committee	S.6 embedded within the Environmental policy	Better understanding internally and externally of the council's policy relating to S.6 in Plain English and Welsh.	2,3,4		Environment Policy adopted July '21 review July 2024 – Town Clerk, Mayor, ESC
<p>Since development of this Plan WTC has also developed and adopted a robust Environmental Policy, which is available on the website.</p>						
f) Cost benefit analysis for each task or project. To include financial, environmental and social losses / gains for each task or project	Finance officer Town Clerk	Devise system to enable improvements whilst keeping within budget. Practical costed delivery plan, properly resourced understanding the implications/ knock on effects	Better outcomes by sustainable working (not short termism). Increased staff retention through well-being, job satisfaction and increased skills in delivery.	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Reduction of paper documents and postage has saved over £1500, all departments are actively reducing their stationery consumption. Councillors receive fewer copies of documents.</p>						

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Wellbeing objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed / completion date & responsibility
<p><i>Next steps: System is in place but needs to be more robust to gain a better understanding of impact. To create a simple formal cost benefit process for checking and reporting. The new website will allow for all Council members to access their papers through the members' section of the site.</i></p>						
<p>g) Adapting processes to align with the Plan</p>	<p>Town Clerk and Mayor, relevant staff</p>	<p>To ensure environmental information is brought to the fore in any consultation e.g. on disposal of assets, rather than inform/ consult all stakeholders at the same time, provide environmental info first NB would result in initially longer process</p>	<p>Better decision making in the light of good information Fewer delays overall as stakeholders make decisions / have opinions based on evidence from the beginning</p>	<p>1,2,3,4</p>		<p>March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC</p>
<p>Effort is being made by all staff; supported by ESC with regards to Council decisions</p>						

2. The Environment

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impact	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date and responsibility)
a) Support and where possible initiate increase /enhancement of blue/ green corridors utilising measures in roadside verge management, green space, canal, cycleway, river	PCC, KWT, NRW, Canal and Rivers Trust (friends' groups), Sustrans, Full Council, Woodland Trust, MWT.	Liaise with partners to establish baseline and identify 'quick wins'	Greater impact by working together, achievements / improvements maintained and enhanced/ extended	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, ESC, Town Clerk
<p>Open dialogue with PCC has led to some changes including bollards to prevent RSV parking and plans for sowing wildflower seed on verges in late summer '22. Planting on Burgess land wet loving plants, trees and shrubs along ditch.</p> <p><i>Next steps: seed sowing on Roadside Verges (RSVs) with bollards in collaboration with PCC</i></p>						
b) Become an exemplar by promoting good practice in land / water management within our estate	WTC and partner organisations, e.g. PCC, NRW, MWT, RSPB, KWT, HD etc.	Manage environments within the Council's ownership to quality standard. In line with SoNaRR, identify and concentrate on protection in areas of	Secured and/or improved wildlife habitats	2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk , ESC

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impact	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date and responsibility)
		highest risk. Evaluate activity, promote success and share what works				
<p>Activities undertaken and decisions are promoted. Relationships needed to be developed and built upon; considerable progress has been made with statutory and voluntary bodies</p> <p><i>Next Steps: Publicise & share Annual review Continue building relationships with potential partners</i></p>						
c) Rights of Way – promote through social media, notify PCC of changes / issues	Town Council, Chair of Planning Committee & clerk	Promotion of “Green spaces and grids”. Promote interconnected routes and encourage their use rather than cars	Increased use for recreation and well-being. Interconnected green routes – a Green Council, more people, more active, more often.	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>A meeting with PCC has led to proposals for two circular walking routes utilising the canal towpath and existing footpaths.</p> <p><i>Next steps to follow up with Project Officer. Increase promotion of green spaces, pathways etc</i></p>						
d) Support and create 'pollinator plots' in amenity areas and some roadside verges	Operations Manager & Team PCC partner	Review options for cutting, select plants for baskets & boxes, spread wildflower seed in	Improved strategic planning of green corridors liaising closely with colleagues and	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, Mayor & ESC

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impact	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date and responsibility)
		selected areas, plant trees in selected areas.	partners. Agreed plan that is carried out with no changes through the season unless review agreed. Increased skills in workforce, staff retention			
<p>There has been considerable success in this year. A large wildlife garden with a small orchard, raised beds, woodland and wetland has been created on Burgess land, wildflower planting has been undertaken at Dolyfelin, TIC, Little Henfaes, the Country Park and by the Gorsedd Stones. The majority was done by volunteers with expertise from the WTC outdoor team, Keep Wales Tidy and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p><i>Next steps: maintenance and more planting with community. Build community activity and ownership. Encourage more plots throughout the town</i></p>						
e) Support community groups / adult care to create pollinator beds (seed beds of colourful flowers that attract pollinators)	Residents, businesses, community groups Town Clerk, ESC	Develop and support creation of pollinator beds Consultation to evaluate economic, social & environmental benefits, aim to be cost neutral over 5 years.	Improved social (to individuals and communities) and environmental benefits	2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Following business interviews one business NFU Mutual has asked to install and sponsor a large planter by Kings Barbers, Ongoing communications to finalise planter with PCC. The youth team is interested in taking on some responsibility for planters outside Rowlands. Discussions have taken place with Clwyd Alyn regarding food or wildlife garden creation on Oldford Estate.</p>						

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Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impact	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date and responsibility)
<i>Next steps: Encourage, follow up and maintain dialogue with groups and offer support. Continue to work with partners</i>						
f) Install bird and bat boxes around buildings with advice from MWT	Leads with Operations manager	Bat boxes installed at TIC, Ann Holloway Centre & Maesydre	Used nest boxes	2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Due to alterations and insulation works to be done at the TIC. Boxes installed at other sites. Awaiting a lot of habitat boxes from KWT for installation at Burgess field.</p> <p><i>Next steps: Installation of boxes is delayed, locations have been identified. Intention for Welshpool to promote itself as a Swift Town – for discussion in the forthcoming term.</i></p>						
g) Work with partners to increase biodiversity & ecosystem resilience in public spaces	Town Clerk, EWG, Operations Manager,	Reduce mowing regime increase wildflower and tree cover	Increased biodiversity, & community benefits, enhanced environment	2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Several meetings have been held online with PCC. and partnership actions agreed in principle, follow ups ongoing</p> <p><i>Next steps: Concerns re. Bull Dingle flooding to the hospital; options for increasing biodiversity throughout the town greenspace owned by PCC are being discussed. Funding application submitted for feasibility study / consultation to progress application to Shared Prosperity Fund “Welcoming Welshpool”</i></p>						

3. The Built Environment

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date and responsibility)
a) Travel routes - work with PCC and Friends on Montgomery Canal to develop safer routes to school	Mayor, Chair of Planning Committee	Increased routes well maintained	Increased access to routes for residents, improved quality more use will increase safety through greater numbers of users. Improved cohesion	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Discussions are at a very early stage, with funding for the Canal being an exciting development. Safety for pupils to WHS and WCiW School remains key.</p> <p><i>Next steps: Maintain and develop discussion with PCC, build relationship with Friends of Mont Canal, CRT and other partners, develop support and dialogue</i></p>						
b) Planning – Consider all new developments in line with this plan. In consultation with PCC, we will aim to adopt a Town Plan that embodies the policies in this document	Planning Committee and Full Council	Work with PCC to ensure that responses are shared	Minimised or even enhanced environmental impacts on new developments	1,2,3,4,		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>First steps towards a Town Plan have been taken with semi-structured interviews of over 70 town centre businesses.</p> <p><i>Next steps: Apply for The Locality Initiative funding to undertake Welcoming Welshpool Consultation with the aim of developing a bid to The Shared Prosperity Fund</i></p>						

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date and responsibility)
c) Planning – support Council with briefings re the Council’s responsibility under S.6	Mayor, Chair of the Planning Committee and Town Clerk	Produce simple guidance for all Councillors Develop a briefing session for Full Council	Better and more consistent decision making. Re-focus towards a “what works” approach, as opposed to “what is forbidden”	1,2,3,4,		March ’22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>The Planning Committee meets twice monthly and has considered over 40 applications. Discussion generally includes S6 responsibility, similarly in discussions for major applications such as Neuadd Maldwyn and the Bus Station. When an application is for felling of a tree, WTC always asks for another to be planted and includes recommendations in the response. Training sessions booked for all Councillors for the new term.</p> <p><i>Next steps: Continue to respond to applications; ensure all Planning Committee members are trained and conversant with S.6 policies and how they apply to our role</i></p>						
d) Procuring local labour use local labour and purchasing wherever possible	Town Clerk, Mayor, lead staff, Finance Committee	Local suppliers and labour develop strong local commitment	Reduced carbon footprint through travel to work. Local people both employed and engaged with council strategic direction.	1,2,3,4		March ’22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>All purchasing and labour is sought locally as a preferred option. This also means that there are well known, reliable local tradespeople and WTC is supporting the circular economy. Ingredients for Meals on Wheels are purchased locally, from local producers when possible.</p> <p><i>Next steps: consider how WTC can promote the local sourcing ethos more effectively and implement</i></p>						

4. Waste and Energy Efficiency

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date responsibility)
<p>a) Energy and waste - Identify and record baseline for waste created at each premises.</p> <p>Set up targets to monitor waste from all places of work.</p>	Leads	Development of simple targets e.g. no plastic cups / spoons etc, provide easy recycling points for paper, food waste/ card/ aluminium etc	Raised awareness at all sites Exemplar Council	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Town Hall is using up the old Tetrapac type cups and plastic spoons, waste sorting is not as successful as it could be.</p> <p><i>Next steps: Further recycling bins are being purchased to be placed in rooms when under hire and more information will be provided for those hiring. Wooden spoons will be used once the plastic ones are all used up.</i></p>						
<p>b) Energy – Implement the existing energy efficiency programme for WTC buildings</p>	Leads	Improved energy efficiency in all WTC buildings. Reduced overheads Publish savings	Exemplar authority Positive message to residents/ ratepayers.	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Efficiency measures are implemented. TIC staff bring flasks and wear extra clothing in winter. Anne Holloway Centre heating is turned down, one oven is used rather than two, water boiler rather than kettle. All staff are seeking ways to reduce energy consumption.</p>						

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date responsibility)
Next steps: Town Hall fit for the future – includes energy efficiency, renewable energy measures etc Budget for fundraiser to undertake consultation, business plan and capital works. TIC – insulate to A Energy Efficiency Rating EER						
c) Increasing the efficiency of the use of Council owned vehicles and machinery - Consider alternatives when replacing or renewing leasing schemes	Operations Manager	Policy created around usage and replacement of Council owned vehicles, including electric vehicles, charging points, incentives for staff who walk / cycle etc.	Reduced carbon footprint Improved staff fitness Quantifiable reduction in costs	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Two of the Council’s vehicles – van and meals on wheels car were old and unreliable. New vehicles have been leased, both are fully electric and leasing cost was well within the Council’s budget. Big advantage having done this just prior to fuel price surge.</p> <p>Other machinery and equipment is serviced regularly to increase efficiency, this wasn’t done previously.</p> <p>Next steps: Regular maintenance to increase life of existing equipment, selling equipment not used</p>						
d) Litter – work with PCC to reduce environmental impact of litter collections and non-recyclable waste	Operations Manager	Reduction in contaminated waste & tipping cost. Reduced time and journeys	Cost saving. Cooperative working - reduced journeys, staff time	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
There is some improvement but recycling could be much improved						

Action	Resources/ responsibility	Outputs	Outcomes & Impacts	PCC Well-being objectives	NRAP objectives	Reviewed (Date responsibility)
<i>Next steps: encourage schools to raise funds by recycling, building on the suggestion from TIC staff. Work with PCC to resolve the issue of composting grass cuttings.</i>						
e) Single use items – aim to stop use eg cups, Meals on Wheels dishes	TIC manager, Cook, Administrator,	Reduced waste	Cost saving, environmental and social benefits, encouraging behavioural change	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>There is some reduction, but this has been more difficult than expected; trials of recyclable hot food containers found them to not keep the food hot, and leak.</p> <p><i>Next steps: Other options are being sought. Plastic spoons etc are being used until they are beyond reuse.</i></p>						
f) Eco cleaning materials & refillable containers – whilst meeting legal standards	TIC manager, Cook, Administrator,	Reduced waste	Cost saving, environmental and social benefits, encouraging behavioural change	1,2,3,4		March '22 Mayor, Town Clerk, ESC
<p>Refillable containers are used in AH centre and Town Hall; no such containers are needed in the TIC, but will once the building is renovated</p> <p><i>Next steps: maintain and review to ensure WTC up to date, better alternatives are incorporated when possible. Review and determine best options for renovation taking advice from architect.</i></p>						

Time Schedule

Note: the numbering in the left column refers to the action identified in the tables above, for example 2a relates to **Support and where possible initiate increase /enhancement of blue/ green corridors utilising measures in roadside verge management, green space, canal, cycleway, river.**

Current actions in support of Section 6.

2a	Fallen trees are sawn and chipped then used as mulch on flower beds	Completed, ongoing
2a	Grass cuttings are composted behind the rugby pitch	Completed, ongoing
2a	20 bat boxes have been installed.	Completed, further to be installed at Burgess and renovated TIC
2a	An insect pile has been created behind the cricket nets	Completed, further insect piles locations identified
2a	All areas outside the pitches are mown bi-annually/ annually	Completed, ongoing
2a	All areas around trees are unmown	Completed, ongoing
2a	Banks by pitches are only mown 3 / 4 times a year (for spectators to sit)	Completed, ongoing
2a	Country Park has paths mown and one annual hay harvest by landowner	Completed, ongoing
2a	Dolyfelin, Burgess Croft, Little Henfaes - all areas are left except where required for equipment where cutting is alternate weeks	Completed, plants and bulbs planted on these sites and behind TIC. Mowing regime altered to ensure that areas now planted are left and will be mown late summer, autumn and cuttings removed from site
2a	Wildflower seed has been sown on land adjacent to TIC	Some years ago, also plants including crocuses and daffodils planted by Rotary in previous years.

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Current actions in support of Section 6 contd.

4d	Litter collection by community and canal volunteers is supported by provision and collection of bags at 2 points along the canal	Completed, ongoing.
4d	Supporting tree planting by Friends on Montgomery Canal	Completed, although WTC has not yet been informed where the trees are planted. <i>ACTION: Where have trees supplied been planted?</i>
4a	Glass and cardboard from Townhall and markets is recycled	Completed, ongoing
4b	Townhall lights are only on when really needed	Completed, ongoing
4b	Townhall heating is limited where possible (Corn Exchange zoned but not rest of the building) heating in TIC, AHC & Offices timed to working hours.	Completed, ongoing
4f	Refillable containers are used for soaps, cleaning materials at AHC	Completed, ongoing
3d	Local produce is used for Meals on Wheels	Completed, ongoing
4b	Recycled paper used, printing 'thoughtfully'	Completed, ongoing
4b	Limited kettle boiling	Completed, ongoing

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Actions / activities underway for completion or established by November 2022

2a	Tree planting, minimum 6 each year	115 trees planted: Burgess land & Maesydre
2a	Create insect piles in agreed locations on each site	One insect pile so far, behind cricket nets,
2a	Sow wildflower seed in agreed locations on each site	40 sq m wildflower turf laid at Burgess Land
2e	Create annotated map of Welshpool identifying WTC owned / managed greenspace for enhancement and suggestions	Not done
2e	Consult Full Council re support & development of community planting/ growing groups	Ongoing – annual reminder
2d	Liaise with supplier of hanging baskets etc re increasing pollinator/ wildlife value for '22	Not done
2d	Work with partners to identify opportunities and strengthen relationships	Done, ongoing
2d	Seek and apply for funding to carry out works to support this plan	Done, ongoing
4c	Replace white lining machine and sell on old machine	Ordered, awaiting new machine
2b	Develop cooperative partnership with Recreation Forum to embed Action Plan aims	Done, ongoing

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Actions / activities underway for completion or established by November 2022

2b	Establish Allotments Policy & agreements start advertising	Underway, contractor appointed, awaiting weather to start, ground works. Allotments policy and agreements organised – standard used nationally
1b	Market traders and room hire to meet Plan requirements	Ongoing, requires further work, will be ongoing.
1a	Support all Councillors to commit to the Plan within all committees	Ongoing, requires further work and annual embedding
2f	Install bird & bat boxes around buildings	Not done; will be completed as part of the TIC renovation
4f	Use Eco cleaning products & materials	Done, ongoing
4b	Remove hot air hand dryers, research replacement, consider recycled, recyclable paper	Not completed
4b	Install recycling bins in office (3) and TIC (2), staff to include in Town Hall collections	Completed in office. None needed in TIC recycling taken home, old leaflets recycled through Arddleen School. Ongoing
4b	Papers for Councillors reduced to 1 set of previous minutes for Full Council Meeting plus agendas and supporting papers for Committees. Print both sides.	Completed. ongoing
4b	Reuse envelopes and stationery where possible	Completed, ongoing. Majority of Councillors return envelopes for reuse. paper reused where possible
4b	Default printers to eco settings	Not completed

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Actions to be completed by November 2023

1a	Review and produce progress report for Council and Welsh Government	First monitoring completed, report to Full Council
1a	Review and update whole plan for 2023 – 2025 inclusive. Consult, validate and ratify	
3	Liaise with PCC re a scheme for reducing non-recyclable public waste bin refuse.	
1d	Develop a process for S.6 proofing all decisions made by the Council	
1e	Align the Council's policies with this action plan	Environmental policy adopted July 2021
4b	Consider and appraise installation of solar / PV panels on buildings at Maesydre, TIC & Town Hall	Consideration within design for alterations to TIC.
1g	Identify and follow up funding to reduce environmental impact	Funding awarded for 2 planting projects
4b	Improve lighting in TIC whilst implementing office move	Consideration within TIC alterations
2g	Plan alterations to reduce rainwater runoff and concrete outside TIC	Consideration within TIC alterations
2d	Increase biodiverse planting at TIC and AHC	Consideration within TIC alterations

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Actions to start by November 2021 and continue

2a	Increase and enhance blue green corridors utilising measures in Roadside Verge (RSV) management, green space, canal, cycleway, river	Discussions with PCC plus planting on WTC land
2b	Become an exemplar by promoting good practice in land / water management	Publicity of measures
2d	Create 'pollinator plots' in amenity areas and some RSVs	Ongoing. Planting on Burgess land and playgrounds: Dolyfelin, Little Henfaes, Country Park and behind TIC, also on Maesydre
2e	Support community groups / adult care to create pollinator beds (seed beds of colourful flowers that attract pollinators)	Local schools, residents, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Ponthafren and Arts Connections
3a	Travel routes - work with PCC and Friends on Montgomery Canal to develop safer routes to school	Discussions ongoing
3b	Planning – Consider all new developments in line with this Plan. Use failure to comply as a reason for objection. Positively support applications which take positive action to meet the requirements of the plan	Ongoing
3d	Procuring local labour Increase the level of local labour and work to provide accredited training such as apprenticeships	Ongoing
4c	Energy – Develop and implement an energy efficiency programme for WTC buildings	Ongoing

4d	Increasing the efficiency of the use of council owned vehicles and machinery - Consider alternatives when replacing renewing leasing schemes	Two of the 3 vehicles are now leased EV; van and Meals on Wheels car, which is used by volunteers, therefore offering several to try EV as an option.
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