

## **DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Environmental (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6**

#### **The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Reporting on Section 6**

Devauden Community Council (DCC) represents the local views and interests of the residents of the Electoral Wards of Devauden, Itton, Kilgwrrwg and Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd to Monmouthshire County Council, which in turn refers to the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Community Council has 7 Councillors.

The Council's budget is partly used to support local amenities, e.g. village green, allotments, community footpaths and small green areas. It also has responsibility for two bus shelters and three red post boxes. In addition, each year organisations in the community can apply for funding to support local events or facilities e.g. pensioner's lunch, graveyard maintenance.

The council serves approximately 942 electors across the various wards.

Devauden 470

Itton 243

Kilgwrrwg 104

Llanfihangel Toy-Y-Mynydd 125

The precept for 2024-5 is £25,778.

The green spaces the Council are responsible for include:

- The Village Green
- Itton Common
- Itton Common Triangle
- Howells Green
- Rhyd y Fedw

DCC buys a grass cutting service from Monmouthshire County Council the price of which and the cutting requirements are negotiated annually.

DCC Council also owns two bus shelters in Devauden that are situated on grass verges which are cut by Monmouthshire County Council. We have taken positive steps to reduce the number of cuts made to our grassed areas and review the cutting needs of each area annually. This allows some areas to revert to its native state to protect and encourage wildlife.

The Council also owns an allotment area that is currently divided into three small allotments. It is in the process of enlarging the area with a recently purchased small area adjacent to the current site.

### **Action Plan.**

Devauden Community Council will seek and continue to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of our functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems. This will involve:

- Sourcing locally whenever possible
- Support energy saving initiatives within the community
- Aim to go paperless - send Agendas etc electronically, online banking
- Actively support and develop our allotments
- Engage with the local community to introduce a volunteer litter picking group
- Make local communities aware of tree planting opportunities that come to the Council's attention
- Ensure that biodiversity is taken into account when considering planning applications. This includes monitoring the removal of hedges and the impact on native wildlife during developments.
- Be aware of the condition of footpath accessibility and take the necessary steps to ensure that problems are rectified when identified
- Include our biodiversity policy as a prominent feature with regular updates as the web site is developed
- Plant native hedge as a boundary, clear the area and activate its use by the community.
- Keep the old Ash tree in the allotment to allow it to regrow. Look at a sculpture to promote biodiversity.

**Conclusion** The Council will continue to work on existing opportunities and identify new ones to embed diversity and eco systems into its activities.

The Statement/plan will be reviewed annually.

**May 2024, Reviewed May 2025**