

PCC Policy on Biodiversity & Resilience of Ecosystems

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The PCC recognises its duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 6, to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and to promote the resilience of ecosystems whilst carrying out the proper exercise of its functions.
- 1.2 In compliance with this duty the PCC will:
- review what is possible, practical and desirable
 - plan to progress identified goals
 - report what has been achieved by the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year thereafter.
- 1.3 The relevant functions of the PCC are obligations placed on the Council as well as powers and rights invoked by the Council, including, for example:
- the requirement to properly manage its own administration and regulation
 - the responsibility to manage its own land
 - exercising the right to be heard on all planning applications
 - considering ad-hoc requests for grants or other support from third-parties
- 1.4 Reviews, plans, reports and other activities may be tied to this specific duty or may also relate to other Council obligations and activities, such as annual reporting and activities for the Well-Being of Future Generations.
- 1.5 This policy was agreed by Council on the 18th December 2019 and will be reviewed at least annually.

2.0 Decision Making & Reviews

- 2.1 Any consideration of Council which is recognised to have a biodiversity or resilience of ecosystems component will be identified as such. The minutes will note the extent to which a decision is consistent with the legal duty.
- 2.2 Council will consider opportunities for meeting the legal duty on relevant occasions including:
- preparing and setting its budget
 - end of year reporting
- 2.3 Periodically the Council will review how it can effectively meet its duty and by what means, including:
- direct action by Council
 - engaging with other organisations and individuals
 - sharing and promoting relevant information

3.0 Knowledge Base

3.1 The PCC should be aware of the following as it may relate to its activities:

- relevant legislation
- guidance issued by Welsh Ministers
- biodiversity lists published by Welsh Ministers after consultation with NRW
- reports on the state of natural resources issued by NRW
- the policy on natural resources published by Welsh Ministers

3.2 The PCC encourages its members to research and share information on:

- local wildlife and habitats
- issues affecting local wildlife and habitats
- opportunities to support local wildlife and habitats
- relevant case studies

- organisations and individuals relevant to local land management & use
- organisations and individuals sharing or supporting this duty

- sources of local expertise
- sources of topical guidance
- sources of materials suitable for public distribution
- means of reaching local people and organisations

3.3 Relevant information will be stored digitally for shared access.

4.0 Specifics: Habitats Related

4.1 The PCC supports the Gower AONB application for Dark Sky status and will encourage meaningful compliance with its objectives.

4.2 The PCC recognises the significance of the tourism and hospitality businesses locally and will encourage and support these businesses to maintain and enhance local habitats.

4.3 The PCC recognises the significance of agricultural businesses locally and will encourage and support these businesses to maintain and enhance local habitats.

4.4 The PCC recognises the activities local people carry out to support wildlife and habitats (eg feeding birds through the winter, clearing litter off the beach, providing green spaces and water within gardens) and will encourage these activities through information, access to shared sourcing, etc.

4.5 The PCC recognises the work of official bodies (the local authority, NRW) and others (Penrice Estate) for the areas for which they are responsible and will continue to liaise with them to help maintain and enhance habitats.

4.6 The PCC will continue to seek the most appropriate management of its own land: Horton Green (common land mowed by the local authority) and the Green at Oxwich Green.

4.7 The PCC recognises the environmental value and popularity of wildflowers. It will continue to arrange the protection of wildflowers during mowing and the sowing of seeds on its land.

5.0 Specifics: Procurement Related

5.1 The PCC owns and maintains benches, noticeboards and signs within its area. Council has determined that the best option for noticeboards and bench slats is recycled plastic.

5.2 The PCC also purchases stationery and, very infrequently, necessary office equipment.

18.12.2019