



Rhayader Town Council
Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Report produced by Rhayader Town Council under the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Part 1 - Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016)

Group 2

Introduction and Context:

Rhayader is a market town in Powys, Wales. It has a population of approx. 2,010. It is the first town on the banks of the River Wye, 20 miles (32 km) from its source on the Plynlimon range of the Cambrian Mountains. The town is one of the principal centres of population in the historic county of Radnorshire. It is situated roughly midway between North and South Wales on the A470, 13 miles north of Builth Wells and 30 miles east of Aberystwyth on the A44.

The Town is a gateway to the Elan Valley where environmental land management is a high priority in the water catchment for Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and the Elan Valley Trust.

Rhayader Town Council is committed to reducing the decline of biodiversity in its area and realises the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement for the communities' health & wellbeing and enables behaviour change towards a sustainable lifestyle.

Rhayader Town Council currently has 14 Councillors and employs a part time Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Toilet Caretaker. It also contracts the services of a Town Caretaker. In 2024/25 its precept was £60,370

It is responsible for:

- Llangurig Road Allotments & field - 5 full size allotment plots
- Weirglodd Allotments - 20 full size allotment plots
- The Weirglodd Pump Track
- Dark Lane Car Park public toilets
- Cwmdauddwr public toilets
- Rhayader Cemetery public toilets
- The Old Council Pound, at Cwmdauddwr
- The Old Council Pound, at Tanners Road
- Cwmdauddwr Car Park
- Flower planters around the town and the flower beds on the Llangurig Road roundabout.

Council representatives are present on all local community organisations including the Waun Capel Park Trust, Groe Park Trust and the Elan Valley Trust. Through these links the Council can help support and enable sustainable practices.

A public authority, in complying with Section 6, must have regard to,

- The Section 7 list of habitats and species of principle importance for Wales
- The State of Nature Report published by Natural Resources Wales
- Any area statement which covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions, once these are produced.

Complying with the Section 6 duty will also help Public Authorities subject to the Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to maximise their contributions to the Well-being goals. At present this is not a statutory obligation for Rhayader Town Council.

The Council adopted its Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Policy Statement and Report 2020-2022 and Action Plan 2023-2025 19/12/22

Action Report 2023-2025

The activities detailed in the report are carried out and monitored by the Town Council Clerk and members of the Town Council - With support from the Trustees of Waun Capel Park and Groe Park Trusts.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP) sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the Section 6 duty.

The actions summarised below are measured against the NRAP objectives.

NRAP Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels:

The Council are working to embed biodiversity action across the councils' functions by:

- Producing a biodiversity action plan.
- Creating a Biodiversity Group to provide a focus for actions
- Revising the Environmental Policy to value biodiversity more effectively and include in longer term in decision making
- Ensuring functions across the council consider impacts on biodiversity in its "business as usual" activities.
- Encouraging members to attend One Voice Wales Biodiversity training and workshops.

NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management:

Key actions taken include:

- Liaison with the Powys CC Biodiversity officer to discuss mowing regimes within the town
- Adjusted the mowing regime by the Town Council on Dark Lane Car Park Bank
- Changed the planting in town planters and at Llangurig Road roundabout from traditional "bedding plants" to native plants selected for their hardiness and resilience to reflect climate change challenges and support pollinators.
- Met with the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust Officer for advice on enhancing the management of the Weirglodd Allotments to support wildlife

NRAP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation:

Key actions taken include:

- Introduction of new planters around the town with pollinator friendly planting and new signage to explain they are "Pollinator Pit Stops"
- Native plug plants added to the grass bank on St Harmon Road / Dark Lane Car Park
- Provided native plug plants to the Groe Park.
- Supported Waun Capel Trust to secure funding to add native pollinator planters
- Supported the Gardening volunteers in Waun Capel Park by providing some native plug plants
- Planted a dozen heritage variety Apple Trees with a view to starting a community orchard and early blossoms for pollinators
- Rejuvenated the planting area along the edge of the Council Car Park to encourage further pollinator friendly plants

NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats:

Key actions taken include:

- Town Caretaker hand weeds only without the use of herbicides or insecticides
- Changed to more Bio friendly products for toilet cleaning
- Allotment plot holders are encouraged to cultivate their plots organically.
- No herbicides or insecticides are used in the communal areas of the allotment sites
- Secured funding from Powys CC to install composting bays at the allotment and instigated a new compost management process.
- Installed rainwater capture on Dark Lane Public toilets
- Installed solar power on Dark lane public toilets

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring:

The Council continues to develop understanding through:

- Working with Powys CC biodiversity officers
- Collaboration with Rhayader by Nature
- Continued encouragement for Councillors to attend training
- Sharing information on species with the Allotment Plot Holders
- The Clerk considers which plants are attracting pollinators when managing planters and beds.

NRAP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery:

This is achieved through:

- The use of information and advice from the One Voice Wales biodiversity officer
- Working with Powys CC biodiversity officer
- Collaboration with local community groups and organisations
- Improved environmental policy

Review of Section 6 duty actions for 2023-2025**What has worked well:**

The Council now have a biodiversity group providing a focus for activities. Activities have been supported by numerous volunteers. Funding was secured from Powys CC to support the Pollinator Pit Stop project, positive feedback received on new planters, positive engagement with the allotment plot holders and excellent feedback from the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust Officer

What were the barriers:

Changes to the mowing regime led to complaints from residents when verges started to look messy. Time constraints amongst volunteers.

What could be changed:

Continue to improve signage to explain the importance of actions supporting biodiversity. Develop information on the Councils website and other communication methods to engage, enable and educate others. Identify further opportunities to enhance land management and implement new initiatives

How and when the Section 6 duty be monitored and the Section 6 plan reviewed:

This report has been produced for 2025. A new Biodiversity Action Plan will be produced in 2026 and will be reviewed annually.