

# CYNGOR CYMUNED HELYGAIN

## HALKYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



### ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

### SECTION 6 BIODIVERSITY and RESILIENCE

### OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

## POLICY STATEMENT & ACTION PLAN

### 2021 – 2026

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6, the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.

The administrative area of Halkyn Community Council covers the following villages: Halkyn, Moel Y Crio, Pentre Halkyn, Rhes Y Cae, Rhosesmor, The Nant, The Wern and The Windmill. The population of the area is 2,533 (January 2023 Register of Electors).

The Halkyn Community Council precept for the financial year 2023 / 2024 is £50,000.00. This amount is precept on residential properties within the community, and equates to a figure of £36.67 per household on a Band D property.

At the current time, Halkyn Community Council does not have direct responsibility for any green spaces but are actively supporting the local biodiversity through a number of initiatives – as detailed below

Objective <sup>i</sup>	Action	Proposed date	Reporting / Monitoring
Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity	Whole Council introduction workshop with use of WG produced slides.  Flintshire County Council – Supporting Nature in Flintshire – Action Plan January 2020 to December 2023	November, 2021	Councilors' provided with WG slides prior to meeting, together with Pdf copy of Supporting Nature in Flintshire.

throughout decision making at all levels	Develop and publish the plan	November, 2021	Plan agreed by full Council on the 15 <sup>th</sup> November, 2021. Plan published on Council web site
	Consider embedding biodiversity in processes considering planning applications/ procurement/reports to council	On-going	Bio-diversity comments passed in relevant planning applications.
	Consider further carbon and nature literacy training	End of 2022 / 2023 financial year	Awaiting suitable course
	Support wider community understanding – articles in local publications, social media posts	On-going	Relevant articles received are shared within Council reports to residents
Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	Manage landholdings for the benefit of nature	The Council do not own or manage landholdings	
	Promote species recording	The Council have promoted this	
	Promote links with local conservation projects	The Council are currently working with Flintshire County Council Bio-diversity Officers to identify areas. The Council work closely with Natural Resources Wales and The Grosvenor Estate	
Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	Promote links with local conservation projects	Links to local projects are generally received from both the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council. This information is forwarded to Councillors and others within the community	
	Apply for bee friendly status	As above	
	Promote private residential biodiversity enhancement (E.g. planting for pollinators, bird and bat boxes) and uptake of schemes like hedgehog street	On-going	The Council have in local publications and social media provided information in relation to a joint <b>Swift Recovery</b>

			<b>Project</b> – a new partnership between Flintshire County Council and North Wales Wildlife Trust
	Consider community consultation for biodiversity enhancement opportunities	On-going	The Council are awaiting the County Council bio-diversity recommendations, whereafter the residents will be consulted.
Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	Save energy, reduce waste, sustainable procurement	On-going	The Council forward to both Councillors and residents relevant information
<i>Action towards mitigating impact of Climate change, Invasive Non native species, Habitat Loss</i>	Support community climate action	On-going	Councillors have completed a number of on-line surveys – with a request to forward to residents for completion
	Support action on key biodiversity threats, this can include, control of invasive non native species, prevention of habitat loss and/or degradation	On-going	Councillors have completed a number of on-line surveys – with a request to forward to residents
Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	Link with FCC and other Town/Community Councils	The Council are linked by a global e-mail contact list with all Town & Community Councils in Flintshire	
	Share information and evidence with local conservation groups and charities	On-going	Relevant information is shared
	Promote national environmental recording schemes like Big garden birdwatch, big butterfly count	On-going	Relevant information is shared

Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.	Publish a Section 6 Biodiversity Plan	November 2021	Completed and published on the 15 <sup>th</sup> November, 2021
	Appoint a lead Officer or Champion	Chair of Council and all Council Members	
	Create an Environment Committee to progress actions	Chair of Council and all Council Members	
	Schedule progress updates	See updates section on last page	
	Schedule annual review of the plan	This bio-diversity plan will be reviewed by full Council in October of each year, or earlier, if necessary and recorded in minute book	

**This bio-diversity plan was agreed by full Council on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, under minute number 6(C). 205/21 and will be reviewed in October each year, or earlier, if necessary and recorded in minute book.**

**Updates:**

**December, 2022**

In accordance with the Environmental (Wales) Act, 2016 – this Council provides the following update as required up to December, 2022.

The Halkyn Community Council have actively promoted biodiversity within the community:

- Continue to share information with residents
- Completed on-line surveys
- Continue to liaise with the Flintshire County Council Bio-diversity Officers
- Identified local areas to be included in the Flintshire Bio-diversity projects plan
- Continue to include bio-diversity comments to planning applications, when applicable
- Consult with The Grosvenor Estate, as owners of the Halkyn Mountain Common areas

**Updates:**

**October, 2025**

In accordance with the Environmental (Wales) Act, 2016 – this Council provides the following update as required towards the end of 2025

The Halkyn Community Council continue to actively promote biodiversity within the community:

- Continue to share information with residents
- Completed on-line surveys
- Continue to liaise with the Flintshire County Council Bio-diversity Officers

- Identified local areas to be included in the Flintshire Bio-diversity projects plan
- Continue to include bio-diversity comments to planning applications, when applicable
- Consult with The Grosvenor Estate, as owners of the Halkyn Mountain Common areas

The Halkyn Community Council do not own any land within the Halkyn Mountain Common area and are therefore not able to complete any bio- diversity projects. However, Natural Resources Wales have recently completed work to a rare habitat found on Halkyn Mountain that exists only due to the local area's rich mining history and have completed the following project:

Work to scrape surface vegetation that will help to expose the underlying soil with the aim of re-establishing the rare Calaminarian habitat – heavy metal tolerant grassland. This habitat is specifically associated with old mine spoil in areas formerly used for the mining of heavy metals such as lead and zinc and supports rare plant species such as spring sandwort (*Sabulina verna*) as well as heavy metal tolerant mosses and lichens. Contractors have scrape the surface vegetation to expose crucial bare ground habitat and increase the likelihood of natural reseeding from nearby Calaminarian habitat. Six scrape areas in total; with five scraping the surfaces whilst one area will see a technique that inverts the surface on itself in the hope of bringing the mineral layers to the top.

Natural Resources will monitor the area to ascertain which species reappear within the scraped areas. This will see NRW officers work closely with Halkyn Mountain Nature Conservation Group who operate locally and will help with monitoring on a frequent basis.

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The Halkyn Mountain Common has diverse biodiversity, apart from the above referred to rare heavy metal-tolerant grassland, the following can also be found in the Halkyn area:

**Heath and grassland:** Significant areas of both dry and improved grassland, alongside heath and scrubland.

- **Woodland:** Patches of broad-leaved deciduous woodland are present.
- **Wetlands:** Includes standing and running water, as well as wetlands fringed by vegetation.

### **Flora**

- **Rare and notable plants:** Spring sandwort (*Sabulina verna*), heavy metal-tolerant mosses, and lichens thrive in the Calaminarian grasslands.
- **Other species:** The area supports a variety of wildflowers, and plants like the stemless thistle.

### **Fauna**

- **Mammals:** Notable species include dormice, water voles, otters, and lesser horseshoe bats.
- **Amphibians:** Great crested newts are present in the area.

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- **Insects and birds:** The grasslands and other habitats are important for a variety of insects and birds, such as the lesser spotted woodpecker.

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6**

**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**

**The 2025 Review was agreed by Halkyn Community Council**

**at their meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Under Minute Number: 6(f). 194/25**