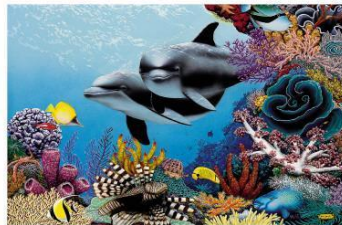




# Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

## Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty 2022 Report<sup>1</sup>



A vision that in our countryside, village and seas, living things and their habitats are part of healthy, functioning ecosystems; we value our natural environment, a concern for biodiversity is embedded in our thinking and day to day activities, and more people enjoy, understand and act to improve the natural world about them.

<sup>1</sup> Approved by SCC on 7 March 2023 (Minute item 7a)



# Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach



## ***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6***

### ***The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022***

#### **Introduction and Context**

Solva Community Council (SCC) is responsible for delivering services in 2 Play Parks and 1 skate park (mandatory safety inspections are delivered through a Service Level Agreement with Pembrokeshire County Council). SCC is also responsible for the delivery of grounds maintenance in Solva. In addition, SCC has a licence with the National Park to maintain the picnic area in Lower Solva.

Decision making is carried out by 8 elected Community Councillors who meet monthly to represent the 970 people living in Solva.

#### **Biodiversity – What is it?**

Biodiversity is a term used to describe the enormous variety of life on Earth. It can be used more specifically to refer to all of the species in one region or ecosystem<sup>2</sup>. Biodiversity refers to every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans.

#### **How Can we protect biodiversity?**

While large scale changes in behaviour, policies and measures that protect biodiversity will be essential, individuals have a vital part to play. Reducing consumption patterns can start at an individual level through conscious choices about the food we eat, products we buy and services we use.

Tackling the biodiversity crisis will require cooperation at all levels of our community. Individuals can play their part along with local businesses and our third sector organisations to safeguard biodiversity. Reconnecting with nature and encouraging

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<sup>2</sup> **An ecosystem** is a geographic area where plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and landscapes, work together to form a bubble of life.



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others to do the same can help people to learn more about local ecosystems, respect them and treasure them.

Reducing what we waste and throw away can play a part in lowering pollution levels and the over exploitation of natural resources. Huge amounts of food is wasted and by repairing rather than replacing electrical items, and getting more use out of the clothes we already own, consumers can have a positive effect on biodiversity that could also save us money.

Spending more time in nature can help improve our relationship with it and attach greater value to the habitats around us. Educating children about wildlife and local ecosystems can help to make our connection to the natural world clearer and bring about long-term behavioural changes in future generations.

Individuals can make a difference – some of the things they can do include:

- Supporting organisations that promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity
- Support local projects aimed at tackling biodiversity loss
- Making sure the products you buy minimise the impact on biodiversity
- Reducing waste of consumer goods: food, clothes, electrical appliances, etc
- Recycling
- Educating children about biodiversity, ecosystems and the threats they face and the opportunities to restore them.

**Spatial Scale.** Solva Community Council is responsible firstly, for biodiversity in Solva Ward. The boundary of the Ward is shown in green below:



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Secondly, everyone should be focused on a common wider purpose:

A vision that in our countryside, village and seas, living things and their habitats are part of healthy, functioning ecosystems; we value our natural environment, a concern for biodiversity is embedded in our thinking and day to day activities, and more people enjoy, understand and act to improve the natural world about them.

## **SCC Key Objectives 2022 to 2027**

The SCC Annual Report 2021-2022 sets 7 key objectives. Objective 4 is: Work towards the protection and development of local green areas to improve biodiversity and space for nature within our Ward.

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015**

SCC objectives support the 5 ways of working described in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Act gives us the ambition, permission, and legal obligation to improve our social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being.

# **Action Report**



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Action carried out to:	Activity & Progress			Monitored by:
	Poor	Average	Good	
1. Embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement.	<p>SCC consider biodiversity in all decision making concerning play and skate parks, Parc y Capel, the lower Solva picnic area, Solva Community Clubhouse and sports pitch. This applies equally to the areas maintained in the Ground Maintenance contract.</p>			Community Councillor's Bethany Hutson Ifor Thomas
2. Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance.	<p>Regular features in the Solva Newsletter reflecting <b>all actions and progress</b> set out in this report.</p>			Community Councillor's Ifor Thomas and Richie Davies
3. Safeguard principal species and habitats.	<p>Many species depend on the protection and sympathetic management of their habitats. This is a key element of the SCC approach who will identify and safeguard the principle species and habitats in Solva Ward.</p>			Community Councillor's Bethany Hutson Richie Davies
4. Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks.	<p>If the ecological networks that support life on Earth collapse or radically change, our very existence is threatened. SCC will do all they can to restore habitats and create resilient ecological networks in Solva Ward.</p>			Community Councillor Colin Reynolds





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<p>5. Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species.</p>	<p>SCC will tackle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nature-based solutions' that seek to protect or enhance nature in a way that helps tackle pollution and climate change.</li> <li>2. Address (in Solva Ward) invasive species which are one of the main causes of biodiversity loss globally.</li> </ol>	<p>Community Councillor Colin Reynolds</p>
<p>6. Use improve and share evidence.</p>	<p>SCC will share vital evidence for nature's recovery. We will build partnerships to meet the needs of those who require that evidence.</p> <p>Evidence will be published in the Newsletter as part of Action 2.</p>	<p>Community Councillor's Ifor Thomas Richie Davies</p>
<p>7. Support capacity and/or other organisations.</p>	<p>SCC will support other organisations who seek the effective implementation of biodiversity protocols.</p>	<p>Community Councillor Bethany Hutson</p>



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## Review of s6 duty

- What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?
  1. Partnership with EcoDewi has worked well. Regular meetings will continue to identify new projects and activity.
  2. Communication has been a barrier in this highly complex arena. Regular updates in the Newsletter will tell a story about biodiversity encouraging everyone of all ages to get involved.
  3. Biodiversity will feature at community events with display boards, quizzes and competitions.
  4. SCC will take responsibility for biodiversity - all members will play a part.
- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?
  1. The S6 duty will be a standing agenda item at SCC meetings.
  2. Biodiversity indicators will be used to track progress of actions set out in this report.
  3. The S6 plan will be reviewed annually to confirm it remains fit for purpose.
  4. The S6 plan will also be referenced in the SCC Annual Report.

**ACTION – ALL SCC MEMBERS**