

## **MINERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 PART 1, SECTION 6**

### **BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY**

### **REPORT 2019-2020**

#### **Introduction**

Minera Community Council provides a range of services to, and undertakes a range of procurements on behalf of its local communities, which have a potential impact on biodiversity. These include:

- Maintenance of open space play areas;
- Maintenance, in conjunction with other environmentally-focused bodies, of former industrial sites now re-established as nature reserves;
- Maintenance and stewardship of sundry assets (noticeboards, bus shelters and public seating) and
- Control of invasive botanical species, notably Japanese Knotweed.

We promote sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing appropriate practices wherever possible.

We serve approximately 2,400 residents, and our precept for 2020-2021 is £35,612

#### **Intended actions and past examples of actions taken**

1. All planning applications submitted to Minera Community Council for review will continue to be scrutinised with due consideration for any adverse impact on the environment. Consistent with objections and observations made over a number of years, the Council will take particular care to ensure that any developmental impact on surface drainage, tree cover and impact on existing resources such as educational provision is duly notified to the Planning Directorate of Wrexham County Borough Council.
2. Minera Community Council will continue to work with, inter alia, Wrexham County Borough Council, Minera Quarry Trust and the North Wales Wildlife Trust to promote and secure the preservation of former industrial sites within its boundaries as places where awareness of the importance of biodiversity can be communicated, and where natural resources can be enjoyed without adverse impact to ecosystems. The Council will continue to use its website to provide an information resource relating to these natural assets, and also to provide historical and contemporary information relating to the Conservation Area which covers a large portion of the footprint of the Minera ward.
3. Minera Community Council will also monitor, maintain and protect such footpaths and rights of way as are recognised and established within its area of jurisdiction, and ensure that they continue to provide access and amenity to residents and visitors alike.
4. Minera Community Council will continue to engage with the staff and pupils of Minera School in order to promote awareness of biodiversity and ecology as part of the wider educational experience. The Council has registered to take part in the Keep Wales Tidy Local Places for Nature scheme for 2020/21, and will be seeking to create a butterfly garden with the help of Minera School as its contribution to this national initiative.

5. Minera Community Council will continue to consider the environmental impact of its procurement decisions, and will give due priority to environmental concerns alongside price and other determining factors. Significant procurements, such as the renovation of Minera Playground in 2019, will continue to be made ensuring that public open spaces are not degraded by Council activities.
6. Minera Community Council will continue to seek to control the spread of invasive botanical species through engagement with appropriate experts. Eradication and intervention will be undertaken on the basis of best available environmental advice and current practice.
7. Minera Community Council will continue to liaise with Groundwork Ltd in the development of the Clywedog Valley Trail, and expects to sign a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the establishment of the trail as an educational resource within the ward and neighbouring wards in 2020.