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

**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty**

**Reporting on Section 6 – Crai Community Council**

**2023**

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| ***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6***  ***The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2023*** |
| **Name of Town or Community Council: Crai** |
| **Introduction and Context**  Crai is a community of approximately 256 people comprising 121 individual households, 25% of whom are over 60 years of age[[1]](#footnote-1) set within 4770 hectares (18.5 square miles) of the Brecon Beacons National Park within the County of Powys in Wales. The predominant economic activities are within the agriculture and tourism based economy (27%) with the public sector (30%) as the largest employer group (UK – 0.94% and 25% respectively)[[2]](#footnote-2). With no other local employer’s individuals either commute or work from home. In terms of access to services the area is categorised as one of the 10% of most deprived areas in Wales[[3]](#footnote-3). The area is one of 11 drinking water catchments in the Brecon Beacons Mega water Catchment which supplies South Wales. The 2023 Precept is £7100.  This Plan has been developed to complement existing Local Biodiversity Action Plans held by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Powys County Council as well as the NRW Mid-Wales Area Statement. In addition, the Plan recognises its responsibilities under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 which stipulates: authorities *"must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems".*  Crai Community Council has limited influence for the management of green spaces within our area as we own no land, property or assets other than the Community Hall which is on long term lease to the Hall Management Committee. However, we seek to work constructively with the Brecon Beacons National Park, Powys County Council and other partners to support and improve biodiversity here. Support is provided to various groups within the community including a village gardening club and several small cultural and environmental linked groups. These actions form part of a wider plan which acknowledges that under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Community Council should provide for *"a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant cohesive communities".*  **Successes**  As a statutory consultee, consideration is taken to ensure biodiversity is taken into account when assessing planning for conversions and developments. This action is in line with the recent Planning Policy (Wales) Act 2016 which states: *"planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or population of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity".*  **Review of s6 duty**  There is a commitment for the following action plan to be reviewed and amended where appropriate by the full council on an annual basis. |
| **Action Report** |

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| Village | Green asset | Action | Status |
| Crai | Dark Skies | Successfully lobbied for replacement of footpath light at the Church for a low light pollution version. | Complete |
| Crai | Local environment | Arrangements in place to allow for addition of flower beds to surround current village name signs on A4067. | Underway |
| Crai | Sustainable economy | Worked with local community to introduce wireless high speed broadband into the area – one of the first communities in Wales to do so. | Complete |
| Crai | Vibrant community | On going annual support to Village Hall and community events to maintain a cohesive community. | Ongoing |
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| **Date Passed:**  **Signature of Chair:** |
| To be reviewed on: |

1. Office of National Statistics. (2011). *Cray Parish, Local area report* retrieved from *https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=W04000266* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Office of National Statistics. (2020). *Labour market overview, UK: November 2020*retrieved from https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/ uklabourmarket/november2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Welsh Government. (2019). *Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019: Results report (gov.wales)* retrieved from https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-06/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-2019-results-report.pdf

   Ref. 4 –DwrCymru Welsh Water*.*(2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)