



St Asaph City Council Biodiversity Report 2019

St Asaph City Council - provides services to its local community which have an impact on biodiversity. These include responsibility for a number of green spaces including :

- ❖ four play areas;
- ❖ land at Roe Plas Meadow, which we manage with the help of Afon Elwy Environmental Group;
- ❖ 21 acres of sheep-grazing land at Mill Race Meadow and
- ❖ St Asaph Common, which is owned by four manors but managed solely by ourselves.

We promote sustainability and biodiversity practices whenever possible. All of these areas have open access to Members of the Public and we attempt to manage all areas as sympathetically as possible to the Biodiversity whilst allowing total freedom to Members of the Public. All three areas are bounded by River Elwy.

We serve approximately 3500 residents. The precept for 2019-20 is £88264.

Mill Race Meadow

- Left to grow naturally and grazed by a large flock of sheep so that no pesticides or herbicides are ever used.
- One third of an acre has been set aside for use as a Community Orchard and some twenty fruit trees of different heritage varieties were planted.
- This area has a large amount of gorse growing along the riverside which is left to grow naturally and only occasionally is this cut back to prevent over-intensification.
- A section of this land has been set aside as an allotment area for some twenty plot holders.

Roe Plas Meadow

- Fifty per cent of this area is set aside as a football facility and this grassed area is cut as necessary by personnel from the Football Club.
- The remaining area is a mixture of open grassland and woodland. The grassland is trimmed to a height of 65mm six times a year and the woodland is tended to ensure safety of Members of the Public. We have about six mature black poplars in this area.

The Common

- The Common is almost entirely grassland with small areas of woodland. The grassland is again cut to a height of approximately 65mm six times a year to enable Members of the Public to enjoy the space.

What do we do?

- Maintain footpaths and stiles on these three sites and provide litter bins.
- We leave the woodland wild and do hedge layering.
- Sections of the flood bank have been seeded with wildflower mixes, which include clover, yarrow and meddick. We have developed a bee and butterfly garden.
- We frequently plant new trees at various locations across these three areas.
- Most of the hedgerows are planted with trees which bear berries. These attract large numbers of Winter migratory birds.
- We frequently undertake work to identify and remove areas of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam along the riverbank.
- Some areas of dead wood are left for wildlife.
- We encourage other organisations such as the WI, local schools and Rotary club to participate in our endeavours.

Flora and Fauna

- We have identified five different species of winter migratory birds which roost along the Roe Plas and Elwy meadow.
- At least one otter holt has been identified on the riverbank.
- Native bluebells and other spring flowering bulbs have been planted in several different areas.
- We have several badger setts.
- Along the riverbank there are herons, dippers, kingfishers and goosanders.
- The river is populated by salmon, sea trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, lamprey, eels, minnows and bullheads.

New Projects

- We have recently made an agreement with the Japanese Consul to plant one hundred Japanese cherry trees.
- We have also planted a large number of trees behind the Library and at Cae Bach in conjunction with the Plant! Project. These include pines, rowan, wild cherry, holly and lime and three Female Native Black poplar.
- We have noticeboards strategically sited to give information on flora and fauna in this area.

Plans for Next Year

- Benches and seating areas to be installed so that residents and visitors can enjoy the wildlife.
- Build bug hotels in the Library car park and at Cae Bach.
- Plant wildflowers around the perimeter of the Library car park.
- Create smaller more biodegradable bug boxes for the Orchard.
- Create a story circle by the Library.
- NRW are to replant the riverside seating area with groundcover species selected to be attractive to pollinators.