

COMMITTEE
WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE

DATE AND TIME
TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2006 AT 7.00PM

VENUE
TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, HENDON NW4 4BG

TO: **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE** (Quorum: One quarter of the membership, including at least two local authority members)

Councillors London Borough of Barnet:

Christopher Harris
Julie Johnson

John Hart
Matthew Offord

Councillors London Borough of Brent:

Mark Cummins
Will Motley

Mary Farrell
James O'Sullivan

Organisations:

Barnet Council for Sports and Recreation	Birchen Grove Residents' Association
Brent Sport Council	British Waterways
English Nature	Environment Agency
Local Agenda 21	London Wildlife Trust
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association	Princes Park Youth Football Club
Strategy Directorate of GLA	Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	Welsh Harp Youth Sailing Base
West Hendon Community Forum	Woolmead Residents' Association

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an Agenda is attached.

John Marr, Democratic Services Manager

Democratic Services contact: Jonathan Regal, 020 8359 2012.

Public Affairs contact: Emer Coleman, 020 8359 7794.

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Town Hall has access for wheelchair users including lifts and toilets. If you wish to let us know in advance that you will be attending the meeting, please telephone Jonathan Regal on 020 8359 2012. People with hearing difficulties who have a text phone, may telephone our minicom number on 020 8203 8942. All of our Committee Rooms also have induction loops.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No.	Title of Report	Contributors	Page Nos.
1	APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN		
2	MINUTES		
3	ABSENCE OF MEMBERS		
4	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS		
5	PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS		
6	Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan	Director of Environment and Culture (Brent)	1 – 5
7	Welsh Harp Management Plan	Head of Environment & Transport (Barnet)	6 – 8
8	WHJCC – Constitution	LB of Brent & Barnet	9 – 14
9	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: 31 October 2006 5 February 2007		
10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS: i) WH Environmental Education Centre Action Group ii) Hendon Rifle Club		15 16
11	ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT		

Fire/Emergency Evacuation Procedure


If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by Committee staff or by uniformed porters. It is vital that you follow their instructions.

You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings.

Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions.

Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

	<p>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, 11 July 2006</p> <p>Report from the Director of Environment and Culture</p>
For Information	Wards Affected: ALL
<p>Report Title: Welsh Harp Management Plan</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues. The Management Plan is a joint Management Plan between the three main land-holding and land-managing organisations in the vicinity: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 Detail

Welsh Harp Management Plan

- 3.1 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is administered by officers of the land owning and land managing organisations. An annual review is undertaken in approximately July each year, and then reported to Committee for the Committee's recommendations. Since 2001, officers have included in the Management Plan process the additional responsibilities of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce Management Plans for SSSIs.
- 3.2 The Management Plan was signed by English Nature on 15 May 2003. Subsequent amendments have been reported to this Committee. English Nature have indicated that for minor changes to the Management Plan, there is no need to seek their formal consent.
- 3.3 The most recent re-drafting of the Management Plan was completed earlier in 2006, and that version will serve for 2006 and until the next review in 2007. The current version of the Management Plan has been placed on the internet at www.Brent.gov.uk/parks (from there go to the 'Brent Biodiversity Action Plan homepage and then navigate via the Brent Reservoir Action Plan). A map of the zones is also provided on the internet; and a copy of the map is also attached to this report.

- 3.4 Dam wall works. Brent Council Parks Service continues to work with British Waterways following the completion of their dam wall works. Some re-instatement work is still in progress, including for the area that caps the site of the demolished Neasden sports pavilion.

Cross-boundary working and enforcement

- 3.5 Cross-boundary working and enforcement: Wardens of Brent Parks Service were called to a rave party at the Welsh Harp during the night of 10-11 June 2006. Brent's Wardens established that the event was situated in Barnet. At the time of the incident, Brent's Wardens 'phoned Barnet to seek the attendance of a Warden / officer. Brent's Wardens were unable to get through on Barnet's out-of-hours telephone number and, it would appear, that no officers from Barnet attended the incident. Without the presence of a Barnet officer, Brent's Wardens were unable to take action in Barnet nor did they have jurisdiction to advise Police to take action.
- 3.6 Subsequently, Brent officers have checked telephone numbers and procedures with Barnet's 24-hour emergency / out-of-office hours team. A key issue is whether Barnet's Wardens / officers could be called out to a future incident and this is the subject of current discussions.
- 3.7 Vehicle access: Despite checks of all of the obvious potential access, points, it would appear that the rave organisers' vehicles are still accessing the site. Officers of both Boroughs are checking the boundaries of the open spaces.
- 3.8 Identification of event organisers: Following investigation by Brent Council Parks Service, publicity information concerning previous rave events at the Welsh Harp has been located. Officers of Barnet and Brent Council are taking appropriate action to contact the rave organisers to request that they cease all unauthorised activities.

Heritage Lottery Award

- 3.9 Maintenance of the Heritage Lottery Fund award project continues.

Local Nature Reserve

- 3.10 The launch of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Local Nature Reserve was performed jointly by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan and the Mayor of Brent, Councillor Bertha Joseph during the Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Open Day on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29 May 2006. Representatives of some of the organisations represented on the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee were present, together with members of the public and the local Police.

Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day

- 3.11 The event was held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29 May 2006. The Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre was open throughout the day and there were a number of participants in pond dipping and other activities.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None specific, but some of the priorities identified in the Management Plan will require additional resources if they are to be implemented in the future. For Brent Council Parks Service, the Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Brent Parks Service Parks Strategy, and Service Operational Plan. Thus implementation is partially dependent upon revenue and capital budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management. The Parks Service pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available. The Welsh Harp Project Group will discuss the financial implications of projects within the remit of that group.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), land owners / managers are required to consult with English Nature for any operation in the list of 'Potentially damaging operations'; and English Nature will issue a consent for the works unless the operation is likely to have a significant impact on any of the notified features of interest on the site. CROW (and section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) places a duty on all public bodies to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation of the site. CROW also encourages land owners to produce Management Plans for the SSSI, which when approved by English Nature, enable the carrying out of the works specified in the Management Plan. This can reduce the administrative work inherent in obtaining consent for individual items of management work.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no diversity implications.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 None specific.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan co-ordinates current environmental works in the Reservoir area, and highlights works that are a future priority.

Background Papers

Dated correspondence and other documents referred to in the Report including:

Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan.

Equality Impact Assessment Completion Form: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee: Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan: 20 January 2005. Form dated 06b.01.2005.

Contact Officers

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Mr Leslie Williams, Environmental Policy Officer, Brent Parks Service, 660 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HB. Tel.: 020 8937 5628. E-mail: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk

Richard Saunders	(Optional)
Director of Environment and	Name
Culture	Title
	Unit



AGENDA ITEM: 7

Page nos. 6 – 8

Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	11 July 2006
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) byelaws and on-going site management

Officer Contributors	Head of Environment and Transport
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	West Hendon
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Joint Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

Contact for further information: Mark Evison, Greenspaces Officer, 020 8359 7826

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Joint Committee note the report .

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 9 March 1998, Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee, resolved to recommend to Council that Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) be declared at the Welsh Harp, Big Wood and Totteridge Fields Nature Reserves. However, the Chief Executive's supplementary report to Council on 21 April 1998 stated amongst others that the Council should not approve the draft byelaws for the Welsh Harp LNR, and that they must be amended as necessary and resubmitted to Committee.
- 2.2 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 9 December 2003 – approved the proposed boundary of the LNR.
- 2.3 Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 15 March 2005 agreed the designation of a Local Nature Reserve on the Welsh Harp.
- 2.4 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 agreed draft byelaws.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The ongoing management of the Welsh Harp contributes towards a Clean, Green and Safe borough, as described in the Corporate Plan 2006/07 – 2009/10.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to safeguard, protect and enhance sites of special scientific interest. The Local Authority has the power under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. However, English Nature must be consulted by the Authority in the use of the powers given by section 21. The 1949 Act states that a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) must be managed in such a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 The terms of reference of the Joint Committee, as set out in its Constitution, include: "to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation/leisure/maintenance/nature conservation and statutory requirements of the British Waterways Board and the Environment Agency at the Welsh Harp; with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation."

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Local Nature Reserve and Bye-laws

- 8.1 The draft byelaws agreed at the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 have been approved informally by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). They have now been cleared to go before the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee for referral to the Council in order that application may be made to the Minister for the Environment to sanction them.
- 8.2 The launch event for the Local Nature Reserve took place as part of the Welsh Harp and Kingsbury Open Day, Monday 29 May 2006. This will be reported in more detail by Brent Council.

Security Improvements

- 8.3 Installation of extra bollards around the car park at Woodfield Park took place in the spring. These are designed to keep unauthorised vehicles from the open space. With the introduction of the new Police safer neighbourhood teams Council Officers are reviewing with the Police the arrangements of future patrolling of the Welsh Harp.

Vandalism to Bird Hides

- 8.4 The bird hides have been repeatedly vandalised over the last year. The door, doorframe, walls and shutters have all been destroyed at some point. Despite extra security measures the vandals are ever more resourceful in their attack. A perimeter fence is currently being considered to keep vandals away from the building. If the vandalism continues the existence and on going costs of the bird hides will have to be reviewed.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: Twww.brent.gov.uk/parks in the biodiversity section.

Legal – PD
CFO – PA

AGENDA ITEM: 8

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Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC)
Date	11 July 2006
Subject	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee – Constitution
Report of	London Borough of Brent London Borough of Barnet
Summary	To approve the updated WHJCC Constitution.

Officer Contributors	Democratic Services Officer – Brent Democratic Services Officer – Barnet
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	None
Enclosures	Appendix – WHJCC Constitution
For decision by	Joint Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

Contact for further information: Jonathan Regal, Democratic Services, 020 8359 2012.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Joint Committee approves the updated WHJCC Constitution.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The ongoing management of the Welsh Harp contributes towards a Cleaner, Greener Borough.
- 3.2 The work also helps deliver the Corporate Plan priority: 'Protecting Barnet's greenspaces'.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 None.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 The terms of reference of the Joint Committee, as set out in its Constitution (see attached appendix).

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 In view of the changes made to the Committee's membership over the years, the deadline for submitting reports, and the distribution of agendas and minutes, the WHJCC Constitution has been updated to take account of these changes.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – CONSTITUTION

A. TITLE

The body shall be called the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (hereafter called “the Committee”).

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee is a consultation body and is not a statutory committee of either Barnet or Brent London Boroughs. Therefore the Committee does not have an automatic right to place items on the agenda of the local authorities’ committees and has no power to make decisions on their behalf. Its terms of reference are as follows:-

- (i) to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation/leisure/maintenance/nature conservation and the statutory requirements of the British Waterways Board and the Environment Agency at the Welsh Harp; with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.
- (ii) to advise officers of the London Borough of Brent who will, if necessary, report to the appropriate committees on the future development of the Welsh Harp area and associated issues.
- (iii) to advise officers of the London Borough of Barnet who will, if necessary, report to the appropriate committees on the future development of the Welsh Harp area and associated issues.

C. REPRESENTATION

The Committee shall comprise:

(i) London Borough of Brent representatives

Four members of the Council of the London Borough of Brent, appointed annually by the London Borough of Brent.

(ii) London Borough of Barnet representatives

Four members of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet, appointed annually by the London Borough of Barnet.

- (iii) In addition, the following local organisations shall be represented on the Committee. Although more than one person from each of the local organisations may attend, only one vote per organisation will be permitted (see G(5) below)

Name of Organisation	Number of Votes per Organisation
Barnet Council for Sports and Recreation	1
Birchen Grove Residents Association	1
Brent Sport Council	1
British Waterways	1
English Nature	1
Environment Agency	1
Local Agenda 21	1
London Wildlife Trust	1
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association	1
Princes Park Youth Football Club	1
Strategy Directorate of the GLA	1
Training Ship Broadsword	1
West Hendon Community Forum	1
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	1
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	1
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre Action Group	1
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	1
Welsh Harp Youth Sailing Base	1
Woolmead Avenue Residents Association	1

Additional organisations may apply to the Committee to be represented. Applications should be forwarded in writing to the Secretary who will arrange for the request to be reported to the Committee for decision.

The Committee, when considering an application, must be satisfied that the organisation has sufficient interest in the Welsh Harp to justify its nomination.

Members groups should periodically review their qualification to serve on the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee in view of the criteria laid down.

In the event of a Council representative resigning during the terms of his or her appointment, the respective Council shall nominate a representative who shall serve in his or her place for the remainder of the period.

In the event of a representative of a local organisation resigning, the organisation concerned shall be entitled to nominate a representative or substitute who will serve in his or her place.

Officers from the London Boroughs of Barnet and Brent shall attend as necessary to introduce reports and to answer questions and advise the Committee.

D. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Committee shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at the first meeting in each municipal year. The nominees for these positions must be Members of either the London Borough of Brent or Barnet and only one of the positions may be held by each local authority in any one year.

E. SERVICING OF THE COMMITTEE

Servicing of the Committee shall be shared between officers of the London Borough of Brent and Barnet on an alternate yearly basis. The officer responsible shall be referred to as the Secretary.

F. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet four times a year but other meetings may be convened, as required, by the officers in consultation with the Chair. Meetings will be held at the offices of either the London Borough of Brent or the London Borough of Barnet and the date and a meeting place for each meeting shall be decided at the preceding meeting. All meetings will terminate by 10.00 pm.

G. PROCEDURE

1. Access by the Public

- (i) Meetings of the Committee shall normally be held in public except where either the local authorities or a member organisation consider that the item they have placed on the agenda is not for public discussion. For these items the press and public and any visitors will be excluded and the reports will normally be printed on blue paper. The Committee will not have the right to move these items into public session.

2. Visitors

- (i) By prior arrangement with the Chair, persons who are not members of the Committee may attend to address the Committee on a particular issue or item.
- (ii) The Chair will request all visitors to leave the meeting when exempt reports are considered.
- (iii) A visitor should submit their request seven days before the meeting to the Secretary, who will obtain the Chair's consent to their visit.

3. Items on the Agenda

- (i) Items either from officers or from members of the Committee must be sent to the Secretary at least 9 working days before the meeting.
- (ii) No business other than that appearing on the agenda shall be transacted unless the Chair decides that it is urgent.

4. Quorum

No business shall be conducted unless one quarter of the members of the Committee including at least two local authority members are present. After a meeting has commenced if at any time it becomes inquorate no further business shall be transacted and the meeting shall stand adjourned.

5. Voting

- (i) Decisions will normally be reached by a majority of those present and eligible to vote. Only one vote per member will be permitted (see C above).
- (ii) The Chair will have a casting vote.

6. Disorderly Conduct or General Disturbance

- (i) The Chair will have the authority to request the removal of or to take any other lawful action against any person who, in the opinion of the Chair, misconducts himself or herself in order to cause a disturbance.

7. Circulation of Minutes

Minutes will be circulated to:

- (i) members of the Committee and relevant officers;
- (ii) Minutes will also be placed on both Council's websites.

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
11 July 2006

**Agenda Item: 10(i) Membership of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education
Centre Action Group**

4.2/MWGS/CR

Email to Katy Lam katy.lam@barnet.gov.uk

18 April 2006

Dear Katy

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Could you please put the following item on the next meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.

Yours sincerely


MALCOLM SCOTT

Cc1. Mr J Drake

(180406.ltr.mannion.ms)

Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre Action Group

In order to better progress the aims and objectives of this group it is to be re-formed into a properly constituted body. The group was dissolved at its meeting on 13 April 2006. A new Welsh Harp Advisory Panel to the Brent Business for the Environment, (a registered charity who's aims and objectives are to further the environmental improvement within North West London), has been set up. Members of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre Action Group will be invited along with others to join this new Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel will further the aims of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre Action Group. I have resigned as Chairman of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre Action Group as I feel that the ownership of Greenhouse Garden Centre and Woodfield Nursery is not conducive to the furtherance of the aims of this group in terms of potential conflicts of interest. I also resign as representative of this group at the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee and in due course perhaps the new advisory panel may propose a new member to act as representative on the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee with your approval. Thank you for your friendly and cooperative spirit.

Malcolm Scott

(180406.statement.whjcc.ms)

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
11 July 2006

Agenda Item: 10(ii) Membership of the Hendon Rifle Club

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter.Castle@rbkc.gov.uk [mailto:Peter.Castle@rbkc.gov.uk]

Sent: 29 June 2006 09:24

To: katy.lam@barnet.gov.uk

Subject: Membership of the Welsh HarpJCC

Katy

Further to my telephone call I confirm that until the last meeting Hendon Rifle Club was unaware of the committees existence.

As a permanent user of the Welsh Hart our committee has decided that I should be put forward as a nomination to be a member of the committee. I understand the committee has to approve this and could you take this email as a request for this to happen.

Many thanks
Peter Castle

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

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