

COMMITTEE
WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE

DATE AND TIME
TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 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
Hugh Rayner

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.

Janet Rawlings, Acting Democratic Services Manager

Democratic Services contact: Jonathan Regal, 020 8359 2012.

Public Affairs contact: Emer Coleman, 020 8359 7794.

To view Agenda papers on the website: <http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy>

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.

Town Hall, Hendon NW4 4BG

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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1	MINUTES		
2	ABSENCE OF MEMBERS		
3	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS		
4	PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS		
5	Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan	Director of Environment and Culture (Brent)	1 – 4
6	Welsh Harp Management Plan	Head of Environment & Transport (Barnet)	5 – 7
7	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: 5 February 2007 3 May 2007		
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Illegal fishing		
9	ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT		

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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 style="text-align: center;">Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, 31 October 2006</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 until the next review in 2007. The current version of the Management Plan is available 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 – British Waterways have substantially completed their works to the dam wall. However, the reinstatement work at Neasden Recreation Ground, which was used by British Waterways as a work site, has taken longer than anticipated. Brent Council Parks Service is continuing to discuss the reinstatement needs with British Waterways.

Cross-boundary working and enforcement

- 3.5 Cross-boundary working and enforcement: A further rave event took place on the night of Saturday 29 to Sunday 30 July 2006, apparently by a different organiser than of the previous raves at the site. The Council received evidence that another rave was being organised for the following weekend of 5-6 August 2006. Following further investigations, the organisers of both sets of sets of raves were identified. With the co-operation between the Parks and Environmental Services of both Brent and Barnet, Environmental Health officers obtained an Injunction Order from Willesden County Court. The Injunction was taken out against both organisers, to cover the prospective event on 5-6 August 2006, and any future events at the Welsh Harp or on land in the ownership of the two Councils. Officers from Brent Council Parks Service also staffed the entrances to the site on the night of 5-6 August 2006.
- 3.6 A meeting between officers representing Barnet and Brent Parks was held on 3 October 2006 to discuss future joint action and communications. A further meeting with Environmental Health and Park officers has been arranged for 23 November 2006.
- 3.7 Vehicle access – Checks are undertaken on the perimeters of the sites as necessary. During the weekend of 16-18 September 2006, an attempt was made to cut through the steel post of a gate using an angle-grinder. The damage was to two-thirds of the way through the post. This was welded and repaired on the following Monday.
- 3.8 Other issues – The litter bin near to the ‘Tadpole Pond’ has been replaced. This is the fourth time recently that this bin has had to be re-inserted or replaced. Various campers in tents were removed from the open spaces and on British Waterways land, on both sides of the Reservoir during the summer. Wardens of Brent Council Parks Service have also attended a number of barbecue incidents.

Heritage Lottery Award

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

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

Director of Environment and Culture



AGENDA ITEM: 6

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Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	31 October 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 notes the report.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

2.1 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 9 December 2003 – approved the proposed boundary of the LNR.

2.2 Barnet's Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 15 March 2005 – approved the designation of a Local Nature Reserve on the Welsh Harp.

2.3 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 – approved draft byelaws.

2.4 Barnet's Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 5 September 2006 and Cabinet on 16 October 2006 endorsed the draft byelaws for formal approval by full Council on 7 November 2006.

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 Barnet's 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). Cabinet has agreed to refer the byelaw report of the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee to the Council in order that application may be made to the Minister for the Environment to sanction them formally.

Cross Boundary Working

- 8.2 A meeting was held on 3 October between Brent Park Service, West Hendon Safer Neighbourhood Team and Barnet Greenspaces to discuss ways of working together to combat antisocial behaviour.
- 8.3 The outcomes of the meeting:
- Physical security has been a success against vehicles
 - Contact other Local Authorities to discuss their anti-rave procedures
 - Police can deploy officers with advanced warning of an event
 - Police advice to residents: call Noise and Nuisance and call 999
 - Analysis of dates over past years shows no pattern
 - Early reporting is essential to preventing an event occurring
- 8.4 A further joint meeting is planned for mid-October.

Vandalism to Bird Hides

- 8.5 The Police Crime Prevention Design Advisor assessed the bird hide. His view was that because the building is isolated and hidden from view it would always be a target. Further reinforcement would give vandals a greater challenge. They have a great deal of time to work on the destruction. The legal agreement with Heritage Lottery Fund would require re-negotiation before any action like this could be taken.
- 8.6 New window shutters, steel door and lock have been fitted to the new bird hide to secure it over the winter period. It is anticipated that vandalism will decrease during the winter. A decision on the future of the bird hide will be taken next year if the vandalism continues.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Legal – PJ
CFO – DM