

<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b> <b>WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE</b>
<b><u>DATE AND TIME</u></b> <b>MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2007 AT 7.00PM</b>
<b><u>VENUE</u></b> <b>TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, HENDON NW4 4BG</b>

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  
Brent Sport Council  
English Nature  
Hendon Rifle Club  
London Wildlife Trust  
Princes Park Youth Football Club  
Training Ship Broadsword  
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre  
Welsh Harp Youth Sailing Base  
Woolmead Residents' Association

Birchen Grove Residents' Association  
British Waterways  
Environment Agency  
Local Agenda 21  
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association  
Strategy Directorate of GLA  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
Welsh Harp Sailing Association  
West Hendon Community Forum

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

Janet Rawlings, Democratic Services Manager

Democratic Services contact: Katy Lam, 020 8359 2015.

Public Affairs contact: Emer Coleman, 020 8359 7794.

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**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE**

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

<b>FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES</b>
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Town Hall, Hendon NW4 4BG

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No.	Title of Report	Contributors	Page Nos.
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 – 6
6	Welsh Harp Management Plan	Director of Environment & Transport (Barnet)	Separate circulation
7	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: 3 May 2007		
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS: 1. Contamination of Neasden End of Welsh Harp Resulting from Encroachment from Industrial Estate (Clive Cohen)	Director of Environment and Culture (Brent)-	
9	ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT		

### **Fire/Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

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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.



## Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Monday, 5 February 2007

### Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For Information

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Report Title: Welsh Harp Management Plan

Forward Plan Ref:

### 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 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 3.2 The Management Plan was signed by English Nature (now Natural England) on 15 May 2003. Subsequent amendments have been reported to this Committee. Natural England 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 in early 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](http://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.

#### **Dam wall works**

- 3.4 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 met with British Waterways in late 2006; and Brent Council is anticipating that British Waterways will soon detail and arrange to complete the remaining re-instatement.

#### **Cross-boundary working and enforcement**

- 3.5 Barnet will be covering in their report the outcomes of meetings between officers of Barnet and Brent to discuss joint working and issues related to Environmental Health.
- 3.6 A pollution incident including waste tipping has been reported in the wet woodland area on British Waterways land on the south side of the Reservoir to the north of the North Circular Road Industrial Estate (zone 4C). At the time of the preparation of this report, the issue is under investigation and details are not available. The Environment Agency are leading the investigation and a site meeting has been arranged which will also involve British Waterways, Brent Council Environmental Health and Brent Council Parks Service.

#### **Green Flag Award application**

- 3.7 Green Flag: Brent Council Parks Service has submitted an application for the Green Flag Award 2007/08 for the Welsh Harp Open Space. The Green Flag Award is a national scheme with the aim of improving the standards of green spaces and is maintained by annual external inspection. The Green Flag Award particularly considers whether the green space is welcoming, addresses health and safety, cleanliness and maintenance, sustainability, conservation, and whether there is community involvement in the management of the green space. If successful, Brent Council would like to include other parts of the Welsh Harp in future years, including the possibility of joint applications with Barnet.

### **Biodiversity Action Plan**

- 3.8 Brent Biodiversity Action Plan: Brent Council is currently reviewing the Borough Biodiversity Action Plan with a view to a revised Biodiversity Action Plan for the years 2007-2010.

### **Heritage Lottery Award**

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

### **3.10 Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day**

It is expected that the annual Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day will be held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 28 May 2007.

## **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 Plan; both of which derive from the Council's Corporate Strategy. 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**

(Optional)  
**Name**  
**Title**  
**Unit**



**AGENDA ITEM: 6**      Page nos. 7 – 10

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Meeting                      Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee  
Date                            5 February 2007  
**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

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Officer Contributors              Director 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

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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 agreed the designation of a Local Nature Reserve on the Welsh Harp.

2.3 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 agreed 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. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

5.1 The Welsh Harp contributes to the Council's desire to make Barnet a better place to live for all its citizens. The Welsh Harp Consultative Committee will ensure that the area will be accessible in terms of physical access, the presentation of information in a range of formats and will seek to encourage visitors to the site to be representative of Barnet's diverse communities using a variety of communication formats.

## **6. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

7.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to provide access to open country and registered common land, modernize the rights of way system, give greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, provide better management arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and strengthen wildlife enforcement legislation. 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 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.

7.2 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 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

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 8.1 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.”

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Local Nature Reserve and Bye-laws**

- 9.1 The draft byelaws agreed at the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 have been approved by Council. A period of advertisement is required for consultation before confirmation by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. At the time of writing this process was underway and should be completed by the spring.

### **Cross Boundary Working**

- 9.2 The outcomes of a meeting between West Hendon Safer Neighbourhood Team, Barnet Greenspaces and Brent Parks Service were:
- Physical security has been a success against vehicles
  - 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 three years shows no pattern
  - Early reporting by residents is essential to preventing an event occurring
  - Contact other Local Authorities to discuss their anti-rave procedures

### **Vandalism to Bird Hides**

- 9.3 As a result of the vandalism to the bird hide new window shutters, a steel door and a new lock have been fitted. The modifications have successfully secured the bird hide over the winter period and vandalism has decreased. The security/condition of the bird hide will be monitored over the coming months.

### **Neighbourhood Renewal Fund**

- 9.4 The Welsh Harp Conservation Group and Greenspaces collaborated on a bid for funding. This bid was a success and has raised over £9000.

The following works will be completed by 31 March 2007:

**A. Habitat Works**

1 Main Hide willow coppice & pollarding
2 Small hide willow coppice
3 Spit willow clearance
4 Island willow coppice & veg brushcutting
5 Dump slope & North Marsh willow clearance
6 Bowling Green Pool willow clearance
7 Spray Japanese knotweed

**B. Visitor facilities**

1. Bird Hide improvements and upgrades
2. Allotment footpath clearance

**C. Infrastructure**

1. Anti-motorcycle barriers (x2)
2. Litter bins
3. Signs (incl SSSI signs)
4. relocate visitor sign boards

**10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: [www.brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) in the biodiversity section.

10.2 Anyone wishing to view the above should contact Mark Evison on 020 8359 7826

Legal :MO  
CFO: MG