



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Tuesday 22 April 2008

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

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 jointly managed by the three main local land-holding organisations: 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. Reviews are undertaken annually. 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 there is no need to seek their consent for minor changes to the Management Plan. The current version of the Management Plan is available on the internet at www.Brent.gov.uk/parks . A map of the zones is also provided on the internet; and is attached to this report.

Management works

- 3.2 Annual works on the marshland were this year undertaken on the Welsh Harp Open Space side of the Reservoir. The work included coppicing of young willow growth and the reduction in size of a Crack Willow where it was over-shading the pond.
- 3.3 No raves or other unauthorised events have been reported since the last meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.
- 3.4 Brent Energy Solutions are completing their move to the Chapel building of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre.

British Waterways

- 3.5 British Waterways will continue during 2008 the clearance of fly-tipping in the Site of Special Scientific Interest on the southern side of the Reservoir bordering the North Circular Road.

Environment Agency

- 3.6 For the Environment Agency, Welsh Harp issues are led by the Brent and Crane Environment Management Team. They have been invited to provide an update to the Committee.

Heritage Lottery Award

- 3.7 Maintenance of the Heritage Lottery Fund award project continues. At the previous meeting of the Committee on 12 February 2008, members requested an update on all of the Heritage Lottery Award projects. Some explanation is provided here; and summaries are reproduced in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 3.8 Originally (1998) there were 18 projects divided between A: Nature Conservation and Landscape Enhancement Projects; B: Visitor Information and Interpretation Projects; and C: Public Access and Safety Projects. Due to practical issues, some projects turned out to require modification, deletion, amalgamation or division; and thus the list in Appendix 1 is a summary as presented to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 25 July 2002.
- 3.9 Even with the changes mentioned above, there was some under-spend and time-slippage; and the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed an extension to some projects and enhancements to others. A further 23 projects were thus arranged divided between the London Boroughs of Barnet and Brent. These are detailed in Appendix 2.

Events

- 3.10 Brent Council Sports Service have initiated a Healthy Walks Programme. At the Welsh Harp these meet at the Welsh Harp Open Space car park, Birchen Grove, every Thursday (except on Bank / Public Holidays) from 10am-11am. The walks are 'low to moderate' in pace. The nearest bus routes are numbers 182, 245, 297 and 302. For further details contact Brent Council Sports Service, tel: 020 8937 3707, [www. Brent.gov.uk/sports](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/sports) . The current programme continues until September 2008.
- 3.11 Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day. The annual event is this year to be held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 26 May 2008. This year the event is being coordinated by St. Andrew's Church, Kingsbury. The Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre will be open from 11am to 3pm.
- 3.12 Walk London are organising a walk along the Capital Ring on Sunday 1 June 2008. Details from: www.walklondon.org.uk Tel: 0870 240 6094.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None specific, but some of the priorities identified in the Management Plan will require additional resources and decisions by, as appropriate, Brent Council, Barnet Council or British Waterways, 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.

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 or occupiers are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England for any operation in an area of land that is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features; and Natural England 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 and enhancement of the site.

5.2 It is good practice for land owners or occupiers to produce Management Plans for the SSSI, which when approved by Natural England, 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.

5.3 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires that from 1 October 2006 all public authorities in England and Wales have a general duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

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 environmental works in the Reservoir area.

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

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Director of Environment and
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Name
Title
Unit



Welsh Harp Reservoir: Management Plan Zones Map

Table of Projects and Timetable

25 JULY 2002

A. Nature Conservation & Landscape Enhancement Projects			
PROJ. No.	PROJECT NAME	FUNDING ££ TOTAL/HLF	Progress
A1	Western Shore Improvements	6200/4370	Completed
A2	Northern Marsh Improvements	36000/25370	Substantially completed, Nesting Rafts as final phase in winter 2003
A3	Eastern Marsh Improvements	29400/20710	Substantially completed, Nesting Rafts as final phase in winter 2003
A4	South Bank Promontory	30000/21140	Completed
A5	Water Quality Reed Bed	51500/36290	Completed
A6	Planting & Landscape Enhancement	20500/14450	Completed
TOTAL		173600/121790	

B. Visitor Information & Interpretation Projects			
PROJ. No.	PROJECT NAME	FUNDING ££ TOTAL/HLF	Progress
B1(a)	Visitor Information & Interpretation (Barnet)	10200/7190	Design of display material completed and all Visitor Focus points erected. Interpretative Panels manufactured and to be erected shortly
B1(b)	Visitor Information & Interpretation (Brent)	40800/28750	
B2	Car Park-Birchen Grove	77000/54260	Completed
	Car Park -Cool Oak Lane	89000/0	Completed
B3(a)	Access paths, Picnic Area, Viewing & info.	40000/28190	Completed
B3(b)	Soft Landscaping	43000/30300	Completed
B4	South Shore Panorama	12200/8600	Completed
B5	North Shore Panorama	46500/32770	Replaced
B6	Car park-Neasden Recreation Ground	30500/21490	Completed
TOTAL		300200/211550	

C. Public Access & Safety Projects			
PROJ. No.	PROJECT NAME	FUNDING ££ TOTAL/HLF	Progress
C1(a)	Access Capital RING (Barnet)	39000/27480	Completed
C1(b)	Access Capital RING (Brent)	25000/17610	Completed
C3	Access Improvements-Edgware Road	13000/9160	Replacement Project to be bid for
C4	Access Improvements-	61000/0	Completed

	Neasden Rec.		
C5(a)	Signage & Off-Site Signage (Barnet)	10260/7230	Signage and locations agreed- costs from Brent Highways awaited.
C5(b)	Signage & Off-Site Signage (Brent)	12440/8760	
C6	"Access For All" Footpath To Hide	21000/14800	Completed
	Nature Conservation Action Plan	6000/0	Completed
	TOTAL	126700/85040	

7.5 There are other areas of work required by the HLF as a condition of funding. They require Brent, Barnet, British Waterways and other agencies to investigate pollution-siltation and weed control issues and much of this work has been completed. This committee has agreed an interpretation and marketing strategy (reported at the Welsh Harp JCC in February 2000) which was also a requirement of the bid. Elements of the marketing plan such as coverage on Web sites has also been successful. A new leaflet is seen as part of this marketing exercise.

8.0 Background information/relevant previous decisions

JCC 27.2.92 JCC 20.7.94 JCC 23.3.99
 JCC 16.12.99 JCC 18.2.00 JCC 18.10.01

These papers can be inspected by contacting Dave Carroll at the Planning Service, Brent Council, Brent House, Wembley, HA9 6BZ, Tel: 0181 937 5310.

Crjuly 2002Jjcc-progresshlf

The Welsh Harp - Heritage Lottery Fund Project HF-98-00077 - Extension

Proposed Project Enhancements: January to June 2005

Item	Description	Original HLF Bid Category	Management Plan Zone	Objective	Overall Cost	Partner's Match fund	HLF Grant (70.47%)
WITHIN LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT							
A	Creation of Scrapes in northern marsh	Nature Conservation & Landscape Enhancement projects	Zone 6d	To improve wetlands wildlife	£1,000	£295.30 <i>Brent S.106 & WHCG Volunteer @ £6.50 ph</i>	£704.70
B	Marshland creation & tree management		Zone 6d & 7a	To conserve and improve Marshland	£2,000	£590.60 <i>Brent S.106 & WHCG Volunteer @ £6.50 ph</i>	£1,409.40
C	Control of Giant Hogweed (1x year spray)		Zone 6b & 6c	To improve public safety and access	£3,500	£1,033.55 <i>Brent S.106</i>	£2,466.45
D	Hedgerow screening along North Circular Road		Zone 7e	To improve winter screening between North Circular Road and Welsh Harp	£2,050	£605.37 <i>Brent S.106</i>	£1,444.64
E	Enhancement of area between Neasden pool and factories	Visitor Facilities & Interpretation projects	Zone 7d	To enhance amenity for visitors and local residents	£1,070	£315.97 <i>Brent S.106 & WHCG Volunteer @ £6.50 ph</i>	£754.03
F	Install 3 new Notice (@ £1600+130 fit each) boards/panels		Zone 6, 7 & 11	To provide information at site entrances	£5,190	£1,532.61 <i>Brent S.106</i>	£3,657.39
G	Provide 10 new litterbins (@ £250+ £60 fit each)		Zone 6 & 7	To improve site facilities for visitors	£3,100	£915.43 <i>Brent S106)</i>	£2,184.57
H	Provide 3 new benches (@ £450+£130 fit each & remove 3 un-useable (£450)		Zone 6c	To improve site facilities for visitors	£2,190	£646.71 <i>Brent S.106</i>	£1,543.29
I	Screening to end of Boardwalk, strengthen Viewing platform, & related improvements	Public Access & Safety Projects	Zone 7d	To protect wildlife breeding areas, while improving public viewing and access	£6,100	£1,801.33 <i>British Waterways & WHCG Volunteer @ £6.50 ph</i>	£4,298.67
J	Provide drainage and enhance 2 areas of the Capital Ring footpath		Zone 6b & 6c	To ensure year-round public access to site	£6,000	£1,771.80 <i>Brent S.106</i>	£4,228.20
Brent Subtotal					£32,200	£9,508.66	£22,691.34
WITHIN LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET							
K	Install dropdown/lockup bollard at Woodfield Park, & 3 drop-down/lockup Bollards at Cool Oak Lane carpark entrance	Public Access & Safety Projects	Zone 6e	To ease litter collection by contractors (EPA)	£2,000	£590.00 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£1,409.40
	Install 16 bollards around carpark			To restrain joy riders from accessing SSSI	£2,890.00	£853.41 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£2,036.58
L	Provide drainage and enhance existing path section		Zone 6c	To ensure year-round public access to site	£1,500.00	£442.95 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£1,057.05
M	Strengthen Viewing Platform, new focal point panels, install new wooden bollards, strengthen Car park sleepers/fencing		Zone 6a	To reinforce and enhance existing infrastructure	£2,890.00	£853.42 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£2,036.58
N	Cool Oak Lane Carpark Signage	Visitor Facilities & Interpretation projects	6a	To improve access information	£350.00	£103.35 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£246.64
O	2 No. Picnic tables (@ £1100 + £100 fit each)		Zone 5b	To encourage picnics in appropriate areas	£2,400.00	£708.72 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£1,691.28
P	Install 12 Ranger Litter Bins (@£450+£50 fit)		Zone 5a, 6a, 6e	To improve site facilities for visitors	£5,760.00	£1,700.93 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£4,059.07
Q	Provide 2 Rat-baited litter bins (@ £500+£50 fit each)		Zone 6a	To minimise rat infestation problems	£1,100.00	£324.83 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£775.17
R	Install 6 No. Broxap & Corby rural benches (@£298 + £80 fit)		Zone 5a, 6a, 6e	To improve site facilities for visitors	£2,268.00	£669.74 <i>Barnet area budget</i>	£1,598.26

S	Northern Marsh Willow Clearance	Nature Conservation & Landscape Enhancement projects	Zone 5e, 10	To ensure Habitat management	£400.00	£118.12 (WHCG Volunteer @ £6.50 per hr)	£281.88
T	Tree Management - Bowling Green Pool		Zone 5e	To ensure Habitat management	£400.00	£118.12 (WHCG Volunteer @ £6.50 per hr)	£281.88
U	Control of Giant Hogweed (1x year spray)		All zones in Barnet	To improve safety and access through habitat management	£1,750.00	£516.77 Barnet area budget	£2,466.45
V	Control of Japanese Knotweed (1x year spray)		All zones in Barnet	To ensure Habitat management	£1,750.00	£516.77 Barnet area budget	£845.64
Barnet Subtotal					£26,658.00	£7,871.49	£18,785.87
OTHER – VOLUNTEER PROJECT FACILITATION							
W	The Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG) Tools/training (Power & hand tools @ £540.81, safety equipment @ £250, a portable moth trap @ £250, and Train 4 volunteers (on chain saw and first aid) @ £200	Miscellaneous	All zones	To facilitate volunteer contributions to the enhancement project and ongoing site maintenance	£1,540.81	£455.00 Brent S.106 & Barnet area budget	£1,085.81
23	Total				£60,398.81	£17,835.15	£42,563.02

These project enhancement items, will add-value to the original projects carried out at the Welsh Harp.

They are related to aspirations within the joint Management Plan for this SSSI, Public Open Space and Local Nature Reserve.