

**COMMITTEE**  
**WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE**

**DATE AND TIME**  
**WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2008 AT 7.00PM**

**VENUE**  
**BARNET HOUSE, 1255 HIGH ROAD, WHETSTONE N20 0EJ**

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

**Councillors London Borough of Barnet:**

Tom Davey  
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  
Environment Agency  
Local Agenda 21  
Natural England  
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  
Hendon Rifle Club  
London Wildlife Trust  
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: Jonathan Regal, telephone: 020 8359 2012.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No.	Title of Report	Contributors	Page Nos.
1	APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN		
2	MINUTES		
3	MATTERS ARISING		
4	ABSENCE OF MEMBERS		
5	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS		
6	PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS		
7	Welsh Harp Management Plan	Director of Environment and Culture (Brent)	1 – 4
8	Welsh Harp Management Plan	Director of Environment and Transport (Barnet)	5 – 8
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS:		
10	ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT		


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### FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b> Wednesday 2 July 2008</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from the Director of Environment and Culture</b></p>
<p>For Information <span style="float: right;">Wards Affected: ALL</span></p>	
<p><b>Welsh Harp Management Plan</b></p>	

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](http://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 Management works: Following comments at the last Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC) of 22 April 2008, the Parks Service have checked for materials that had been misplaced down-slope towards the Reservoir edge adjacent to the Welsh Harp Open Space.

- 3.3 Brent Council Parks Service has a Warden Service operating during the summer. Regular patrols take place on both the Welsh Harp Open Space and Neasden Recreation Ground side of the Reservoir. These operate particularly at weekends and at times when barbeques may pose a risk. 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.

#### **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.

#### **Events**

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day: The annual event was held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 26 May 2008; and was affected by the poor weather on that day.
- 3.10 Walk London organised a walk along the Capital Ring on Sunday 1 June 2008. Details from: [www.walklondon.org.uk](http://www.walklondon.org.uk) Tel: 0870 240 6094. The Welsh Harp Conservation Group and Brent Council Parks Service assisted for that section of the route at the Brent Reservoir.

### **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

**Richard Saunders**  
**Director of Environment and Culture**

**Name**  
**Title**  
**Unit**



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London Borough of Brent, LA086312, 2001

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Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	2 July 2008
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Management Plan</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management

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Officer Contributors	Jenny Warren, Green Space Services Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	West Hendon
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

Contact for further information: Jenny Warren, Green Spaces Services Manager, 020 8359 7803.

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1.1 That the contents of the report be noted.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 9 December 2003 – approved the proposed boundary of the Local Nature Reserve.
- 2.2 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 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.
- 2.5 Council formally endorsed the draft byelaws on 7 November 2007.

## **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 2008/09 – 2011/12.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

4.1 None in the context of this report.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

5.1 Parks and Open Spaces benefit all sectors of the community by improving the local environment. Maintenance is carried out according to the management plan and takes into account requests from residents, users and Members. Improvements are made, wherever possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

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

6.1 Signage and an additional litterbin is to be funded from general revenue budget estimated at £2,000. Repair and or replacement bird hide to be funded by section 106 contributions up to approx. £6,000.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

7.1 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.



## 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

- 9.1. Current ongoing management issues.

9.1.1 Quotations and designs for the refurbishment of the bird hide

Following further vandalism to the Barnet bird hide at the end of December 2007 it has been necessary to assess options for repair, replacement or removal of the hide. This hide was funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant in 1999 that contracts the Council to maintain the hide for a period of ten years following completion. The hide itself cost £10,000 (excluding foundations, piling etc) in 2004 and has since been subject to on-going repairs and maintenance due to vandalism as detailed below.

### **Vandalism expenditure to date on the Barnet bird hide.**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure due to vandalism</b>
2004/05	£1,622.00
2005/06	£203.00
2006/07	£2,545.00
2007/08	£300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,670.00</b>

Due to the on-going vandalism, the HLF would consider alternatives and or variations to this structure to make the hide more secure or replace it with an alternative structure that is less prone to these acts of vandalism. Listed below are a variety of options for consideration by the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee to determine the preferred option/s to be put forward to the HLF to seek an agreement to proceed with a repair and or alterations to the hide.

A. Re-build hide and install perimeter palisade fencing – Approx. £5,000.  
Repair structure to traditional hide making good all damage, install palisade fencing around three sides projecting into the water with locked gated access. This option will prevent access to the hide from the land whilst maintaining the traditional look of the hide. A downside is that the fencing around the hide would not be in keeping with the open character of the reserve and may create a further challenge for those concerned resulting in further damage.

B. Re-build hide with re-enforced frontage – Approx. £3,000.  
Replace front of hide with steel including steel door securing to concrete base and roof, finished with paint. Re-build and decorate inside hide as required. It is thought that this will provide additional security preventing access from around or through the door, which is where the damage is centred on in gaining access into the hide.

C. Remove hide and replace with sleeper structure to 1.2 m height – Approx. £5,000. Remove and replace hide with walled structure to provide shield from birds, constructed from sleepers and ironwork. Without the presence of a roof or door this structure will no longer provide a dry refuge or a structure into which the vandals can break in; the platform located within 10 metres has not been subject to vandalism.

D. Remove hide and replace with sleeper structure to 1.2 m height with canopy roof – Approx. £6,000. Replace hide with walled structure to provide shield from birds, constructed from sleepers and ironwork. Install canopy roof to provide dry cover, which will be open for all to use, this may continue to encourage the youths to gather at the hide but there will no longer be a need to gain access coupled with a new robust design this will be more resistant to vandalism.

#### 9.1.2 Japanese Knotweed Control Programme

A three year programme to treat the Japanese knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed commenced in Spring 2008 following a site survey. Complete Weed Control has been appointed to treat all occurrences of the above this year, with a continuing programme for a further two years to retreat and ensure eradication.

#### 9.1.3 Bye Law Enforcement and Litter Patrols

Weekend litter patrols commenced in May for the duration of the summer. The litter patrol teams will visit the Welsh Harp daily over the weekends and bank holidays to litter pick, empty litterbins and address anti-social behaviour including BBQ's. The weekend emergency call out rota for Greenspaces has been revised and provided to the emergency suite in addition to a rota detailing the litter patrols available at the weekends should they also need to be called upon in an emergency.

#### 9.1.4 Infrastructure and signage

No swimming signs have been installed along the waters edge, other information signage has been identified as requiring rationalisation and or replacement to increase effectiveness and reduce clutter. This will include the re-siting of current signs and the replacement of existing signs. The visitor information signs located at the information centre in Woodfield Park are being updated and will be replaced in 2008/09. An additional litterbin has been ordered for installation between the entrance to Woodfield Park and the current litterbin located at the slip way.

### **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.

Legal – PD  
CFO – DM