

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

**DATE AND TIME**  
**MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 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 – 13
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS:		
10	ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT		


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### FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Barnet House 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 our Committee Rooms also have induction loops.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b>  <b>Monday 10 November 2008</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from the Director of Environment and Culture</b></p>
For Information	Wards Affected: ALL
<p><b>Welsh Harp Management Plan</b></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 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.
- 2.2 Members are asked to approve the revised version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan.

## 3.0 Detail

### Welsh Harp Management Plan

- 3.1 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is due for annual review. Comments have been sought from officers of the three land-holding public authorities and it would appear that no significant changes are required, except for some minor updating that has been undertaken. The revised Management Plan will be available on the Brent Council website. Members are asked to approve the revised version. Background information is provided below.
- 3.2 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**

- 3.3 The Capital Ring section through Brent and Barnet has been surveyed by Walk London and a number of issues have been reported to Borough officers for action or comment.
- 3.4 Brent Energy Solutions have now moved into 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. A detailed progress report is not currently available but British Waterways have indicated that the first phase was undertaken during the winter of 2007/08 with the second and third phases to follow in 2008/09 and 2009/10 (Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan: Zone 4C).
- 3.6 Blue-green algae: In July 2008, British Waterways provided public information and warning of the presence of blue-green algae at the Brent Reservoir.

### **Environment Agency**

- 3.7 Welsh Harp issues are led by the Brent and Crane Environment Management Team. They report that they are continuing work on pollution prevention upstream of the Welsh Harp. Much of their work in this respect is reactive; and they will follow-up and plan future work if there are reports of incidents or other issues at the Welsh Harp.

### **Heritage Lottery Award**

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

### **Events**

- 3.9 Brent Council Sports Service continue their Healthy Walks Programme (currently to March 2009). 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).

### **Biodiversity Action Plan**

- 3.10 The Government have launched 'National Indicator 197', which aims to monitor the proportion of Local Sites (all Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)) where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented. The detail of the guidance may be subject to further revision. The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir is included in this process but the guidance explains that Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are excluded from the analysis, so Brent will be reporting on those areas of the Welsh Harp SINC that are not within the SSSI. Though Council officers will make the initial assessment, part of the process involves public scrutiny of the analysis. This will be undertaken via the Local Sites Partnership (basically the respective site contacts for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership) – in this case the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee and constituent members; and also possibly by means of public comment via web-pages. More information will be available during the next few months; and the first assessment will cover the five-year period to 31 March 2009. Following analysis, this initial reporting round should be concluded in June / July 2009.

- 3.11 Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS): 2008 is the first reporting round since 2005 for the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System. Our update will include reporting on the declaration of the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Local Nature Reserve.
- 3.12 The Mayor of London / Greater London Authority have prepared a detailed consultation draft for the 'Geodiversity of London' which is available on the following link:  
<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/planning/geodiversity.jsp>

#### **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

<b>Richard Saunders</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Director of Environment and</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Culture</b>	<b>Unit</b>

**AGENDA ITEM: 8**      Pages 5 – 13

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Meeting                      Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee  
Date                            10 November 2008  
**Subject**                      **Welsh Harp Management Plan**  
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                        Appendix A – Invasive Species Control  
   Appendix B – Risk Assessment – Unauthorised use of the water  
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.
- 2.6 Hendon Area Environment Sub Committee on 19 June 2008 – Decision 6. That the progress of the Council's Welsh Harp Risk Assessment be examined and reported back to the next meeting. That British Waterways be invited to report back to the Sub Committee on the progress of their Welsh Harp Risk Assessment at the next meeting.
- 2.7 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 02 July 2008 – Item 8, Actions 1 to 7.
1. To arrange the appropriate repair or replacement action to the hide following consultation with the Heritage Lottery Fund and Barnet's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.
  2. Provide details about the three year weed control programme.
  3. Request the weed control contractors contact Brent Council to assist with any requirements.
  4. Investigate whether weekend emergency calls were being forwarded to Greenspaces.
  5. Request that the Risk Assessment include whether Barnet Council was doing enough to stop swimming by placing signs and whether further enforcement officers were required.
  6. To write to British Waterways to request action against people swimming in the Welsh Harp.
  7. To raise an order to change the emergency number on the visitor information centre.
- 2.8 Hendon Area Environment Sub Committee on 23 September 2008. Decisions:
1. That the Draft Risk Assessment for the Welsh Harp be noted.
  2. That the Council writes to British Waterways advising them to introduce a risk assessment for the Welsh Harp.
  3. That the Risk Assessment be submitted to the Audit Committee to consider the level of assessment.

## **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 Barnet Council has undertaken a risk assessment in relation to visitor safety and the Welsh Harp reservoir contained in Appendix 1.

#### **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. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 6.1 Repair and or replacement bird hide to be funded by section 106 contributions up to approx. £6,000.
- 6.2 Three year programme for the treatment of Japanese knotweed commencing in 2008 at £1,300 per annum.

#### **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 Replacement of the bird hide  
Following recommendations that on 20 July that;
1. the current hide was re-built if possible into the same structure as option D (detailed below), or
  2. the hide was replaced with the structure identified in option D,

both options were investigated. The remains of the current hide is not structurally sound or suitable for modification into a similar structure as option D, and would require a greater investment to provide a facility that will not be any more resistant to vandalism than the current structure.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport has approved the expenditure for a replacement hide as per Option D. Permission has now been sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund to proceed with the replacement.

Option D. Remove hide and replace with sleeper structure to 2 m height with canopy roof – Approx. £6000.

Replace hide with walled structure to provide shield from birds, constructed from sleepers and ironwork with openings for viewing. 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 2008 following a site survey. Complete Weed Control have been appointed to treat the site, dividing the site into three treatment areas plus returning to the previous years work and re-treating as required. A map detailing the areas treated in 2008 is contained in Appendix B.

The Contractor has been provided with the contract details for Brent Council Parks Service.

#### 9.1.3 Bye Law Enforcement and Litter Patrols

The weekend emergency call out rota for Greenspaces has been confirmed as working with calls being received. Weekend litter patrols continued throughout the summer.

#### 9.1.4 Risk Assessment – Unauthorised use of the water

British Waterways agreed to a meeting in September between the key stakeholders; British Waterways, Brent Council, Barnet Council and the Welsh Harp Sailing Association to identify a co-ordinated approach in preventing unauthorised activities on and in the water at the Welsh Harp, this is yet to take place. British Waterways have confirmed that they do not have a risk assessment relating to visitor safety at the site and do not require one as the site is leased to the Welsh Harp Sailing Association.

The byelaws relating to the Welsh Harp regarding entry into or use of the water for water sports, fishing, swimming etc are not enforceable via fixed penalty notices. A prosecution would be required through a Magistrates Court by taking a legal case against the offender.

'Owners of inland water sites have a responsibility to ensure, *so far as is reasonably practicable*, the safety of both their employees and visitors to their sites' (National Water Safety Forum, [www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/inlandwatersafety/advice/operator.htm](http://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/inlandwatersafety/advice/operator.htm)).

It is not always possible or desirable to fence off inland water sites or provide supervisory staff at these locations. To relieve the Council of liability it is noted in the RoSPA Operational Guidelines, that appropriate signage to warn of the dangers to visitors should be in place.

Signage is in place throughout the Welsh Harp instructing visitors not to enter the water for swimming and / or boating purposes. Operational litter collection staff also request park users not to enter the water.

A risk assessment for the site has been undertaken and is attached in Appendix B. The risk assessment identifies that a review of accessibility to the water throughout the site should be undertaken to ensure that all practical measures to minimise any risks are in place.

#### 9.1.5 Infrastructure and signage

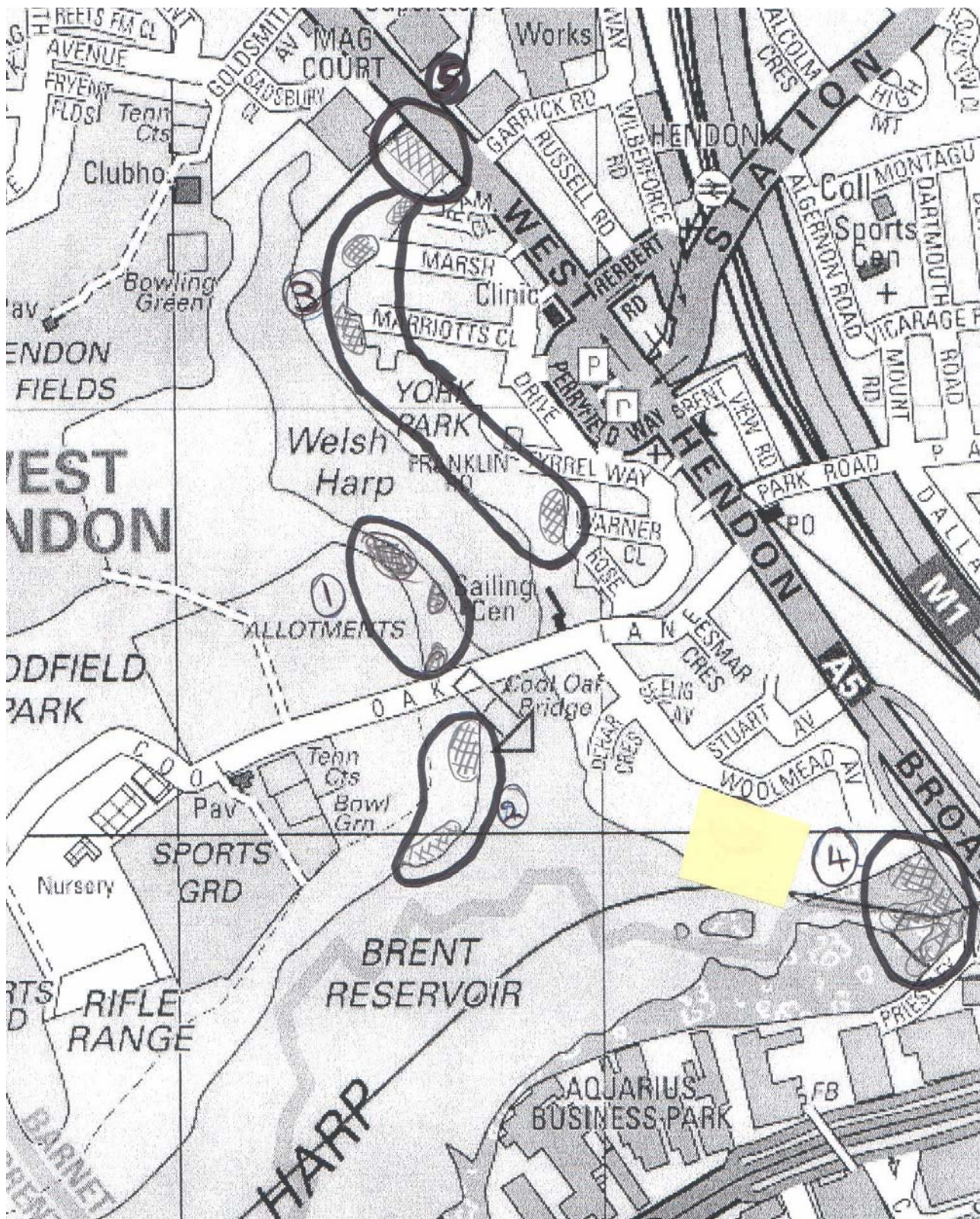
The emergency contact details have been updated with the correct information. The visitor information signs located at the information centre in Woodfield Park are being updated, the Welsh Harp Conservation Group are currently reviewing the Conservation information. An additional litterbin has been installed 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 – MG

Appendix A – Invasive Species Control



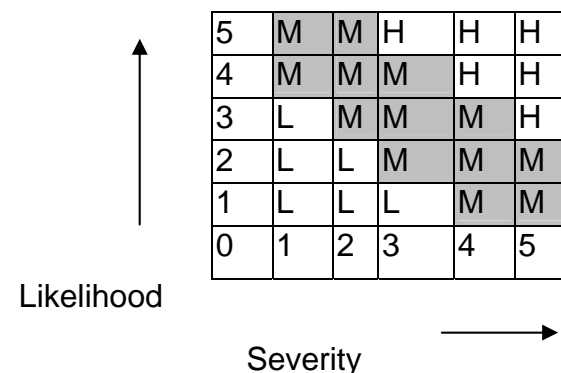
## Appendix B – Risk Assessment – Unauthorised use of the water

### Key to risk rating

<b>Likelihood</b>	
1. Improbable	So unlikely that probability is close to zero
2. Remote	Unlikely, though conceivable
3. Possible	Could occur some time
4. Probable	Not surprised. Will occur several times..
5. Likely/frequent	Occurs repeatedly/event only to be expected.
<b>Severity</b>	
1. Minor injury:	Cuts, bruises etc unlikely to result in sick leave
2. Moderate injuries:	Likely to result in 1-3 days sick leave
3. Major injuries:	More than 3 days sick leave – notifiable to HSE
4. Death	
5. Multiple deaths	
<b>Action</b>	
<b>H</b> – High:	Action immediately
<b>M</b> – Medium:	Action within 12 months
<b>L</b> – Low:	Action when reasonably practicable

Please complete all parts of the form, and continue on a separate sheet if necessary. The areas in yellow are for advice, and will help in the risk assessment process. If you have questions about this form or how to do a risk assessment, contact the Health and Safety Unit on 020 8359 7960.

### RISK RATING



<b>Activity / Location Welsh Harp</b>	
<b>Date of this assessment August 2008</b>	<b>Date of last assessment N/A</b>

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Risk priority (High/Medium/Low)	What are we already doing to control the risk?	What further action is necessary?	Action		
					By whom?	By when?	Date completed
1) Risk of drowning	Members of the public who enter the water.	<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming is not permitted.</li> <li>Signage present throughout the site and water's edge advising that no swimming is permitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage to be checked at regular intervals.</li> <li>12 monthly review of any incidences.</li> <li>Review restriction/access to water to prevent entry.</li> </ul>	GS Officer	Quarterly	
					GS Officer	Annually	
					GS Officer/Manager	31.10.2008	
2) Trip, fall, slip, underwater obstruction causing injury on entry into/out of water	Members of the public who enter the water.	<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming is not permitted.</li> <li>Signage present throughout the site and water's edge advising that no swimming is permitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage to be checked at regular intervals.</li> <li>12 monthly review of any incidences.</li> <li>Review restriction/access to water to prevent entry.</li> </ul>	GS Officer	Quarterly	
					GS Officer	Annually	
					GS Officer/Manager	31.10.2008	

3) Contraction of general infections and diseases i.e. Weil's disease.	Members of the public who enter the water.	<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming is not permitted.</li> <li>Signage present throughout the site and water's edge advising that no swimming is permitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage to be checked at regular intervals.</li> <li>12 monthly review of any incidences.</li> <li>Review restriction/access to water to prevent entry.</li> </ul>	GS Officer  GS Officer  GS Officer/ Manager	Quarterly  Annually  31.10.2008	
4) Injury to persons from unauthorised water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of the public who enter the water.</li> <li>Members of the public operating authorised and un-authorised boats.</li> </ul>	<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming is not permitted.</li> <li>Signage present throughout the site and water's edge advising that no swimming is permitted.</li> <li>No sailing/watersports signage is present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage to be checked at regular intervals.</li> <li>12 monthly review of any incidences.</li> <li>Review restriction/access to site for boats etc</li> </ul>	GS Officer  GS Officer  GS Officer/ Manager	Quarterly  Annually  31.10.2008	

<b>Assessment carried out by (name and designation)</b> Jenny Warren Greenspaces Service Manager	<b>Review date:</b> 25/08/2008
	Reviews are needed to make sure the risk assessment is up-to-date, if there is a change in law or good practice, or if there is reason to believe that it is no longer valid.