

**MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 20 JULY 2010 at 7.30 pm**

- * Councillor John Hart (LB Barnet) (Chairman)
Not Appointed (Vice-Chairman) (Brent)

Councillors:

- * Councillor Julie Johnson (Barnet)
* Councillor Hugh Rayner (Barnet)
* Councillor Brian Schama (Barnet)
Javaid Ashraf (Brent)
Krupesh Hirani (Brent)
Roxanne Mashari (Brent)
\$ Dhiraj Kataria (Brent)

Organisation

British Waterways
Brent Sport Council
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
London Wildlife Trust

Representative

- * Sam Thomas

* John Colmans
* Clive Cohen

Local Agenda 21

Old St Andrew's Residents' Association

Natural England

Strategy Directorate of GLA

Princes Park Youth Football Club

Training Ship Broadsword

Welsh Harp Conservation Group

Welsh Harp Sailing Association

Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre

West Hendon Community Forum

Woolmead Residents' Association

- * Roy Beddard
* Julia Touloumbadjian
* Harry Mackie
* Judy Shepard
* Geoff Johnson

*denotes Member present

\$ Denotes Member absent on Council Business

Also in attendance were

Jenny Warren – Barnet Greenspaces Service

Paul Frost – Barnet Democratic Services

Pat Davila – Barnet Legal Service

Leslie Williams – Brent Parks Service

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the position of Chairman for the municipal year 2010/2011 and Councillor John Hart was nominated and seconded. Following nominations, Councillor Hart was elected Chairman of the Joint Consultative Committee for the municipal year 2010/11.

Because of no representation of Councillors from the London Borough of Brent, a Vice-chairman was not appointed. This was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee on 4 November 2010.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 24 MARCH 2010

RESOLVED – That the decisions of the meeting held on 24 March 2010 be approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING (IF ANY)

Councillor Julie Johnson informed the committee of the 175th Anniversary of the Welsh Harp. Unfortunately, there was no dragon boat racing at the event due to a lack of funding and the weather was poor however, the day was still a success. Councillor Johnson noted that she would like to see an exhibition take place in Woodfield Park and commented on some of the work that could be done during a clean up day. Councillor Hugh Rayner congratulated everyone that was involved in the event.

The Committee made comments on the lack of advertisement for the Anniversary and noted some other possible events that could enhance the promotion of the Welsh Harp.

Jenny Warren informed the Committee that the promotion of the Welsh Harp could be determined through the Welsh Harp action plan.

RESOLVED –

1. That a Sub-Committee be created which is dedicated to the promotion of the Welsh Harp.
2. That the Sub-Committee consists of Councillor Julie Johnson, Councillor John Hart, Councillor Brian Schama, Judy Shepard (West Hendon Community Forum), Geoff Johnson (Woolmead Residents Association), Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) and a further invitation be extended to a Brent Councillor.

4. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Councillor Roxanne Mashari, Councillor Dhiraj Katria and Councillor Javaid Ashraf.

5. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

6. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRENT)

The Environmental Policy Officer, Leslie Williams presented this item. He informed the Committee that litterbins were in the process of being installed and further dog waste bins were expected to be in place within the next few weeks. Further management works have taken place to control the growth of young willows in the marshland.

The Committee discussed the growth of weed within the water and concerns were raised regarding the speed at which it grows. It was noted that although larger quantities had been removed, all partners must monitor this closely to prevent over populated growth. The Committee agreed that resources need to be assigned to the control of the weed.

A capital ring leaflet was distributed to the Committee and this is available at both Brent and Barnet libraries.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That continued collaboration takes place with regards to the treating of the growth of weed within the water.

7. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BARNET)

The Green Spaces Manager, Jenny Warren updated the Committee on the replacement bird hide, which has been built and discussed the Japanese knotweed control programme.

The Green Spaces Manager informed the Committee that although patrols have taken place, funding was not currently available to ensure patrols occur throughout the day. Instead, the proposal is for visits to be made twice a day on weekends and bank holidays. The Committee learnt that visitors appropriately used the site during the Iranian Festival period.

The Committee noted that the Welsh Harp Working Group have continued to meet on a quarterly basis to implement the action plan.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
1. That the legal officer seeks clarification on Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (the Act). This is to be supplied to the next meeting.
2. That a letter be written to the Director of Environment and Operation (Barnet) or the Cabinet Member for Environment from the Committee requesting additional resources in the form of LBB Operatives and/or PCSO patrols to prevent anti social behaviour, particularly in August.
3. That the issues with the bird hide are resolved and payment is withheld until they are resolved.
4. That clarification is sought from Natural England regarding the treatment of Japanese knotweed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSSINESS

None

9. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 4 November 2010.

COUNCILLOR JOHN HART
Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm