

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 04 NOVEMBER 2010 at 7.00 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)
* Councillor Javaid Ashraf (Brent)
Councillor Krupesh Hirani (Brent)
Councillor Roxanne Mashari (Brent)
Councillor Dhiraj Kataria (Brent)
* Councillor Aslam Choudry (substituting for Councillor Krupesh Hiran)

Organisation

Representative

British Waterways	
Brent Sport Council	
Barnet Council Sports and Recreation	
Birchen Grove Resident Association	
Environment Agency	
Hendon Rifle Club	
London Wildlife Trust	* Clive Cohen
Local Agenda 21	* Molly Savage
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association	
Natural England	
Strategy Directorate of GLA	
Princes Park Youth Football Club	
Training Ship Broadsword	* Brian Turner
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	* Roy Beddard
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	* Harry Mackie
West Hendon Community Forum	* Judy Sheperd
Woolmead Residents' Association	* 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. MINUTES (Item 1)

RESOLVED – That the decisions of the meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 20 July 2010 be approved as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roxanne Mashari, Councillor Dhiraj Katria and Neale Hider (Environment Agency).

3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The appointment to the position of Vice-Chairman was deferred to the next meeting to allow Councillor Javaid Ashraf the opportunity to discuss a nomination with his appointed Welsh Harp Joint Consultation Committee and Borough colleagues.

5. MATTERS ARISING (IF ANY)

Brian Turner, representing the Training Ship Broadsword, asked the Committee if they would welcome the inclusion of the Dragon Boat Race event in 2011/12. It was noted that this event might take up to a year to organise. Although a positive suggestion, the Committee highlighted that this would be expensive cost and without securing sponsorship this event would be difficult to manage.

RESOLVED – That the Committee consider possible solutions to secure sponsorship.

6. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRENT)

The Environmental Policy Officer, Leslie Williams, presented this report. He informed the Committee of the management works that have taken place on young willows in the marshland.

The Committee were informed of further management works which will take place throughout the winter to the coppicing to conserve the floodplain marsh which will improve the view of the Welsh Harp.

The Committee learnt of the recent awarded of a Green Flag to the Welsh Harp. Members of the Committee congratulated the Brent Parks service on this achievement.

Leslie Williams reported that the exhibition marking the 175th anniversary of the Welsh Harp, produced by Hendon Church Farmhouse Museum, was being displayed in Brent Council's Museum's Community Gallery until the end of March 2011.

It was noted that Thames 21 and British Waterways had organised a clean-up day on the southern side of the reservoir on 25 August 2010, which involved 70 volunteers aged between 16 – 25. The Committee discussed the possibility of Thames 21 organising a further clean-up day on the Welsh Harp.

The Committee discussed the build up of rubbish along the area behind the A406 and it was also noted the damage to the fence. The area is understood to belong to the British Waterways and they should be asked to investigate.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee investigate a clean-up day with the input of Thames 21 and British Waterways.
3. That British Waterways update the Committee on the condition of the Land along the A406.

7. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BARNET)

The Green Spaces Manager, Jenny Warren, updated the Committee on the replacement bird hide which will be modified to address the requirements raised by the committee.

The Committee was updated on the Japanese knotweed control programme which involves a treatment via the spraying of glyphosate. The Committee also learnt of the introduction of stem injection which embeds directly into canes of the plants. This process should have long term financial savings.

The Green Spaces Manager informed the Committee that the management of the Welsh Harp had been raised in a number of other forums as a potential barrier to it becoming a key location in North London for both nature conservation and recreation.

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

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Committee, following discussion, requested that the British Waterways submit reports twice a year to provide the Committee with information.
- Following a meeting of the Hendon Resident's Forum which took place on 21 October 2010 the location of the sailing base was discussed. It was agreed at this meeting that this issue would be raised at the next meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.

The concerns raised included:

- That the proposed site of the Marketing Suite of Phase one of Regeneration would have a harmful impact on wildlife in the SSSI.
- The Chairman noted, Councillor John Hart, noted that Mr John Colmans had decided to resign as a member and representative of the London Wildlife Trust following 25 years service. The Chairman informed the Committee that he had written to Mr Colmans expressing the Committee's thanks for this length of service in the interest of the Welsh Harp. The Chairman also welcomed Mr Clive Cohen to continue to represent the London Wildlife Trust on the Committee.
- Councillor Julie Johnson informed the Committee of the clean-up day which had been intended to take place on 16 November 2010 and noted a future date would be arranged in the New Year instead.

- The Committee raised concerns that some organisations were not being represented and suggested that those organisations with poor attendance records be contacted to ascertain if they wished to continue to be represented on the committee.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Director of Planning, Housing and Regeneration be informed of the Committee's concerns relating to the proposed location of the Marketing Suite on the former Sailing Base, and consider the location proposed by the Committee.
2. Those organisations with poor attendance records be written to on behalf of the Committee by Democratic Services.

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 Monday 17 January 2011.

COUNCILLOR JOHN HART
Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm