

COMMITTEE
WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE

DATE AND TIME
THURSDAY 04 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.00PM

VENUE
HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, HENDON NW4 4BG

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

Councillors London Borough of Barnet:

John Hart
Julie Johnson

Brian Schama
Hugh Rayner

Councillors London Borough of Brent:

Member	First Alternate
Javaid Ashraf	-
Krupesh Hirani	Ruth Moher
Roxanne Mashari	Jim Moher
Dhiraj Kataria	Sandra Kabir

Second Alternate
-
Aslam Choudry
George Crane
Ann John OBE

Organisations:

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

Brent Sport Council
Environment Agency
Local Agenda 21
Natural England
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre
Woolmead Residents' Association

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

Acting Democratic Services Manager: Aysen Giritli
Democratic Services contact: Paul Frost: 020 8359 2205
Media Relations contact: Chris Palmer: 020 8359 7408

To view agenda papers on the website: <http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item	Title of Report	Pages
1	MINUTES	
2	ABSENCE OF MEMBERS	
3	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS	
4	APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN	
5	MATTERS ARISING	
6	WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (Brent)	1 – 4
7	WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (Barnet)	5 – 10
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9	ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT	

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AGENDA ITEM: 6



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

4 November 2010

Report from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

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. 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 / Brent Reservoir Management Plan

- 3.1 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is available on the internet at the Brent Council website www.Brent.gov.uk/parks
- 3.2 Barnet Council will be reporting, separately, on the Action Plan.

Management works

- 3.3 Water weed issues: The Welsh Harp Sailing Association have been leading on the problem of excessive water weed on the Reservoir.
- 3.4 Management works: Winter coppicing to conserve the floodplain marsh will attempt to coordinate cutting and machinery works to maintain several populations of orchids that are threatened by encroaching scrub.

Meeting: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
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Version no. 1.2
Date: 20.10.2010

- 3.5 Green Flag: The Welsh Harp (Welsh Harp Open Space) achieved the Green Flag Award.

British Waterways

- 3.6 Clean-up on the southern side of the Reservoir: Thames 21 and British Waterways organised a clean-up on 25 August involving about 70 volunteers aged 16-25.

Environment Agency

- 3.7 A meeting of the River Brent Catchment Partnership was held to discuss joint working between agencies and Boroughs along the course of the River Brent.

Heritage Lottery Award

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

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.9 The Welsh Harp is an important area for several habitats and species; and this is recognised by the Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve status. The conservation and restoration of these habitats has been identified in the Biodiversity Action Plans of the Boroughs. Summary information can be accessed on the BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System) website which is the online system for national reporting of Biodiversity Action Plans: see <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

Events / Other

- 3.10 Brent Council Sports Service and Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre: The Healthy Walks Programme continues to March 2011. Walks 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. For details contact Brent Council Sports Service, tel: 020 8937 3707, [www. Brent.gov.uk/sports](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/sports)
- 3.11 Capital Ring: Stocks of the leaflets are available from Barnet, and Brent Councils.
- 3.12 "175 Years of Brent Reservoir": Barnet Council's (Hendon's Church Farmhouse Museum) is being displayed in Brent Museum's Community Gallery, Willesden Green Library Centre, NW10, tel: 020 8937 3600, from September 2010 to the end of March 2011.

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 (this requirement applies to operations within a SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest); and Natural England will issue consent, issue consent with conditions or refuse consent. 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 Leslie Williams, Strategy and Service Development Officer, Sports Service, Cultural Services, Environment and Neighbourhoods, Brent Council,

Brent House, 349-357 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ

Tel: 020 8937 5628, Reception: 020 8937 5619, Fax: 020 8937 5715

E-mail: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk, Internet: www.Brent.gov.uk/parks

Sue Harper

**Director of Environment and
Neighbourhoods**

AGENDA ITEM: 7

Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	4 November 2010
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management.

Officer Contributors	Jenny Warren, Greenspaces 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, Greenspaces 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 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 Councils Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities the need to ensure Barnet's continued success as a prosperous place where people want to live and at the same time preserve and enhance our Greenspaces as identified as part of a successful London suburb".

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 There are no risk management issues associated with 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. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 None.

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

Further amendments to the hide will be carried out in consultation with the Welsh Harp Conservationists. In specifying the design the Committee and Officers felt that seating in the hide would encourage its use by teenagers for the purposes it was not intended, at the last meeting the requirement for seating was raised as essential to the hide's functionality and will therefore be explored.

9.1.2 Japanese Knotweed Control Programme

The weed control programme for invasive species is in its third and final year. The treatment programme is proving to be successful in eradicating Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam throughout the site, the treatment programme has been via the spraying of glyphosate.

The above methodology is a recognised practice for successfully treating Japanese knotweed, with guidance from Natural England, British Waterways and the Environment Agency concluding that effective treatment should take place in early spring (March/April) and early autumn (September/October). Between this period further treatments can be undertaken, but they should not be within 6 weeks of each other.

During 2010 the introduction of stem injection for weed control has emerged as an available and very effective control method. Any further control measures required in the Welsh Harp can be carried out via injection directly into the plant canes, reducing any concerns regarding contamination to honey bees from glyphosate that has been sprayed onto the surfaces of the leaves/flowers.

9.1.3 Welsh Harp Working Group – Action Plan

The Welsh Harp working group have continued to meet on a quarterly basis to develop and implement the Action Plan which is to compliment the Welsh Harp Management Plan. The working group comprises of the following representatives:

- London Borough of Barnet
- London Borough of Brent
- British Waterways
- Welsh Harp Conservationists
- Welsh Harp sailing Association

The action plan is detailed in Appendix A.

9.1.4 Brent River Partnership

All the stakeholders located within the Brent Catchment have formed an informal partnership to deliver joined up working in delivering the Water Framework Directive,

particular priorities are the eradication of invasive species throughout the catchment and improving water quality.

9.1.5 All London Green Grid

The Welsh Harp reservoir has been identified as a potential strategic opportunity to improve access to the Welsh Harp reservoir and intensify its use for recreation while protecting bio-diversity.

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 in the biodiversity section.

Legal – PD

CFO – SP

Welsh Harp - Management Action Plan					
Plan status					
Under Development					
Vision Statement					
Protect and enhance the the special environment of the Welsh Harp for safe public access and enjoyment in a sustainable and sensitive manner for future generations.					
Objective					
To maintain and enhance biodiversity					
To promote the Welsh Harp as a recreational resource					
Targets					
Code	Target	Status	Assessment date	Latest Progress report	
WH1	Enhance and maintain UK priority habitats				
WH1.1	Prioirty habitats - Eutrophic standing water				
WH1.2	Prioirty habitats - Reed beds				
WH1.3	Prioirty habitats - Floodplain Marsh				
WH1.4	Prioirty habitats - Ponds				
WH1.5	Prioirty habitats - Wet Woodland				
WH1.6	Prioirty habitats - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland				
WH1.7	Prioirty habitats - Hedgerows				
WH1.8	Prioirty habitats - Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland				
WH2	Enhance and maintain habititats				
WH2.1	Agree and list all other appropriate habitats				
WH3	Maintain openwater space for sailing, bio-diversity and functionality				
WH4	Promote the use of the Harp as a recreational resource				
WH5	Develop a programme of community involvement in maintaining and enhancing the site				
WH6	Promote and develop an educational programme, promote as an ED. resource				
WH7	Develop a strategy to promote appropriate use of the Welsh Harp, tackle ASB, and improve site security/safety				
WH8	Develop an agreed standardised approach to signage throughout the site				
WH9	Develop an agreed standardised approach to infrastructure - bins, benches, dog bins, footpaths				

Actions					
Code	Action	Start	End	Lead	Status
WH1	Sailing base have sought and secured funding to acquire a boat, The new boat will enable the control of water weed in the lake			Welsh Harp Sailing Base	
WH1.1					
WH1.2	Remove of willows from the reed beds – Funded by the EA	2010	2010	Welsh Harp Conservationists	
WH1.3					
WH1.4	Application to the pond conservation - Million pond project. To create 10 new ponds within the Welsh Harp			LBBrent	
WH1.5					
WH1.6	Remove Oak saplings	Annual		Welsh Harp Conservationists	
WH1.7	Hedging has been planted next to graffiti wall.			LBBrent	
	More hedging work is being planned			LBBrent	
	Cut back bramble and remove self sets from hedgerow which is located in Woodfield extension	Sep-10		LBBarnet	
WH1.8	Remove some Oaks, Elm saplings and bramble	Annual		LBBrent	
WH2					
WH3.1	Establish depth of water throughout the reservoir			EA	
	Establish the effects of alluvium on the reservoir for conservation and sailing			EA	Long Term
	Undertake weed harvesting to control weed levels using agreed methods	2010		Sailing Ass and Partners	Short Term
	Seeking resources for medium - term control of weed during the coming year	2010		Sailing Ass and Partners	Medium Term
	3 year program to remove invasive species such as knotweed and Hogweed	on going		LBBarnet	Long Term
	Reduce nutrient pollution from the watercourses entering the reservoir	on going		EA	Long Term
WH4	Actions to include developing sailing programmes eg. With sport development/schools, walking and to promote recreational activities	2010		Brent, Sailing Ass and Partners	
WH4	Promotion of the Welsh Harp as a place to visit/history/conservation	2011		Working group	
WH5	Renew damaged vandalised bird hide	Mar-10	Apr-10	LBBarnet	
WH6	International year of biodiversity				
	River Catchment Working Group – This is catchment based management approach to issues such as Water Quality/ pollution, Invasive Species Control & Eradication etc. Working with Brent Council and Barnet Council	25/05/2010		Environment Agency	Long Term
WH7					
WH8	Renewing and formalising signage throughout the site.			LBBarnet	
	Formalise signage	May-10		LLBrent	
WH9	Review infrastructure - bins, benches, dog bins and paths	Jul-10		LBBarnet	
	Formalise infrastructure	May-10		LBBrent	