



## Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

**Tuesday, 19 July 2011 at 7.30 pm**  
Council Chamber, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane,  
Wembley, HA9 9HD

### Membership:

<b>Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>first alternates</b>	<b>Second alternates</b>
Councillors:		Councillors:	Councillors:
Khatri	LB Barnet		
Hart	LB Barnet		
Johnson	LB Barnet		
Rayner	LB Barnet		
Ashraf		Hashmi	CJ Patel
Kataria		J Moher	Crane
Mashari		Kabir	John
Singh		R Moher	Hirani

**For further information contact:** Bryony Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer, Brent Council on 0208 937 1355 or at [bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk](mailto:bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk)

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

[www.brent.gov.uk/committees](http://www.brent.gov.uk/committees)

**The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting**

## Membership continued:

### Member

David Carter  
Leela O'Dea  
Neale Hider  
Neil Winter  
Peter Castle  
A Jefferson  
Klaus Schuricht  
Molly Savage  
Clive Cohen  
Kate Mitchell  
John Thompson  
Jon Bell  
Commander G F Beck MBE  
Dr Leo Batten  
Roy Beddard  
Harry Mackie  
  
Brian Turgoose  
Judy Shepherd  
Geoffrey Johnson  
Jon Guest  
Brain Turner

### Organisation

Brent Sports Council  
British Waterways  
Environment Agency  
Environment Agency  
Hendon Rifle Club  
Hendon Rifle Club  
Hendon Rifle Club  
Local Agenda 21  
London Wildlife Trust  
Natural England  
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association  
Princes Park Youth Football Club  
Training Ship Broadsword  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
Welsh Harp Environmental Education  
Centre  
Welsh Harp Sailing Association  
West Hendon Community Forum  
Woolmead Residents' Association  
British Waterways  
Training Ship Broadsword

# Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
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<b>1 Election of Chair</b>	
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<b>2 Election of Vice Chair</b>	
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<b>3 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests</b>	
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Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.

<b>4 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2011</b>	1 - 4
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<b>5 Matters arising (if any)</b>	
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<b>6 Welsh Harp Management Plan (Brent)</b>	5 - 8
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<b>7 Report from the London Borough of Barnet</b>	
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Report to follow

<b>8 Planning Issues (if any)</b>	
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<b>9 Date of Next Meeting</b>	
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The next scheduled meeting of the Welsh Harp is on Wednesday, 9 November 2011.

<b>10 Any Other Urgent Business</b>	
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Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.



Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
- Toilets are available on the second floor.
- Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near the Paul Daisley Hall.
- A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

# Agenda Item 4

## MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2011 at 7.00 pm

- \* Councillor John Hart (LB Barnet) (Chairman)
- \* Councillor Javaid Ashraf (Vice-Chairman) (Brent)

### Councillors:

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

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representative</b>
British Waterways	
Brent Sport Council	
Barnet Council Sports and Recreation	
Birchen Grove Resident Association	
Environment Agency	
Hendon Rifle Club	* Stanley Ellis
London Wildlife Trust	* 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	* Brian Turner
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	* Julia Touloumbadjian
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	* Harry Mackie
West Hendon Community Forum	* Judy Shepherd
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  
Leslie Williams – Brent Parks Service

### 1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the decisions of the meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 18 January 2011 be approved as a correct record.

### 2. **ABSENCE OF MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hugh Rayner, Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), Molly Savage (Local Agenda 21) and an apology for lateness from Lesley Williams (London Borough of Brent).

### 3. **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

No interests were declared.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING (IF ANY)**

Clive Cohen, representing the London Wildlife Trust, Barnet Group informed the committee that some insecticides carry a bee risk warning while neonicotinoids had been banned in France and Germany were still permitted in the United Kingdom for unknown reasons. Mr Cohen suggested that it should be the Borough's responsibility to communicate the effects, to land owners, of the use of insecticides. Jenny Warren, London Borough of Barnet, Green Spaces Manager informed the Committee that it was not the Council's priority to perform this function. Jenny Warren noted that there was no guidance from DEFRA and stated that the Council action plan outlined the stem injection process which provides treatment for insecticides.

RESOLVED –

- That Clive Cohen be provided with the London Boroughs of Barnet's Property Services and Greenspaces contact details.

#### **5. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRENT)**

The London Borough of Barnet's Green Spaces Manager introduced this report in the absence of Lesley Williams (London Borough of Brent). The committee were informed that the Parks Warden Service across Brent had received a reduction in the number of full time posts including the deletion of static Wardens. However it was noted that the number of mobile Wardens had increased which will provide a more flexible approach.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Councillor Julie Johnson informed the Committee of the successful clean-up day. The Councillor noted that all of Barnet's Committee Members attended the clean-up day and were well supported by the Green Spaces Team, McDonald's and some local residents. Councillor Julie Johnson thanked everyone who had been involved in the day which involved the removal of seventy bags of waste. It was suggested that local allotment owners be engaged in order to help in any future clean-up days.

Councillor Roxanne Mashari thanked Councillor Julie Johnson for organising the clean-up day and requested that the next one might take place on a weekend.

- Harry Mackie from the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre informed the Committee that the centre was no longer closing as it had secured funding for the next 2 years. Mr Mackie also noted that the centre is booked up by Schools for the next 2 years.
- Chairman Councillor John Hart noted that the Bird Hide looked good and offered his thanks to those who carried out this work in its restoration.

- Councillor Julie Johnson noted the poor condition of the bank at the former youth sailing base site. She reminded Members of the removal of the jetty which provided a shelter for birds. Councillor Johnson believed that there had been no consultation for the removal and said the area was now in a poor condition. The Committee suggested that Barratt Homes to attend the next meeting to inform the committee of the work being conducted youth sailing base site.
- The Committee were also informed of the Dollis Valley Green Walk (DVGW) Project. The London Borough of Barnet won the Mayor's priority parks project and was awarded £400,000. Treatment to invasive species and maintenance work to the brook will be carried out. The committee suggested that an environmental impact survey be conducted.
- The Chairman Councillor John Hart welcomed Mr Derek Chung to the meeting. Mr Chung prior to the meeting made a written declaration to become a Committee Member on the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee representing the West Hendon Residents Association and Friends of York Park. The Committee Members unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Chung as a Committee representative.
- Paul Frost, Democratic Services Officer, reminded Committee Members of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee membership review which was conducted earlier in the year. The Committee agreed to remove the following organisations from the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee:
  - Barnet Council for Sports and Recreation
  - Old St Andrew's Residents' Association
  - Strategy Directorate of Greater London Assembly
- The Chairman, Councillor Hart, thanked everyone for he's and her active involvement in the work of the Committee during the year.

#### RESOLVED –

- That the following organisations membership be removed from the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
  - Barnet Council for Sports and Recreation
  - Old St Andrew's Residents' Association
  - Strategy Directorate of Greater London Assembly
- That the following Membership be agreed
  - Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
  - Friends of York Park

#### **7. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

None.

#### **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be announced following the Annual Council meeting on 17 May 2011 and will take place in the London Borough of Brent.

COUNCILLOR JOHN HART

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm



**Welsh Harp Joint Consultative  
Committee**  
19 July 2011

**Report from the Director of  
Environment and Neighbourhoods**

For Information

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## **Welsh Harp Management Plan**

### **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](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/parks)

#### **Management works**

- 3.2 Water weed issues: The Welsh Harp Sailing Association have been leading on the problem of excessive water weed on the Reservoir.

### 3.3 **Parks Warden Service**

The Parks Warden service was reduced as part of the recent reorganisation of Brent Council. Currently there are a maximum of two mobile wardens on duty at any one time. It is anticipated using up to three agency staff to increase coverage from August to October. The grounds maintenance team visits the Welsh Harp at regular intervals.

### **Heritage Lottery Award**

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

### **Biodiversity Action Plan**

- 3.5 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. Despite the annual work to control tree growth in the marshland edge of the Brent Reservoir, scrub appears to be increasing in the marshland and as belts on the acid grassland at Neasden Recreation Ground. Japanese Knotweed is also encroaching into both habitats. While the conservation and restoration of these habitats has been identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan, the most effective action within the resources available is needed to conserve and restore habitat. The Sports and Parks Service are investigating if additional cutting and use of machinery are possible; and the possibility of grant funding for the acid grassland. As noted above, the Welsh Harp Sailing Association are leading on removing excess plant growth from the open water of the reservoir; but long term solutions may need to involve a catchment management approach to reduce nutrient levels in the river and at some stage, removal of alluvium from the reservoir. 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://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/>

### **Events / Other**

- 3.6 Brent Council Sports Service and Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre: The Healthy Walks Programme continues to March 2012. 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)
- 3.7 Capital Ring: Stocks of the leaflets are available from Barnet, and Brent Councils.

## **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.
- 4.2 Financial implications of restructuring proposals are detailed in other Council reports.

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Under the the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, 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.

6.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared in relation to the proposals for the restructuring of the Warden Service.

## **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 and Parks 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](mailto:Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk), Internet: [www.Brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/parks)

**Sue Harper: Director of  
Environment and Neighbourhoods**