



**Welsh Harp Joint Consultative  
Committee**  
18 July 2012

**Report from the Director of  
Environment and Neighbourhood  
Services**

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 land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways).

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.
- 2.2 Members are asked to recommend the revised Management Plan.

**3.0 Detail**

**Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan**

- 3.1 A revised version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is appended. The Management Plan is due for periodic revision. At the last meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee, the Committee agreed to adopt revised management zones more aligned to the habitat and physical features of the site.

- 3.2 That has enabled a more thorough review of the Management Plan. The revised draft is based on the habitat and physical features of the Welsh Harp. The draft Management Plan is a more concise version of the previous Management Plan. The recommendations for lists of management work have been condensed, while operational details are better managed by the land managing organisations.
- 3.3 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan should be available on the internet at the Brent Council website <http://www.brent.gov.uk/pks.nsf/pages/LBB-67>  
The version submitted for the WHJCC meeting is that dated 3 July 2012.

### **Management works**

- 3.4 The treatment of Japanese Knotweed on the Neasden Recreation Ground side of the Reservoir in 2011 appears to have been successful. This was undertaken by stem injection. The contractor is returning to the site to treat the remaining regrowth.

### **Events / Other**

- 3.5 Brent Council Sports and Parks Service: The Healthy Walks Programme continues to March 2013. 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)
- 3.6 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 Sports and Parks Service, the Welsh Harp Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Council's Corporate Strategy, service strategies and operational plans. Thus implementation is partially dependent upon revenue and capital budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management. The Sports and 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 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 where they wish to carry out, or cause or permit to be carried out 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:

Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir 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**

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