



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

6 March 2019

Title	Strategic Director - Environment
Report of	Strategic Director - Environment
Wards	West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	None
Enclosures	None
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Summary

To update the committee regarding the on-going site management issues and report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Officers Recommendations

1. That the committee consider and note the contents of this report and to invite the committee to make comments on the contents of the report.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee is comprised of Canals and Rivers Trust, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee only and meets on a quarterly basis.
- 1.2 The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter as follows:
- 1.3 Illegal encampments
The Greenspaces Team continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments;
- 1.4 Litter
- 1.4.1 Litter and bin schedules will continue to be reviewed by the operational service within Street Scene to ensure the service delivered meets the needs of the area.
- 1.4.2 Bin replacement and additions are being planned and programmed for the new financial year for the whole borough's parks and open spaces portfolio.
- 1.4.3 The reported fly tipping over the side of the Cool Oak Lane Bridge has been reported to Barnet Community Safety Team BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk. They have allocated it to an enforcement officer who will investigate and enforce any incidents of fly tipping.
- 1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court
- 1.5.1 The Draft Master Plan has been revised and following feedback from the engagement work completed by SLC on behalf of the Council and will be presented to the Environment Committee 14 March 2019. The Committee will be asked to agree to taking the master plan out to a full public consultation, the results of which will be reported to a future Environment Committee for adoption.
- 1.5.2 The council is moving ahead with the creation of a temporary Ball Court on one of the Tennis Courts in West Hendon Playing Fields. These works will start early in 2019.
- 1.5.3 Below is a breakdown of the S106

Scheme Ref	Site	Status	Purpose of Contribution	Amount
886	Hendon Football Club, Claremont Road, London NW2 1AE	Received	West Hendon Playing Fields Contribution means the sum of £185,000 (one hundred and eighty five thousand pounds) Index Linked towards the cost of improvement to the sports pitches and changing facilities at West Hendon Playing Fields.	£185,000
834	West Hendon Estate	Received	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 107 residential units in Phase 3a	£350,000.00

834	West Hendon Estate	Received	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 659 residential units in Phase 3c	£50,000.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Due March 2020	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 928 residential units in Phase 4	£231,600.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Due March 2022	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 1341 residential units in Phase 5	£127,380.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Due March 2022	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 1742 residential units in Phase 6	£220,020.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Received in £50,000 instalments	SSSI Mitigation Contribution" means the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS (£500,000.00) of which up to 60% is to be used by the Council towards funding of the SSSI Warden and the balance towards improvements and mitigation works to the SSSI required as a consequence of the direct impact of the Development.	£500,000 (£50,000 spent 2015, £50,000 committed in 2019)
				£1,664,000

1.6 Wider Area Improvements

The council commissioned the London Wildlife Trust to undertake some clearance works to the area directly next to the A5 between the BP Garage and Halfords. The works included;

- Small trees with a diameter less than 8cm were felled and stacked on site
- Bramble and scrub clearance
- Identification and marking of Invasive Species
- Collection and clearance of rubbish and fly tipped waste

The aim of the works was to increase visibility into the area which has been a target for rough sleeping and antisocial behaviour. A new gate will be installed across the gap in the fence and the area will be inspected periodically by a member of the greenspaces team

1.7 Cool Oak Lane Bridge

The Highways Team will investigate if any signage is required for this location.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee include that it considers and co-ordinates all the interests of recreation, leisure, maintenance and nature conservation with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The committee note the actions being implemented as set out under section one.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities that Barnet's parks and open spaces will be amongst the best in London. The need to develop more innovative ways of maintaining its parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within the existing Greenspaces budget.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 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 as a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:
 “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 Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation”.

5.4.3 Barnet’s Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.1 that the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these Local Authorities.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 *There are no risk management issues associated with this report.*

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 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.

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.7 Corporate Parenting Principles

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises the land owners, legislative bodies, and third sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: www.brent.gov.uk/parks in the biodiversity section.