

## APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2018-2019

The Management Plan outlines the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir. These are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable in the short term. This Action Plan tracks current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

| Action   | Lead   | Budget   | Approximate timetable | Progress: 2018-19 to 8 February 2019  |
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| Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam | Canal and River Trust (C&RT)   | C&RT   | Maintain. On-Going    | Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards.   |
| Maintain open water for water sports   | Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)  | Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)   | On-Going              | Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.   |
| Sailing and sports development   | WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.                        | Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.  | On-Going              | Led by the sailing and water sports clubs.  |
| Litter. Clean up projects.   | Brent Council. Barnet Council. Canal & River Trust. Thames 21. Environment Agency. | Landowners: Brent Council, Barnet Council, Canal & River Trust. Leaseholders. Also much volunteer involvement. | On-going.             | Volunteers from the local community and the Welsh Harp Litterpickers cleared litter in 2018 along the reservoir edge at Neasden Recreation Ground; and elsewhere around the Reservoir. Brent Council cleaned up of parts of Neasden Recreation Ground earlier in 2018-19. Litter on the shoreline remains at locations. |

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| River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream                              | Environment Agency                     | Budget provided by the Environment Agency                                       | Maintain, On-going.<br><br>Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. | Maintenance is on-going.<br><br>Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.<br><br>Note also the actions to contain and reduce run-off and pollution following a fire in early 2018 near to Staples Corner. |
| Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.                              | Sailing Clubs                          | Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.                               | On-going  | The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.   |
| Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 rafts.                                      | Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)   | Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts.        | On-going. Autumn / winter.  | WHCG have a programme for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. Recent problems with access to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.  |
| Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats. | Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others |   | On-going  | The WHCG organise winter projects around the hides.  |
| Reedbeds: remove young trees  | WHCG                                   | Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.                  | Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.  | Led by the WHCG. Autumn / winter works.  |
| Reedbeds: increase  | All                                    | Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but need to remove young trees. | Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.                                  | Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.  |

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| Marshland: maintain | Brent Council, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Canal and River Trust. | Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports (by reducing excess growth of trees). | Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.   | <b>Willow growth is exceeding management work on the shoreline. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) has reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland. Discussions by sailing clubs, Brent, C&amp;RT and other partners: autumn 2018.</b><br><br><b>The Welsh Harp Sailing Association in association with the Canal &amp; River Trust and Brent Council, have arranged for a trial project to manage willow on the north shore of the reservoir in February 2019.</b> |
| Marshland           | Barnet, Barratt PLC   |   | Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.  | Refer to Barnet.   |
| Marshland: increase | Brent, Barnet, Brent Catchment Partnership                            | Investigate sources of finance for long-term restoration of river catchment; and for flood alleviation.   | Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports. | <b>Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.</b>  |

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| Marshland: orchids  | WHCG, Brent                         | Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.  | WHCG to provide information.  | <b>As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.</b>  |
| South-bank boardwalk  | C&RT                                | Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.   | As required.  | <b>The boardwalk is damaged.</b>   |
| Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species | C&RT, Barnet Council, Brent Council | Brent parks have been dealing with Japanese Knotweed at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Thames 21 are investigating possible systems for mapping of invasive species; possibly by linking to existing work by other recording partners. | Control of these species requires continuing attention: timely short-term control; control at the time of other works; and as part of longer term management. | <b>On-going by Brent Council and Barnet Council. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment. Operational knowledge is also shared via the River Brent Catchment Partnership. Project led by River Brent Catchment Partnership reduced Himalayan Balsam in July 2018. Considerable issues remain with invasive species.</b> |
| Wet woodland  | C&RT, Barnet, Brent                 | Largely self-managing.  | On-going.   | Largely self-managing.   |

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| Grasslands, paths cutting                 | Barnet, Brent                        | Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded. Current path cutting estimated at £5,000 / year. | Spring to autumn.  | Paths maintained but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland). Grasslands: A new grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) in spring 2018. Includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value. Fine-tuning in 2019; and aiming for long-term improvements to biodiversity and amenity value. |
| Woodland                                  | Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT            | Largely self-managing. Un-funded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.      |  | Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.   |
| Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre | Thames 21, (Brent)                   | Thames 21 are managing the Centre following a Community Asset Transfer from Brent Council.                                       | Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre re-opened from January 2016.                 | Thames 21 have managed the Centre from January 2016.   |
| Allotments                                | Brent, West Hendon Allotment Society | Brent: refer to Allotments and Food Growing Strategy. Barnet: West Hendon Allotments are self-managed by the holders.            | Allotments are maintained. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close, commenced in 2013. | West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close.   |

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| Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, and other parks furniture. Litter collection. | Barnet, Brent  | Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets. | On-going.  | Maintained; and well-used.<br><br>Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.  |
| Wood Lane traffic: Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane  | Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways. | See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.            | Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017. | Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development.   |
| Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators  | WHCG; and public authorities.                                  | Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.   | On-going   | Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2018/2019. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September). |
| Signage   | Brent / Barnet.  |   |  | Maintained.  |
| Parks infrastructure  | Brent / Barnet   |   |  | Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.  |

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| River Brent Catchment Management Plan | All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21. |  | 2011 - | Action Plan published at:<br><a href="http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/">http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/</a> |
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