

Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	15 November 2012
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Management Plan</b>
Report of	Interim Director Environment, Planning & Regeneration
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management.

Officer Contributors	Tracy Sawyer, Greenspaces Development Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	West Hendon
Key Decision	None
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	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 23 March 2011 – 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 full 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 Council Corporate Plan 2012 - 2013 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities, 'we will ensure that the borough is clean and safe, preserve green spaces, provide excellent educational opportunities and facilitate housing choices that support residents' aspirations'.

## **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 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within existing Environment and Operations budgets.

## **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 Signage**

An assessment of the signage located throughout the reserve in both Brent and Barnet has been undertaken. There were clear differences between the approaches employed. Three priorities were identified:

1. Consistent, clear instructional signage that all visitors can understand
2. Rationalisation of instructional signage to key locations and fewer signs containing the relevant information
3. Standardised information boards

The development of a signage plan and style is to be undertaken.

## **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](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) in the biodiversity section.

<b>Cleared by Finance (Officer’s initials)</b>	<b>S.R</b>
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