

DECISIONS OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

5 February 2007

*Councillor Christopher Harris (Barnet) (Chairman)
Councillor Mary Farrell (Vice-Chairman) (Brent)

Councillors:

\$Mark Cummins (Brent)

*John Hart (Barnet)

*Julie Johnson (Barnet)

*Will Motley (Brent)

*Hugh Rayner (Barnet)

Organisation

Barnet Council for Sport and Recreation
Birchen Grove Residents' Association
Brent Sports Council
British Waterways
English Nature
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Strategy Directorate of Greater London Assembly
Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Welsh Harp Youth Sailing Base
West Hendon Community Forum
Woolmead Residents' Association

Representative

* Frank Hewlett
* Dorothy Jakes
David Carter
Vacancy
Alex Machin
Martin Everett
Peter Castle
* Molly Savage
* Clive Cohen
John Thompson
Jon Bell
Mike Waite
Commander G F Beck
* Roy Beddard
* Harry Mackie
* Brian Turgoose
Vacancy
* Judy Shepherd
* Geoffrey Johnson

*denotes Member present

\$ Denotes Member absent on Council Business

Also in attendance were

Mark Evison – Barnet Greenspaces Service

Katy Lam – Barnet Democratic Services

Andy Milne - Environmental Health Manager

Leslie Williams – Brent Parks Service

1. MINUTES (Item 1)

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 October 2006 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Andy Milne – Environment Health Manager

At the request of Members from the last meeting, the officer was invited to answer questions regarding noise complaints. The following were noted:

- complaints received would be prioritised;

- Statutory Nuisance explained;
- officers on duty had been instructed to go and inspect the complaints;
- Staffing levels in the department;
- Issue of who was responsible for dealing with noise complaints, police or Borough noise officers;
- 1 hour response time of receiving complaints; and
- The new telephony service commencing 19 February 2007 would help to improve the service.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Cummins (Brent), Councillor Mary Farrell (Brent), Peter Castle (Hendon Rifle Club) and Dr Leo Batten (Welsh Harp Conservation Group).

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Item 3)

No interests were declared.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS (Item 4)

No members of the public had asked to address the Committee.

5. WELSH HARP RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRENT) (Item 5)

Leslie Williams presented a progress report from Brent's Director of Environment and Culture detailing progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues.

Members were concerned with the frequency of patrols taking place at the Welsh Harp. Officer reported that there would be no patrols during the dark evenings in the winter period. However, the frequency would increase in the summer period.

The following were noted:

- What powers park wardens have when on patrol;
- The Management Plan would be updated in July 2007;
- Monday 28 May 2007- the annual Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day;
- Progress had been made with British Waterway regarding works on the dam wall; and
- LB Barnet would be included when reviewing and updating the Brent Biodiversity Action Plan.

RESOLVED – That the progress report on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues be noted.

6. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (Item 6)

Mark Evison presented a progress report from Barnet's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport on the position of the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) byelaws and on-going site management.

It was reported that the adverts required for the consultation of the draft byelaws would be placed in the local press this week. If the Council does not receive any objections then the draft byelaws would be confirmed by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. The signs of the byelaws would then be placed around the Welsh Harp.

The officer had looked at the dates of reported raves over the last 3 years but could not establish a pattern of when it would be likely to take place. The dates were all dispersed. The officer reported that the majority of raves in other areas were prevented by off-duty police officers reporting the information. Early reporting by residents as well as uniformed police officers were the best means of deterrence of raves taking place.

The following were noted:

- The Welsh Harp Conservation Group was thanked for collaborating with LBB Greenspaces department on the successful bid of over £9,000 received through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. Some of the planned work had started;
- An enforcement Notice had been issued with regard to the complaints of the noise coming from the dog home;
- Graffiti on the bird hide walls was discussed. It was suggested that a competition for schools to paint a picture on the blank wall would be a good way to deter graffiti; and
- The repaired bird hide had not been vandalised and that the new bird hide would have the benches and shelves repaired in 2/3 weeks.

The following were agreed:

- 1) Mark Evison to explore options of schools painting a picture on blank walls as the Welsh Harp area to deter graffiti.
- 2) Mark Evison to obtain information regarding who patrols the Welsh Harp area as members were concerned that there were no patrols taking place on the 3rd week of every month. That Sargeant Lachlan be invited to attend the next meeting to answer questions.

RESOLVED – That the progress report on the position of the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) byelaws and on-going site management be noted.

7. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS (Item 7)

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting on 3 May 2007 be noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: (Item 8)

Contamination of Neasden End of Welsh Harp:

a) A Letter was circulated at the meeting, dated 29 January 2007 regarding a meeting between British Waterways, Environment Agency and London Borough of Brent. It was in response to the issue of fly tipping and contaminated land adjacent to the industrial estate on the banks of the Welsh Harp Reservoir. The content of the letter was noted. It was reported that not all the units were involved and that an inspection of the contamination was arranged for 23 February 2007.

The issue of installing the footpath was raised. Officer reported the reasons why it would not be feasible and that there was no footpath boundary marked on the ground.

b) Members noted the Article in the local paper 'Fly tip threat to wildlife' which was circulated at the meeting.

It was agreed:

- 1) That Mark Evison to investigate Grants schemes and send Clive Cohen the details.

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES AREA URGENT (Item 9)
None.

The meeting ended at 7.57pm