

AGENDA ITEM: 6 Page nos. 7 – 10

Meeting Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date 5 February 2007
Subject **Welsh Harp Management Plan**
Report of Cabinet Member for Environment and
 Transport
Summary To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
 byelaws and on-going site management

Officer Contributors Director of Environment and Transport
Status (public or exempt) Public
Wards affected West Hendon
Enclosures None
For decision by Joint Committee
Function of Executive
Reason for urgency /
exemption from call-in (if
appropriate) N/A

Contact for further information: Mark Evison, Greenspaces Officer
020 8359 7826

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Joint Committee notes the report.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

2.1 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 9 December 2003 - approved the proposed boundary of the LNR.

2.2 Barnet's 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 Barnet's 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.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The ongoing management of the Welsh Harp contributes towards a Clean, Green and Safe borough, as described in Barnet's Corporate Plan 2006/07 – 2009/10

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 The Welsh Harp contributes to the Council's desire to make Barnet a better place to live for all its citizens. The Welsh Harp Consultative Committee will ensure that the area will be accessible in terms of physical access, the presentation of information in a range of formats and will seek to encourage visitors to the site to be representative of Barnet's diverse communities using a variety of communication formats.

6. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to provide access to open country and registered common land, modernize the rights of way system, give greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, provide better management arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and strengthen wildlife enforcement legislation. 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 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.

7.2 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 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

Local Nature Reserve and Bye-laws

- 9.1 The draft byelaws agreed at the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 have been approved by Council. A period of advertisement is required for consultation before confirmation by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. At the time of writing this process was underway and should be completed by the spring.

Cross Boundary Working

- 9.2 The outcomes of a meeting between West Hendon Safer Neighbourhood Team, Barnet Greenspaces and Brent Parks Service were:
- Physical security has been a success against vehicles
 - Police can deploy officers with advanced warning of an event
 - Police advice to residents: call Noise and Nuisance and call 999
 - Analysis of dates over past three years shows no pattern
 - Early reporting by residents is essential to preventing an event occurring
 - Contact other Local Authorities to discuss their anti-rave procedures

Vandalism to Bird Hides

- 9.3 As a result of the vandalism to the bird hide new window shutters, a steel door and a new lock have been fitted. The modifications have successfully secured the bird hide over the winter period and vandalism has decreased. The security/condition of the bird hide will be monitored over the coming months.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

- 9.4 The Welsh Harp Conservation Group and Greenspaces collaborated on a bid for funding. This bid was a success and has raised over £9000.

The following works will be completed by 31 March 2007:

A. Habitat Works

1 Main Hide willow coppice & pollarding
2 Small hide willow coppice
3 Spit willow clearance
4 Island willow coppice & veg brushcutting
5 Dump slope & North Marsh willow clearance
6 Bowling Green Pool willow clearance
7 Spray Japanese knotweed

B. Visitor facilities

1. Bird Hide improvements and upgrades
2. Allotment footpath clearance

C. Infrastructure

1. Anti-motorcycle barriers (x2)
2. Litter bins
3. Signs (incl SSSI signs)
4. relocate visitor sign boards

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 in the biodiversity section.

10.2 Anyone wishing to view the above should contact Mark Evison on 020 8359 7826

Legal :MO
CFO: MG