



Meeting: WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 13th November 2007

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Committee Rooms 1, 2 & 3, 2nd Floor, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9HD.

AGENDA

Membership:

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Members	1st Alternates	2nd Alternates
WHARTON		
FARRELL (Chair)	Eniola	Singh
MOTLEY	Kansagra	
O'SULLIVAN		

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

Councillor Harris
Councillor Hart
Councillor Johnson (Vice Chair)
Councillor Rayner

Membership continues overleaf

For further information please contact:
Matthew Mannion (Democratic Services)
Tel: 020 8937 1355 e-mail: matthew.mannion@brent.gov.uk



PLEASE RECYCLE

Dated: 06/11/07

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Membership continued:

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 Andrews 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 Colmans
John Thompson
Jon Bell
Mike Waite

Commander G Beck
Roy Beddard
Harry Mackie
Brian Turgoose
Vacancy
Judy Shepherd
Geoffrey Johnson

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- **TOILETS (LADIES/GENTS) ARE AVAILABLE ON THE 2ND FLOOR, BEFORE THE SECURITY DOORS. TOILETS ADAPTED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN BE FOUND ON THE FIRST FLOOR, NEAR THE GRAND HALL.**
- **A PUBLIC TELEPHONE IS LOCATED IN THE FOYER ON THE GROUND FLOOR, OPPOSITE THE PORTERS' LODGE.**

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Dated: 06/11/07

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Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternates

Page

- 1. Declarations of Interest**
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.
- p.1 **2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 17th July 2007**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Public Speaking Arrangements**
- p. 5 **5. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent)**
This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues.
- p. 15 **6. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Barnet)**
Officers from Barnet Council will present a verbal update on issues related to the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan.
- 7. Planning Issues (if any)**
- 8. Date of next meeting**
The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 13th November 2007.
- 9. Any Other Business**
History of Brent Reservoir – news article
- 10. Any Other Urgent Business**
Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting.



Dated: 06/11/07

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MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 7th March 2006 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell (Chair, London Borough of Brent), Councillors Motley and O'Sullivan (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Johnson (London Borough of Barnet) and Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), John Colmans (London Wildlife Trust), Frank Hewlett (Barnet Council for Sport and Recreation), Dorothy Jakes (Birchen Grove Residents' Association), Molly Savage (Local Agenda 21), Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum) and Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cummins and Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre).

Also in attendance were Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Service), Roger Jones (Barnet Parks Service), Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) and representatives of Trainingship Broadsword.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations were invited for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the municipal year. Following votes, Councillor Farrell was elected Chair and Councillor Johnson was elected Vice-Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee for the municipal year 2007/8.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 3rd May 2007

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd May 2007 be received and approved as an accurate record subject to the following alterations:

- that the reference on page 3, item 6(c) be changed from British Waterways to The Environment Agency
- that the reference on page 6, paragraph 1 be changed from the Sea cadets to Trainingship Broadsword.

4. Matters Arising

Proposed reuse of the northern arm of the Welsh Harp as a sailing base

Copies of a letter sent to, and reply received from Cllr Offord the Lead Member for the Environment at the London Borough of Barnet were circulated. These reported that Cllr Offord was of the view that the northern arm of the reservoir should not be used for sailing or similar activities. Officers from Barnet explained that further discussions were due with Cllr Offord and with Trainingship Broadsword, who had requested access, and that these would be reported back to the committee.

Enforcing by-laws

A number of members expressed concerns that the by-laws covering the Welsh Harp open space were consistently being broken with problems such as

BBQs, swimming and littering and that wardens were not present on the site often enough particularly at weekends. It was reported that this was a more significant problem in the areas operated by Barnet Council. Officers responded that wardens patrolled in a limited fashion related to the funding available and also because they hadn't witnessed many problems. Officers explained that there was a phone number publicised at Welsh Harp for problems to be reported but that it wasn't regularly used. The Chair suggested that members ensure that all incidents they witness get reported to ensure that both councils knew the full extent of any problems.

5. Public Speaking Arrangements

Two local residents spoke and both expressed concerns about the litter with the area near the north circular road and the river Brent both up and down stream of the reservoir particularly mentioned. One resident also requested that more efforts be made to provide leisure opportunities for young people as she felt the site was underused in this way.

In response to these speakers, officers agreed that there were litter problems and that they were doing their best to tackle them, in conjunction with British Waterways and the Environment Agency but that they are always looking for volunteers to help on major clean-up operations. Officers promised to examine the need for additional litter bins and dog waste bins near the North Circular road.

6. Welsh Harp Management Plan (Brent) - update

Leslie Williams introduced an item regarding the Welsh Harp management plan. He reported that, as was required, the Welsh Harp Management Plan was currently undergoing its regular review, the last having been in February 2006, and that draft copies of the new version were available on the council website. Issues that had been raised for possible inclusion were the possibility of creating more scrapes (ponds) and the requirement to control Japanese knotweed.

It was reported that British Waterways were conducting a survey into the condition of the trees on their land, including their impact on bats and other wildlife and the danger to the public from any diseased trees found. Officers reported that they would be consulted before any actions were undertaken.

Turning to general management issues, Leslie Williams reported that further attempts to clean up problem areas had been undertaken, that since the last meeting contractors had been at work on the amenity grassland in Neasden Recreation Ground area at the foot of the dam wall and that officers had been in touch with the Environment Agency and British Waterways to encourage them to attend WHJCC meetings and the agencies had responded that they would attend or submit reports as often as possible and if any significant issues arose.

It was reported that the Welsh Harp open space had failed to collect a 'Green Flag' award. It was explained that these were new awards presented to the best open spaces in the country. Officers explained that they would be

examining the report to see what would need to be achieved to enable the Welsh Harp to gain an award in future years and would report back to the next meeting.

Finally, it was reported that Brent Council was continuing to review its Biodiversity Action Plan, that the maintenance of the heritage lottery projects was continuing and that the Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Open Day was successfully held on 28th May 2007.

A discussion followed during which members expressed concerns about how the tree works were to be undertaken and asked officers to ensure that trees were only removed if absolutely necessary and, if possible, replaced with the same species. In regards to the issue of fly tipping, it was reported that British Waterways had a three year project to clean up the problem areas. Members expressed concerns about the length of the project and it was discussed whether there was anything the councils or voluntary groups could do to help speed this up.

Other issues discussed included the misconnection of waste pipes from housing and the quality of the water entering the reservoir.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted.

7. **Welsh Harp Management Plan (Barnet) – update**

Roger Jones introduced a verbal update on the Barnet side of the Welsh Harp Management Plan. He reported that they were also reviewing the plan and would be meeting with officers from Brent shortly to discuss joint issues, including tree management, litter and pollution issues.

During discussion questions were asked regarding the area of the reservoir north of Cool Oak Lane bridge in relation to requests to use that area for boating activities for young people by Trainingship Broadsword.

Several members, including those from Trainingship Broadsword, expressed concern that officers were looking to remove part of the site from leisure use. They pointed out that this area had previously been used for sailing and that they had been given assurances before the areas recent temporary closure that they would be allowed to come back but that it now appeared that this promise had been broken. Other members expressed support for the decision highlighting how the areas ecology over recent years had changed.

Officers responded that they would discuss the issue with the relevant London Borough of Barnet officers and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

It was also noted that there was a new youth sailing base due to be completed at the reservoir and that local youth groups would be welcome to make use of it when it was finished in a few years time.

During further discussion it was noted that the Metropolitan Housing Corporation, who were working to regenerate an area adjacent to the reservoir, had not been to the committee for a long time to update on their progress. Members requested that an attempt be made to invite them to the next meeting.

Officers further reported on the issue of fly-tipping and agreed to present more information at the next meeting relating to the costs and progress of removing tips. It was finally reported that tests had been run on the water quality on streams entering the reservoir and had encountered no issues.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted.

8. Planning Issues

Members of the committee reported that they had been consulted again on the plans for the Brent Cross and Cricklewood redevelopment and that part of the plans were to re-route the River Brent upstream of the Welsh Harp reservoir. Members expressed concerns about silt entering the reservoir during construction. It was reported that the developers had stated that they were aware of the issue and intended to prevent and problems.

Members asked if the detailed proposals from the developers to prevent problems could be presented to the committee at the appropriate time.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Tuesday 13th November 2007.

10. Any Other Urgent Business

It was noted that the plaque for Mike Manual had been removed, officers promised to investigate.

Members from Trainingship Broadsword expressed additional concerns regarding their ability to retain members if they weren't able to offer water-based activities.

The meeting ended at 9:03pm

M FARRELL
Chair

Mins0506/otherbods&panels/whjcc/whj07mar06



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Tuesday 13 November 2007

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Welsh Harp Management Plan

Forward Plan Ref:

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main local land-holding organisations: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.
- 2.2 Members are asked to agree the reviewed Management Plan.

3.0 Detail

Welsh Harp Management Plan

- 3.1 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is administered by officers of the land owning and land managing organisations. Annual reviews, undertaken near to July each year, are reported to Committee for their recommendations. Since 2001 this has included the additional responsibilities of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 in relation to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 3.2 The Management Plan was signed by English Nature (now Natural England) on 15 May 2003. Subsequent amendments have been reported to this Committee. Natural England have indicated that there is no need to seek their consent for minor changes to the Management

Plan. The current version of the Management Plan is available on the internet at www.Brent.gov.uk/parks . A map of the zones is also provided on the internet; and is attached to this report.

- 3.3 At the previous meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (17 July 2007) a version of the Management Plan was present that updated that agreed by the Committee in early 2006. A copy of the revised version is available on the Brent Council website. Subject to any amendments required since July 2007, the Committee's approval of the revised Management Plan is sought.
- 3.3.1 It should be noted that the Management Plan does not include or propose changes to zone 2 north of Cool Oak Lane concerning the balance between recreation and nature conservation.

Management works

- 3.4.1 At the previous meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC) information was requested on the number of litter and dog waste bins, collection frequencies, and the condition of information boards at Neasden Recreation Ground. The following information is provided:
- Litter bins: There are 20 litter bins at Neasden Recreation Ground and these bins are emptied on Mondays, Fridays and at the weekends, and more frequently if required.
- Dog waste bins: Currently there is one dog waste bin near to the Neasden Recreation Ground car park; two further bins have been lost to theft and/or vandalism. The dog waste bins are emptied twice a week by contractors to Brent Council Parks Service. The missing dog waste bins will be replaced when funding becomes available.
- Notice boards: There are three notice boards at Neasden Recreation Ground, all of which are repeatedly covered in graffiti. The graffiti is removed as soon as possible by staff of Brent Council Parks Service. Following vandalism to the front panel of the notice board adjacent to the car park, the front panel was replaced with a new panel in about June 2007, but the new panel had been vandalised by 24 July 2007. The panel of the notice board will be replaced when funding becomes available.
- 3.4.2 A number of unauthorised raves were held or potentially would have been held at the Welsh Harp since the last meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee. These were on the weekends of:
- 6 August 2007: 0130 hours to late afternoon. Wardens from Brent Council Parks Service were called to this incident and in turn contacted the Police.
- 11-12 August 2007: Brent Council Parks Service had staff on duty and turned away ravers as they arrived. Consequently the rave did not proceed.
- 25-26 August 2007: This was thwarted by combined pre-planning and actions between Barnet Council, Brent Council and the Police.

Dam wall works

- 3.5 The reinstatement of the grassland area in Neasden Recreation Ground to the south of the dam wall was completed. Full grass establishment has been achieved by the contractors to British Waterways and the land has been handed back to Brent Council Parks Service.

British Waterways

- 3.6 British Waterways are working with Brent Council and local residents to carry out some clearance works on the Brent Canal Feeder immediately south of the outfall from the Reservoir. (Brent Environmental Health are also involved with this project and report that the Community Clean-Up Day will be held on Saturday 10 November from 0930 to 1400 hours. The event is taking place at Braemar Avenue near to the access to the Canal Feeder. For more details please contact Donna Austin-Walker tel: 020 8937 5252, e-mail: env.health@brent.gov.uk). This is part of a larger project to achieve a proper maintenance agreement for the whole of the Canal Feeder.

The initial clearance of fly-tipping in the Site of Special Scientific Interest on the southern side of the Reservoir bordering the North Circular Road was carried out last year and the second phase will occur in conjunction with the Canal Feeder works identified above.

British Waterways also report that community groups may be able to obtain grant funding for the creation and management of ponds from The Waterways Trust with grants of £1,000 (to £2,000). Grants for larger biodiversity projects may also be available from a scheme recently announced by the SITA Trust.

Environment Agency

- 3.7 For the Environment Agency, Welsh Harp issues are led by the Brent and Crane Environment Management Team. They have been invited to provide an update to the Committee.

Green Flag Award application

- 3.8 Following the unsuccessful application for an award, feedback comments from the Green Flag Award judges were provided (see the Appendix to this report); some of which could be equally applicable to the Welsh Harp area as a whole. The Parks Service will consider the judges recommendations for a possible future Green Flag application for the Welsh Harp Open Space.

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.9 The Executive of Brent Council approved an updated Brent Biodiversity Action Plan in August 2007. The Biodiversity Action Plan serves as the geographic area of the local authority; and as the Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan for the Council. The Corporate BAP also includes the responsibilities of the Council in respect of the Biodiversity Duty. The BAP is available on the Brent Council website.

Heritage Lottery Award

- 3.10 Maintenance of the Heritage Lottery Fund award project continues.

Events

- 3.11 Brent Council Sports Service have initiated a Healthy Walks Programme. At the Welsh Harp these meet at the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre, Birchen Grove, every Thursday (except on Bank / Public Holidays) from 10am-11am. The walks are 'low to moderate' in pace. The nearest bus routes are numbers 182, 245, 297 and 302. For further details contact Brent Council Sports Service, tel: 020 8937 3707, [www. Brent.gov.uk/sports](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/sports) . The current programme runs until March 2008.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None specific, but some of the priorities identified in the Management Plan will require additional resources and decisions by, as appropriate, Brent Council, Barnet Council or British Waterways, if they are to be implemented in the future. For Brent Council Parks Service, the Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Brent Parks Service Parks Strategy, and Service Plan; both of which derive from the Council's Corporate Strategy. Thus implementation is partially dependent upon revenue and capital budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management. The Parks Service pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), land owners or occupiers are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England for any operation in an area of land that is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features; and Natural England will issue a consent for the works unless the operation is likely to have a significant impact on any of the notified features of interest on the site. CROW (and section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) places a duty on all public bodies to take

reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the site.

- 5.2 It is good practice for land owners or occupiers to produce Management Plans for the SSSI, which when approved by Natural England, enable the carrying out of the works specified in the Management Plan. This can reduce the administrative work inherent in obtaining consent for individual items of management work.
- 5.3 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires that from 1 October 2006 all public authorities in England and Wales have a general duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no diversity implications.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 None specific.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan co-ordinates environmental works in the Reservoir area.

Background Papers

Dated correspondence and other documents referred to in the Report including:

Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan.

Equality Impact Assessment Completion Form: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee: Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan: 20 January 2005. Form dated 06b.01.2005.

Contact Officers

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Mr Leslie Williams, Environmental Policy Officer, Brent Parks Service, 660 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HB. Tel.: 020 8937 5628. E-mail: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk

Richard Saunders
Director of Environment and
Culture

Name
Title
Unit

Meeting: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative
 Committee
 Date: 13 November 2007

Version no. 1.3
 Date: 02.11.2007

Appendix 1: Green Flag Award: Feedback comments from judges: Field Assessment Feedback 31 May 2007

Assessment Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A welcoming place	Useful road signs used to direct users to park. Large secure car park available and entrance all accessible with good clear signage. Excellent interpretation and viewing points. Signposts for London ring walk.	Inclusion of contacts of stakeholder groups on welcome signage should be considered. Local community has a significant diverse population that translation of key information might be appropriate. The site water body significance is for its waterfowls and very little information is made about the variety of species that can be seen particularly at the vantage point at main entrance.
Healthy, safe and secure	Mobile and visible warden patrols with on-site seasonal staff. Walking trail (London ring) Measures to tackle flytipping in car parks has reduced problem.	Absence of any water safety equipment or information about risks. A ROSPA risk assessment to determine appropriate measures could be commissioned. Site of old play-area needs improvement as currently seems uninviting and enclosed. Some hard surfaces require resurfacing. Potential trip hazards Progression of access to garden site will 'open the site' and improve perception of boundary security, and increase visitor numbers and provision of facilities. Evidence of BBQs. Possibly by closing car park at dusk should reduce issue of flytipping.
Clean and well maintained	Overall site is tidy and graffiti free. Site furniture well maintained and in reasonable condition. Potential for a variety of habitats.	Some litter was evident including cigarette butts around seating. As rangers also litter pick, it is questionable that enough resources allocated to waste management. Dog fouling is an issue and management seems minimal.

		<p>Clarity on dog control policy as changes to legislation have not been adopted or fully considered.</p> <p>Edging to pathways poorly defined with weeds and grass encroaching on paths in places. Paths and hard surfacing need upgrading.</p>
Sustainability	<p>Dead hedging of brush wood and chipping of wood waste to create pathways. Minimal use of herbicide and pesticide.</p>	<p>Inconsistency of waste recycling policy in management plan as no evidence of composting on site or actual need.</p>
Conservation and heritage	<p>Although the reservoir site is recognised for its habitat and waterfowl as SSI, Harp Open-space has taken steps to also improve its habitat through introduction of scrapes and marginal planting. Variety of habitat from scrub woodland and relaxed grassland management.</p>	<p>Archaeological features not highlighted.</p> <p>Clear objective for habitat management or programme of work for scrub woodland and relaxed grassland needs to be detailed. Site has great potential and appears to have very minimal intervention in management such as rotational clearance of woodland or nurturing of native species. How does the BAP actually translate to site management?</p>
Community involvement	<p>Consultation with wide stakeholder group and good relationship with local business such as the Greenhouse Nursery. Developed activities such as healthy walking programmes to users in the park</p>	<p>Some fantastic work taking place by Welsh Harp Conservation Group and Education Centre, but it is unclear how much is within the Welsh Harp Open Space rather than 'Welsh Harp' or Education Centre grounds. Appears much of the ecological community work takes place outside of the open space. Could develop participatory projects with communities to improve the open space. Sponsorship of park (planting trees/bench) or events could be further developed. Could consider introducing bat boxes, building a hide or nesting rafts although this will need to be approved by British waterways. To further develop the Education</p>

		centre work in using the open-space as outdoor resource by introducing a nature trail from centre through the open space.
Marketing	Useful website with good information about the site and activities.	Site is off the beaten track and secluded. Production of a site-specific leaflet, newsletter etc will help promote site that could be distributed through the nursery as well.
Management	Adequately resourced in terms of staffing and developed an overall vision	Would be useful to have relationship of ecology officer and links to grounds maintenance staff defined, and programme of works to conservation areas specified.
Additional comments	<p>Due to the site is part of larger collection of open-spaces with different ownership there appears to be inconsistency in approaches in management and delivery even at a local Authority level. LBB needs clear objectives (aligned with the overall SSSI aims) for the Welsh Harp Open Space and produce work programmes. Indication of financial budget allocated to each key project/programme will also confirm commitment of LBB to delivery them.</p> <p>Investment is required in site hard standing areas as many are dilapidated. Potential for education centre has not been fully realised.</p> <p>Needs clarity as to how many of the good practices or 'added value' services take place on site.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM: 6 Page nos. 15 – 17

Meeting Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date 13 November 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)
 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: Roger Jones, Chief Environmental Services Officer, 020 8359 7523

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 2007/08 – 2010/11.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 None in the context of 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, where possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

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 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 As reported at the last meeting, the Barnet Management Plan is the process of being updated by officers. The Chief Environmental Service Manager will provide a verbal update on any other management issues associated with the Barnet management of the Welsh Harp.

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.