



Meeting: WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 12th February 2008

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, 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 BRING THESE PAPERS TO THE MEETING AS THERE WILL ONLY BE LIMITED SPARES AVAILABLE

Membership continued:

Organisation

Barnet Council for Sport and Recreation
Birchen Grove Residents' Association
Brent Sports Council
British Waterways
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
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
Tara Vernon
Peter Castle
Molly Savage
Clive Cohen/John Colmans
Kate Mitchell
John Thompson
Jon Bell
Mike Waite

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

- **THE MEETING ROOM IS ACCESSIBLE BY LIFT AND SEATS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**
- **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.**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE DURING THE MEETING.



Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternates

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- 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 – 13th November 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.
- 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, 22nd April 2008.
- 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.



MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 13th November 2007 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell (Chair, London Borough of Brent), Councillors Motley, O'Sullivan and Wharton (London Borough of Brent), Councillors Johnson and Rayner (London Borough of Barnet) and Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents' Association), Molly Savage (Local Agenda 21), John Shepherd (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) and Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Hart and Leo Batten (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust), John Colmans (London Wildlife Trust), Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre), Kate Mitchell (Natural England), Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) and Tara Vernon (Environment Agency).

Also in attendance were Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Service) and John Van Rheede Toas (Barnet Parks Service).

1. Introductions and Membership Changes

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that, on the agreement of the committee, there were to be some membership alterations. She announced that Cllr Wharton was to replace Cllr Cummins as a representative of the London Borough of Brent, that Kate Mitchell was to become the representative of Natural England (formerly English Nature) and that Tara Vernon was the new member for the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED:-

that the Committee agree to the membership changes as listed above.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 17th July 2007

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th July 2007 be received and approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Metropolitan Housing Corporation

It was reported that officers had written to the Metropolitan Housing Corporation and that it was hoped they would be able to provide a presentation to the committee at forthcoming meeting. It was also suggested that Barratt Metropolitan be included in the invitation.

5. Welsh Harp Management Plan (Brent) - update

Leslie Williams introduced an item regarding the Welsh Harp management plan. He reported that the revised plan, presented in draft at the last meeting,

had received a number of minor amendments since then but no significant changes and was now ready to be published. Therefore the plan was now presented to the Committee for approval.

Moving on to report on work and issues that had arisen since the last meeting, Leslie Williams asked the committee to note the management work at the Neasden Recreation Ground including new litter and dog waste bins, that problems with raves over the summer had been dealt with in conjunction with Barnet Council and the police and that work on the dam walls and reinstatement of grasslands had been successfully completed.

It was further reported that the Environment Agency Brent Council's Environmental Health, and the local community were continuing to carry out clearance work on the canal feeder and reservoir outfall and to remove fly-tips in the area but that this work would continue throughout the winter.

Regarding the Green Flag award application, Leslie Williams explained that the award body's feedback was included as an appendix to the report and that officers were working to review these findings.

With regard to the issue of raves, it was reported that, due to advance intelligence or public warnings, action had been taken, in conjunction with the police and Barnet Council officers, to prevent or contain three raves over the summer months. Officers hoped to be as successful in the future but stressed that in many cases this relied on advance warnings from the public.

Finally, Leslie Williams reported that the Brent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which will also serve as the Corporate BAP for the Council had been approved and that Brent Council Sports Services had initiated a series of 'healthy walks' around the nature reserve to encourage residents to visit.

Following questions it was reported that the number of staff at the nature reserve changed with the seasons with more time being spent at the site in the summer months.

RESOLVED:-

- that the report be noted.
- that the reviewed management plan be agreed.

7. Welsh Harp Management Plan (Barnet) – update

John Van Rheede Toas introduced a report giving an update on the Welsh Harp Management Plan (Barnet). He asked the committee to note several specific items from the report including the increased profile being given to wardens and other officers, particularly over the summer months, and the work they were doing to patrol the area and the work they were undertaking such as litter collection and maintenance tasks. It was noted however that patrols would drop during the winter due to the normal decrease in usage during these months.

On the subject of BBQs it was reported that loopholes had been discovered in the existing bylaws that were preventing effective action from being taken and that it was hoped to address these in the new bylaws that had been presented to the Secretary of State.

Other issues mentioned were meetings that had been held with the local Iranian population and the drowning of a man in the reservoir when it was reported that the situation was handled quickly once the body discovered.

During discussion there were questions asked relating to the presence of the park wardens, their uniforms and their powers to take action. Officers responded that the wardens were dressed in uniforms and high visibility vests and that they were tasked to regularly patrol the Welsh Harp area and the West Hendon playing fields and that they had powers under the bylaws to take action in most situations but that they were trained to call the police when necessary. Members of the committee expressed the view that the wardens were not on patrol as often as suggested and officers and Barnet Councillors were asked to investigate this issue and report back to the committee. Officers were also asked to investigate whether staff had been sufficiently trained and were aware of their powers, for example in preventing people swimming or fishing in the reservoir.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted.

8. Planning Issues

The Chair asked the Committee to note that Brent had published its Local Development Plan and that an original option to change the status of the land around the Welsh Harp Education Centre had been rejected and that consequently it was still zoned as metropolitan open land and so would continue to enjoy its current levels of protection against development.

Members were also asked to note that Natural England had been approached by developers looking to purchase and demolish a number of houses local to the nature reserve with the plan of building a number of new style houses or blocks of flats.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Tuesday 12th February 2008.

10. Any Other Urgent Business

History of the Brent Reservoir

A magazine article presenting some information on the history of the Welsh Harp Reservoir, particularly in respect of its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, was presented to the Committee for information purposes.

Sea Cadets

The Committee was asked to note, following the discussions about Training Ship Broadsword at the last meeting, that there was a difference between this group, with its cadets, and the official Ministry of Defence Sea Cadets scheme and that there were Sea Cadets who were successfully operating at the Welsh Harp reservoir at the current time.

The meeting ended at 8:14pm

M FARRELL
Chair

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Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Tuesday 12 February 2008

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.

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 are undertaken annually.
- 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 A copy of the Management Plan agreed at the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 13 November 2007 has been placed on the Brent Council website.

Management works

- 3.4.1 Annual works on the marshland, this year on the Welsh Harp Open Space side of the Reservoir, are programmed for mid-January 2008. This work will involve coppicing of the willows in the marshland for the purposes of conservation of the marshland flora, to preserve views across the Reservoir and to reduce the wind shadow affects on sailing craft. The Crack Willow Tree adjacent to the small pond will be crown reduced by about a third and the limb overhanging the pond will be removed at the same time.
- 3.4.2 No raves or other unauthorised events have been reported since the last meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.
- 3.4.3 Brent Energy Solutions are completing their move to the Chapel building of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre.

Dam wall

- 3.5 The role of the Reservoir has been incorporated into Brent's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The SFRA notes that the annual risk of flooding for failure of reservoirs such as the Welsh Harp is 1 in 50,000. Therefore it is not a significant risk. Further to this, when consulted British Waterways confirmed that they have recently completed protection works to ensure the safety of the dam in the event of a maximum flood event (predicted to occur once in every 10,000 years). In the event of such a flood there would be significant flooding downstream, however the probability of this occurring is very low.

British Waterways

- 3.6 British Waterways will continue during 2008 the clearance of fly-tipping in the Site of Special Scientific Interest on the southern side of the Reservoir bordering the North Circular Road.

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.

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.8 Natural England have reported that a condition assessment of the Brent Reservoir Site of Special Scientific Interest has been undertaken; and that the SSSI has been assessed as 'Favourable'. The assessment uses information (including monitoring data collected by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group) on the species of breeding birds at the Reservoir, as the SSSI designation was based on the assemblage of breeding birds of lowland fen and open water.

Heritage Lottery Award

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

Events

- 3.10 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



Welsh Harp Reservoir: Management Plan Zones Map