

# DECISIONS OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

6 January 2009

\*Councillor John Hart (Barnet) (Chairman)  
\*Councillor Will Motley (Vice-Chairman) (Brent)

Councillors:

\*Tom Davey (Barnet)  
\*Mary Farrell (Brent)  
Julie Johnson (Barnet)  
James O'Sullivan (Brent)  
\*Hugh Rayner (Barnet)  
\*Bob Wharton (Brent)

## Organisation

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

## Representative

Vacancy  
David Carter  
John Guest  
Martin Everett  
Mike Waite  
Peter Castle  
A Jefferson  
Klaus Schuricht  
\* Molly Savage  
\* Clive Cohen  
John Colmans  
Kate Mitchell  
John Thompson  
Jon Bell  
Commander G F Beck  
\* Roy Beddard  
Jeff Bartley  
Harry Mackie  
\* Brian Turgoose  
Vacancy  
\* Judy Shepherd  
Geoffrey Johnson

\*denotes Member present

\$ Denotes Member absent on Council Business

Also in attendance were:

Roger Jones – Barnet Greenspaces  
Jonathan Regal – Barnet Democratic Services  
Leslie Williams – Brent Parks Service

## 1. MINUTES (Item 1)

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2008 be approved as a true and accurate record subject to amendment that Barnet's Greenspaces representative is Jenny Warren and not Julie as recorded.

**2. MATTERS ARISING (Item 2)**

Pollution and illegally dumped waste from the industrial estate

Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) felt it was not apparent from the minutes that the water was not safe as his dog had been harmed by the toxic water. Clive Cohen asked whether Kate Mitchell (Natural England) had contacted the Environment Agency about the pollution and illegally dumped waste from the industrial estate. The Chairman, Councillor John Hart (Barnet) said that Natural England were unable to attend and had contacted the Environment Agency.

Japanese Knotweed Control Programme

Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) enquired about the timings of the programme for treatment. Roger Jones said that the programme had been approved by Natural England, and consisted of up to three applications of herbicide (glyphosate) at specific periods of time commencing when the plants growth is around 30cms.

Unauthorised swimming

Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) asked whether a meeting had taken place as the organisation had not been contacted. Roger Jones replied that it was hoped to arrange a meeting in January / February regarding water issues / management.

Walking events

Councillor Hugh Rayner (Barnet) asked whether there were any walking events in Barnet. Roger Jones and Molly Savage (Local Agenda 21) said there were numerous organised events around the Borough. Councillor Rayner asked that Barnet’s walking events be recorded in the minutes. The walking events are as follows:

Day	Start	Finish	Location	Difficulty 1 – 5
Monday	9.30am	10.30am	Woodside Park/Totteridge	1 – 2
Monday	11.30am	12.30am	Oak Hill Park	2 – 3
Tuesday	9.30am	10.30am	Hampstead Heath	2 – 3
Tuesday	10.00am	11.00am	Watling Park	2 – 3
Wednesday	9.30am	10.30am	Friary Park	2 – 3
Wednesday	10.00am	11.00am	Oak Hill Park	2 – 3
Thursday	9.30am	10.30am	Edgwarebury Park	2 – 3
Thursday	9.30am	10.30am	Hampstead Heath	2 – 3
Thursday	2.00pm	3.00pm	Welsh Harp	1 – 2
Thursday	6.30pm	7.30pm	Copthall Stadium	3 – 4
Saturday	9.30am	10.30am	Woodside Park/Finchley Central	3 – 4
Sunday	9.00am	10.00am	Orange Tree, Totteridge Village	3 – 4
Sunday	10.30am	11.30am	Hampstead Heath	2 – 3

Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group) said that he believed the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre held walks every Thursday and that the Welsh Harp Conservation Group held a monthly Sunday walk and midweek evening walks in the Summer for spotting bats.

**3. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Item 3)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Julie Johnson (Barnet), Peter Castle (Hendon Rifle Club), Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre), Kate Mitchell (Natural England), and Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents’ Association).

**4. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Item 5)**

No interests were declared.

**5. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRENT) (Item 6)**

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.

The Committee during deliberations raised the following issues:

a) Wildflower and grassland area at Neasden Recreation Ground

Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) enquired whether the daffodils were single or multiple flowering bulbs and whether it was possible to plant bluebells. Councillor Mary Farrell (Brent) said that expert advice had been sought for the correct types of wildflower; and the results of the success of the flowering were awaited. Councillor Farrell also said that residents had been consulted and hoped that it would be as successful as a similar scheme in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Councillor Will Motley (Brent) enquired whether there will be re-seeding in future years. Leslie Williams replied that it was hoped that the wildflowers would spread naturally. Councillor Motley said that in many similar schemes only a few species of wildflower had spread naturally and recommended that the Corporation of London be contacted for their extensive research on wildflowers in Queen's Park.

Roger Jones said that Barnet had some fine examples of wildflower / meadows in Barnet's parks such as Arrandene Open Space, Friary Park, Oak Hill Park, Brook Farm, Sunny Hill Park, Mill Hill Park and Whiting Hill Open Space. There are a number of other initiatives that have taken or were taking place in parks around the Borough and these are detailed in the Greenspaces Operational Plan as listed below:

- ❖ Woodland Planting at:
  - Sunny Hill Park;
  - Waterfall Walk;
  - Bethune Park; and
  - Ducks Island / Riverside Walk.

**Action:**

Leslie Williams to contact the Corporation of London for their extensive research on wildflowers in Queen's Park.

b) Fencing to the woodland on the south side near the North Circular Road

Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) asked whether the flattened fencing near the industrial estate could be rebuilt. Leslie Williams said that British Waterways and adjacent landowners were responsible for the boundary. He felt that the clearance of the fly-tipping and the prevention of future fly-tipping was the essential issue; and that there were both disadvantages and advantages that would need to be considered if fencing were to be installed.

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

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Item 8)**

A. Barnet Council for Sport and Recreation

Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) informed the Committee that Frank Hewlett the representative of the Barnet Council for Sport and Recreation had died, and requested that a new representative be sought.

**Action:**

Jonathan Regal to contact the Barnet Council for Sport and Recreation to obtain a new representative.

B. London Parks and Gardens Trust

Leslie Williams informed the Committee that an article on the Welsh Harp had appeared in the London Parks and Gardens Trust's magazine. At the request of the Committee, the Trust's contact details are recorded as follows:

London Parks and Gardens Trust, Duck Island Cottage,  
St James's Park, London SW1A 2BJ

C. Removal of tent on north bank of the reservoir

Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum) asked Leslie Williams whether the tent erected on the north bank of the reservoir for the past 3 weeks could be removed. Leslie Williams replied that the matter would be investigated.

**Action:**

Leslie Williams to seek the removal of a tent on the north bank of the reservoir.

D. Bird Hide improvement proposals

Roger Jones said the Bird hide improvement proposals had been sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and that it was hoped to gain approval for the alternative designs in January. A new modern entrance sign will also be installed in conjunction with the bird hide repairs using money from the West Hendon Estate Regeneration section 106.

E. Litter and litter picking

Roger Jones informed the Committee that there had been no reported problems with litter bin clearance and litter picking.

F. Pollarding works in Dehar Crescent

Roger Jones said that pollarding works on three willows behind Dehar Crescent were completed in December in accordance with the management plan.

G. Tree works in Woodfield Park

Roger Jones said the dead elm copse in Woodfield Park had been removed and works had been carried out to the Oaks and other good trees to remove basal growth and low limbs that caused obstruction. A horse chestnut near to path between Woodfield Park and the Brent boundary was veteranised.

H. Replacement of 2 missing benches at the Welsh Harp tadpole pond

Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum) asked Roger Jones whether the 2 missing benches could be returned.

**Action:**

Roger Jones to investigate the possibility of replacements.

I. Signage on Barnet's side of the Welsh Harp

Councillor Hugh Rayner (Barnet) asked about the new signage on the Welsh Harp. Roger Jones advised that the new signage will be pictorial with points of interest and updated contact details etc.

At the request of Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum), Roger Jones undertook to investigate clearing the graffiti on the signs.

**Action:**

Roger Jones to investigate and remove any graffiti from signage on Barnet's side of the Welsh Harp.

J. Use of pesticides and herbicides

Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) drew attention to a book entitled 'A world without bees' that highlights the impact of pesticides and herbicides on bees. He stressed that both Councils should stop using harmful chemicals and encourage private businesses and the public about the dangers. Roger Jones said that the use of pesticides and herbicides had fallen in the past decade and that some had been banned from 2009. He stressed that the full environmental effects of pesticides and herbicides were unknown. The Chairman, Councillor John Hart (Barnet) said that he would raise a question in Council about the Council's use of pesticides and herbicides.

Clive Cohen asked whether Roger Jones could give information on pesticides and herbicides to local residents through Barnet First. Roger Jones answered that the area was very large and that a lot of research was required.

K. Request for planning applications to be considered at Committee

Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) asked whether relevant planning applications could be considered by the Committee as occurred in the past. Jonathan Regal said that it was unlikely given the time constraints. He offered to give the member organisations contact details for the planning department in Barnet and Brent so that they could be contacted when a relevant application arises.

**Action:**

Jonathan Regal to send member organisations contact details for Barnet's and Brent's planning departments.

L. Display on the Welsh Harp

The Chairman, Councillor John Hart (Barnet), informed the Committee that the Borough's Archivist had designed a display for use in libraries and schools. The display was based around a maximum of 15 images and text on several laminated and numbered A3 sheets for a mounted display. The display will cover the history of the Welsh Harp from the 1820s through to the 1960s. The display can be easily and quickly reproduced at cost, but the rights, copyright and reproduction rights of the images; and the text remain the property of the Barnet and Brent. The display could be ready for exhibition in libraries in Barnet and Brent by August 2009 for use in schools in September 2009.

7. **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Item 9)**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 8.06pm