

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 6 January 2009</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report from the Director of Environment and Culture</b></p>
For Information	Wards Affected: ALL
<p><b>Welsh Harp Management Plan</b></p>	

## 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 / Brent Reservoir Management Plan**

- 3.1 The Management Plan was signed by English Nature (now Natural England) on 15 May 2003. Reviews are undertaken annually, and amendments reported to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC). The revised Management Plan, approved by the WHJCC on 10 November 2008, is available, together with a map of the zones at [www.Brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/parks).

### **Management works**

- 3.2 Marshland works to manage the growth of willow and other trees will take place in January-February 2009. This year the works are on the Neasden Recreation Ground side of the Reservoir.
- 3.3 Neasden Recreation Ground: The wildflower and rough grassland area leading down towards the Janson Close entrance to the Park has recently been flail mown. Following consultation with residents and Councillors, this will continue annually. In excess of 200 Daffodil bulbs have been planted either side of the mown path running through the meadow, together with a wildflower seed mixture in the meadow. Goal posts have been purchased and will be installed in the mown grass area between the houses on Aboyne Road and the Reservoir.

### **British Waterways**

- 3.4 British Waterways will continue during the winter of 2008/09 with the second phase of a project to remove fly-tipping from the woodland on the south side of the Reservoir near to the North Circular Road industrial estate, (Management Plan: Zone 4C).

- 3.5 Following a report of pollution / fly-tipping, Brent Environmental Health inspected the Reservoir on about 20 November 2008.

### **Environment Agency**

- 3.6 Welsh Harp issues are led by the Brent and Crane Environment Management Team. They are continuing work on pollution prevention upstream of the Welsh Harp. Much of their work in this respect is reactive; and they will follow-up and plan future work if there are reports of incidents or other issues. Following the WHJCC meeting on 10 November 2008, Natural England have contacted the Environment Agency in respect of the SSSI to discuss the fly-tipping.

### **Heritage Lottery Award**

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

### **Events**

- 3.8 Brent Council Sports Service: The Healthy Walks Programme continues to March 2009. Walks meet at the Welsh Harp Open Space car park, Birchen Grove, every Thursday (except on Bank / Public Holidays) from 10am-11am. The walks are 'low to moderate' in pace. For details contact Brent Council Sports Service, tel: 020 8937 3707, [www.brent.gov.uk/sports](http://www.brent.gov.uk/sports),

### **Biodiversity Action Plan**

- 3.9 National Indicator 197: Brent Council has provided links for the new National Indicator 197 ('Improving Biodiversity') at <http://www.brent.gov.uk/pks.nsf/Biodiversity>.

For the Welsh Harp, assessment will be for the area of the Welsh Harp Site of Importance for Nature Conservation that lies outside of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). This is because SSSIs are included in a separate national indicator. The first assessment will cover the five-year period to 31 March 2009, and reporting will be completed in June/July 2009.

- 3.10 Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS): Brent's entry on the national reporting system has been updated. This includes outline information on those priority habitats within Brent including the habitats at the Brent Reservoir. See: <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk>.
- 3.11 Brent River Park: Downstream of the Brent Reservoir the river flows through the Brent River Park which has been entered and short-listed for The Mayor's Priority Parks scheme: see: <http://brentbrain.org.uk>.

Public voting for parks in London can also be undertaken at the Greater London Authority (GLA) website at [www.london.gov.uk/parksvote](http://www.london.gov.uk/parksvote).

## **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

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