

MEETING

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

TUESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 2018

AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, COMMITTEE ROOM 2, NW4 4BG

TO: MEMBERS OF WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor John Hart

Vice Chairman: Councillor Roxanne Mashari

Councillor Jess Brayne

Councillor Saira Don

Councillor Nagus Narenthira

Councillor George Crane

Councillor Parvez Ahmed

Councillor Vincent Lo

Organisation	Member
Barratt London	Nathan Smith
Brent River Catchment Partnership	Lucy Shuker
Canal and River Trust	Richard Bennett
Cleaner Earth UK	Peter and Renata Eros
Environment Agency	Samantha Ho
Friends of Welsh Harp	Daniella Levene
Hendon Rifle Club	Dale Langdale
Hendon Rifle Club	A Jefferson
Local Agenda 21	Julie Johnson
London Wildlife Trust	Clive Cohen
London Wildlife Trust	Dianne Murphy
London Wildlife Trust	Catherine Cullen
Natural England	Rebecca Hart
Pheonix Canoe Club	Phil Atkinson
Princess Park Youth Football Club	Christian Leite
Thames Water	Kimberley Rodwell
Thames Water	Stephen Barry
Thames 21	John Bryden
Thames 21	Chris Coode
Thames 21	Deb Frankiewicz

Thames 21	Billy Coburn
Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)	Edel Fingleton
Training Ship Broadsword	Colette Murphy
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	Roy Beddard
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	Andrew Haynes
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	John Shepherd (President)
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	David Rose (Chairman)
West Hendon Community Forum	Judy Shepherd
West Hendon Allotment Society	Liz Hall
West Hendon Residents' Association / Friends of York Park	Derrick Chung
Woolmead Residents' Association	Geoffrey Johnson

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is 15th November 2018 at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Pakeezah Rahman pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 6452.

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Service contact:

Abigail Lewis 02083594369 Abigail.Lewis@barnet.gov.uk

Media Relations Contact: Gareth Greene 020 8359 7039

ASSURANCE GROUP

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Minutes	5 - 10
2.	Absence of Members	
3.	Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests	
4.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (if any)	
5.	Terms of Reference Update	11 - 18
6.	London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan	19 - 28
7.	London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management Plan	29 - 34
8.	Thames Water Verbal Update	
9.	Any Other Business	
10.	Any Other Items that the Chairman Decides are Urgent	

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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distance away and await further instructions.

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Decisions of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

25 July 2018

Members Present:

AGENDA ITEM 1

Barnet Councillors John Hart, Nagus Narenthira, Saira Don, and Jess Brayne.
Brent Councillors Amer Agha and Parvez Ahmed.
Canal and River Trust: Richard Bennett
London Wildlife Trust: Catherine Cullen, Dianne Murphy, Clive Cohen,
Environment Agency: Samantha Ho
Hendon Rifle Club: Dale Langdale
Welsh Harp Sailing Association: David Rose, John Shepherd
Welsh Harp Conservation Group: Roy Beddard
West Hendon Allotment Society: Liz Hall
West Hendon Residents' Association: Derrick Chung
Friends of the Welsh Harp: Daniella Levene
Brent River Catchment Partnership: Lucy Shuker
Cleaner Earth UK: Peter and Renata Eros
Woolmead Residents' Association: Geoffrey Johnson

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Councillor John Hart be elected as the Chairman for the municipal year.
- (ii) That Councillor Roxanne Mashari be elected as the Vice Chairman for the municipal year.

2. MINUTES

The following outstanding items were noted:

Item 13 – Bird Flu (Avian) Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) queried whether there had been any incidents of bird flu. Richard Bennett (Canal and RiverTrust) confirmed that there were no incidents of confirmed bird flu at the Welsh Harp.

Item 7 - Hose pipe item under Management plan:

A further incident had been witnessed of a hose pipe being used to continue draining waste from a private property into the Welsh Harp.

No feedback was received and therefore the following matters were to be raised with the Greenspaces team of Barnet Council:

- a. An update on the works on Cool Oak Bridge;
- b. To obtain a report on how to deal with prevention of the drainage of waste from the hose pipe.

Nathan Smith had provided as response on the subject of bat and bird boxes which was circulated separately.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Matthew Gunyon would provide an update with regards to the hose pipe drainage of waste.
- (ii) That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as an accurate record.

3. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Matthew Gunyon, Nathan Smith and Julie Johnson.

4. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

5. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

6. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Two new voluntary organisations had put their applications forward:

1. Cleaner Earth (Peter and Renata Eros) had an interest in the lake. The organisation was founded last December and came about due to the landfill and years of neglect at the Welsh Harp. Cleaner Earth had cleaned up 30 tonnes of rubbish from Neasden Recreation Ground. They were also involved with Friends of the Welsh Harp to collectively clean up the area to reduce rubbish going into lake. Failure to do so would result in the rubbish going into the canal and eventually into the ocean. Cleaner Earth which had 15 active residents and expanding also searched for illegal camps and if there were any, they were reported. But only the Brent side was said to be monitored. There was a lot of pollution, illegal barbequing and picnicking taking place in the area.

Councillor Amer Agha from the London Borough of Brent commented that with regards to the encampment, Brent had a safer neighbourhood manager conducting regular checks. The Chair commented that it was a joint aim to keep things tidy and to keep waste down. The Chair referred the application to members and questioned whether that initiative should be represented by the Committee.

Following discussion, the Committee voted on whether to include Cleaner Earth as a member of the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee.

The Committee unanimously agreed to allow membership.

2. Brent Catchment Partnership (Dr Lucy Shuker) was committed to improving the rivers, brooks and streams within the River Brent catchment in North and West London and it was proposed that the organisation be allowed to join the Committee.

Following discussion, the Committee voted on whether to include Brent Catchment Partnership as a member of the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee. The Committee unanimously agreed to allow membership.

7. LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Leslie Williams introduced the report updating the Committee on the progress of the Brent Welsh Harp Management Plan. Mr Williams advised that appendix A of the report listed the main items on the plan. He informed the Committee that the Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) had recently been reported as present at the Welsh Harp and was considered to be a health hazard. A protein in the caterpillars' tiny hairs could cause skin and eye irritations, sore throats and breathing difficulties in people and animals who encounter them. He said priorities had been set to reduce the spread of these moths, The Welsh Harp Sailing Association reported infestation on the site and explained consultation between the Forestry Commission and Brent had taken place, resulting in plans to cut affected trees down. However, the Committee was advised that the recommendation was not to cut down trees as they did not necessarily prevent the spread of moths in all incidences. The Committee noted the best time to carry out treatment of the moths was during winter months and that members of the public who were in any doubt could report and post images of the moths onto the Friends of Welsh Harp website.

As noted above, an update had been requested from Barnet Council with regards to Cool Oak Bridge due to the site currently acting as a hotspot for fly tipping. The Committee heard the area was scheduled to be cleared once a week as a priority clearance place, located at the border of Barnet and Brent. The Committee discussed solutions to stop culprits and the possibility of CCTV being placed in the area. The Committee felt educational messages and signage information were lacking in both Brent and Barnet locations, despite continuous requests from Cleaner Earth. Councillor Agha confirmed that Brent was removing the rubbish but it was not related to the Brent bin collection services. The rubbish that was dumped was building waste and other big items, with rubbish reportedly been thrown out of moving vehicles.

The London Wildlife Trust suggested otters were present on almost every waterway and should be encouraged to the Welsh Harp by installing a suitable holt. The London Wildlife Trust suggested the Otters could also be used as a preventative measure against the invasive Crayfish species. The trust explained that the signal crayfish's extensive burrows destabilise banks, causing erosion and bank collapse, increasing flood risk and the silt load in the water. They feed on fish and amphibian eggs, tadpoles, juvenile fish, aquatic invertebrates, detritus and aquatic vegetation and where present reduce populations of native species and affect food webs.

It was requested by the London Wildlife Trust that a couple of halts should be established. Richard Bennett from the Canal & River Trust proposed to have further discussions, as there might not be opportunities for otters to spread into the Welsh Harp itself and so research needed to be conducted prior to installation of holts. The Committee were told the cost of installing holts would be minimal and would need to be implemented more on the Brent side of the Welsh Harp.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Greenspaces would be asked to introduce new bins and signage at the appropriate locations to prevent littering at hotspots.

- (ii) That Greenspaces investigate the possibility of putting in place interventions by introducing enforcement officers into the area or via installation of CCTV cameras. That the Canal River Trust, the Environment Agency and The London Wildlife Trust collectively investigate the introduction of Otters to the Welsh Harp to control the signal crayfish.

8. LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Chairman advised that Matthew Gunyon (Partnership and Development Manager, Greenspaces Barnet Council) had sent his apologies and had been unable to send a representative to the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that any actions for the Greenspaces team would be recorded and forwarded to the team following the meeting.

Councillor Brayne moved a motion requesting that Matthew Gunyon attend all future Committee meetings or send a representative for Barnet Greenspaces when unable to attend himself. This was agreed by the Committee.

Councillor Brayne queried whether the recent warm weather had impacted the Welsh Harp. The Canal and River Trust confirmed that the levels of water in reservoir were maintained and no major drops in water had been observed, compared to other reservoirs in the country. It was noted that during heavy rain, the reservoir filled up quickly.

The Committee raised concerns around the risk of fire when the height of grass was high. Councillor Agha advised that the schedule for grass cutting for Brent was available on Brent Council website.

The Committee discussed incidences of people swimming in the reservoir during the hot weather, which is dangerous due to the hidden undercurrents. The Committee discussed the fact that clear warning signs were displayed to prohibit swimming and these signs had been chosen due to their universal nature, allowing all nationalities to understand the dangers. Some members suggested police patrol the vulnerable areas.

The Welsh Harp Sailing Association said members of the public had been spotted using an inflatable dingy in open spaces on the water during sailing but it was not within the Welsh Harp Sailing Association's remit to police the waters. The Committee also suggested danger signs be placed around the edge near the sailing association jetties before the canoe club as these are particularly dangerous spots. The Committee advised that the dangers of sudden surges of water needed to be made clear to the public and suggested local papers or visual signs could be used to highlight this.

The Committee asked for an update from the Canal and River Trust on the dangerous wooden slabs that had been reported near the close by the Brent River. The Canal and River Trust pointed out that investigations including vegetation surveys were being conducted and would be completed by September.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That an update be provided from Barnet Council on how the grass is managed during the dry period from Barnet Council
- (ii) That an update on the dangerous wooden slabs near the close by Brent river which was reported to Canal and River Trust be provided.
- (iii) To communicate the danger of sudden surges of water to the public via the local paper/ have police in the area/ visual signs.

- (iv) That Mathew Gunyon or a representative from Barnet be asked to be present at all future Committee meetings.

9. VERBAL UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES IN THE WELSH HARP

None.

10. WATER TESTING VERBAL UPDATE

Samantha Ho (Environmental Agency) introduced the verbal update on the water testing around the Welsh Harp, as requested at the previous meeting. A map of the EA water quality sampling points pertaining to the Welsh Harp was included in the agenda. This showed three sampling points; the Silk Stream at Silk Bridge, A5, Hendon; Brent river at Priestly Way, Hendon; river Brent at Neasden Lane, Wembley. Water quality samples were taken of each river and given a unique reference number. Sampling was quarterly and under threat due to budgetary cuts.

The Committee discussed the recent paint factory fire incident and it was noted that the factory was closed on site but there were ongoing investigations being carried out. The cause of the fire was still unknown but a preliminary response was available. The Environment Agency (EA) were continuing to evaluate pollution around the Welsh Harp following the fire. The Committee were told the EA hotline was 0800 181716 and Blue green algae which had been reported would be analysed and taken from the Council and land owner.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Environment Agency look at sampling points around the Welsh Harp and report back to the Committee
- (ii) That the Committee be kept updated on the paint factory incident.
- (iii) The Committee suggested members conduct the following where possible:
 - An organised walk around the reservoir
 - Participation in the London River Sweep that tackled invasive species with members of the public.
 - Attend 'Clean up events' The Welsh Harp Sailing Association could take members out on the water

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The West Hendon Residents Association reported that the Silk stream under the bridge near Rams Close was reportedly being littered continuously and that preventions were to be put in place.

Councillor Brayne suggested that if the Residents' Association did not get a response from the Council on issues, they should email their Local Councillors.

Action: Matthew Gunyon


Richard Bennett requested projector facilities be used at future meetings to aid the discussions and demonstrate photos or actions.

Clive Cohen from the London Wildlife Trust suggested members introduce themselves at the start of the meeting.

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20th November 2018</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Update to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee terms of reference</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>West Hendon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A – Update Terms of reference</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Abigail Lewis – Governance Officer Barnet Abigail.Lewis@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>Pakeezah Rahman – Governance Support Officer Pakeezah.Rahman@barnet.gov.uk</p>
<p>Summary</p>	
<p>The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee has its own terms of reference which have been updated to reflect the current membership and publication deadlines for this committee.</p>	

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee agree the changes made to the Terms of Reference.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The Terms of Reference for this committee have been updated to reflect the changes in membership since last agreed and to bring the report deadlines in-line with other committee deadlines.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The report provides the Committee with the opportunity to discuss the changes that have been made.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

Not applicable

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The views of the Committee in relation to this matter will be considered.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities that Barnet’s parks and open spaces will be amongst the best in London. The need to develop more innovative ways of maintaining its parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 N/A

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 N/A

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Barnet’s Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.01 that the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these Local Authorities.

5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 There are no risks identified.

5.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

N/A

5.7 **Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 Not applicable

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 N/A

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 N/A

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WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – CONSTITUTION

A. TITLE

The body shall be called the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (hereafter called “the Committee”).

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee is a consultation body and is not a statutory committee of either Barnet or Brent London Boroughs. Therefore, the Committee does not have an automatic right to place items on the agenda of the local authorities’ committees and has no power to make decisions on their behalf. Its terms of reference are as follows: -

- (i) to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation/leisure/maintenance/nature conservation and the statutory requirements of the British Waterways Board and the Environment Agency at the Welsh Harp; with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.
- (ii) to advise officers of the London Borough of Brent who will, if necessary, report to the appropriate committees on the future development of the Welsh Harp area and associated issues.
- (iii) to advise officers of the London Borough of Barnet who will, if necessary, report to the appropriate committees on the future development of the Welsh Harp area and associated issues.

C. REPRESENTATION

The Committee shall comprise:

(i) London Borough of Brent representatives

Four members of the Council of the London Borough of Brent, appointed annually by the London Borough of Brent.

(ii) London Borough of Barnet representatives

Four members of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet, appointed annually by the London Borough of Barnet.

- (iii) In addition, the following local organisations shall be represented on the Committee. Although more than one person from each of the local organisations may attend, only one vote per organisation will be permitted (see G (5) below)

Name of Organisation	Number of Votes per Organisation
Barratt London	1
Brent River Catchment Partnership	1
Canal and River Trust	1
Cleaner Earth UK	1
Natural England	1
Environment Agency	1
Friends of Welsh Harp	1
Hendon Rifle Club	1
Local Agenda 21	1
London Wildlife Trust	1
Phoenix Canoe Club	1
Princess Park Youth Football Club	1
Training Ship Broadsword	1
West Hendon Community Forum	1
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	1
West Hendon Allotment Society	1
Thames Water	1
Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)	1
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	1
West Hendon Residents' Association and Friends of York Park	1
Woolmead Avenue Residents' Association	1

Additional organisations may apply to the Committee to be represented. Applications should be forwarded in writing to the Committee Clerk for the municipal year, who will arrange for the request to be reported to the Committee for decision.

The Committee, when considering an application, must be satisfied that the organisation has sufficient interest in the Welsh Harp to justify its nomination.

Members groups should periodically review their qualification to serve on the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee in view of the criteria laid down.

In the event of a Council representative resigning during the terms of his or her appointment, the respective Council shall nominate a representative who shall serve in his or her place for the remainder of the period.

In the event of a representative of a local organisation resigning, the organisation concerned shall be entitled to nominate a representative or substitute who will serve in his or her place.

Officers from the London Boroughs of Barnet and Brent shall attend as necessary to introduce reports and to answer questions and advise the Committee.

D. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Committee shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at the first meeting in each municipal year. The nominees for these positions must be Members of either the London Borough of Brent or Barnet and only one of the positions may be held by each local authority in any one year. The position of Chair should be held by a member from the local authority providing clerking support for the municipal year. The election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be made by elected Councillors only.

E. SERVICING OF THE COMMITTEE

Servicing of the Committee shall be shared between officers of the London Borough of Brent and Barnet on an alternate yearly basis. The officer responsible shall be referred to as the Clerk.

F. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet three times a year but other meetings may be convened, as required, by the officers in consultation with the Chair. Meetings will be held at the offices of either the London Borough of Brent or the London Borough of Barnet and the date and a meeting place for each meeting shall be decided at the preceding meeting. All meetings will terminate by 10.00 pm.

G. PROCEDURE

1. Access by the Public

- (i) Meetings of the Committee shall normally be held in public except where either the local authorities or a member organisation consider that the item they have placed on the agenda is not for public discussion. For these items, the press and public and any visitors will be excluded and the reports will normally be printed on blue paper. The Committee will not have the right to move these items into public session.

2. Visitors

- (i) By prior arrangement with the Chair, persons who are not members of the Committee may attend to address the Committee on a particular issue or item.
- (ii) The Chair will request all visitors to leave the meeting when exempt reports are considered.
- (iii) A visitor should submit their request three days before the meeting to the Clerk , who will obtain the Chair's consent to their visit.

3. Items on the Agenda

- (i) Items either from officers or from members of the Committee must be sent to the Clerk at least 7 working days before the meeting.
- (ii) No business other than that appearing on the agenda shall be transacted unless the Chair decides that it is urgent.

4. Quorum

No business shall be conducted unless one quarter of the members of the Committee including at least two local authority members are present. After a meeting has commenced if at any time it becomes inquorate no further business shall be transacted and the meeting shall stand adjourned.

5. Voting

- (i) Decisions will normally be reached by a majority of those present and eligible to vote. Only one vote per member will be permitted (see C above).
- (ii) The Chair will have a casting vote.

6. Disorderly Conduct or General Disturbance

- (i) The Chair will have the authority to request the removal of or to take any other lawful action against any person who, in the opinion of the Chair, misconducts himself or herself in order to cause a disturbance.

7. Circulation of Minutes

Minutes will be circulated within 15 working days to:

- (i) members of the Committee and relevant officers;
- (ii) Minutes will also be placed on both Council's websites.



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

20 November 2018

AGENDA ITEM 6

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment

WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	1
Background Papers:	▪
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Barham Park Project Officer, Regeneration & Environment, Brent Civic Centre. E: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8937 5628

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2018/19 year to date. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan (dated 15 March 2016) is available on the Brent Council website at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks/park-finder/welsh-harp-reservoir/>

3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan which lists current year progress and actions that may require a longer time-frame and/or for the resources to be identified to undertake the action. For

this committee the Action Plan is updated as Appendix A. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress.

- 3.3 The last meeting of the Committee made the suggestion that the Action Plan be presented in 'traffic-light RAG' format to facilitate tracking of progress and discussion. This is done for this report and thus the report focuses on the Action Plan.
- 3.4 Consultation on Public Space Protection Orders in Brent's parks and open spaces: Following an earlier round of consultation by Brent Council, some changes have been made to the prescribed prohibitions and the scope has also been widened to incorporate all graveyards and cemeteries in Brent. The consultation continues to 16 November 2018. Documents are available by accessing the Brent Council website or via the following link:

https://brent.objective.co.uk/portal/parks_open_spaces_graveyards_and_cemeteries_public_spaces_protection_order

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan provides recommendations for works to be undertaken. Works are only undertaken when approved by the service responsible for delivering the works within existing approved budgets.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, land owners or occupiers, and also public bodies, are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England where they wish to carry out, or cause or permit to be carried out 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 (this requirement applies to operations within a site of special scientific interest ('SSSI'), and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest); and Natural England will issue consent, with conditions or refuse consent. Failing to follow this process is a criminal offence which may result in a fine and a restoration order. 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. When advice is obtained from Natural England prior to carrying out the works an explanation of how the Council has taken into account any advice Natural England has given should be provided –

The Council must be able to show that it considered alternatives that could reduce the impact on the SSSI –

The Council should demonstrate how the Council has assessed differing interests (including the special interests of the SSSI) in deciding to go ahead with the works.

- 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 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.
- 5.4 The owner of land included in a SSSI has a legal duty to inform Natural England within 28 days of any changes in ownership or occupation of the site, including leases, easements and rights.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 Decision makers must have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. Consideration of the duties must precede the decision. It is important that regard is had to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material. The public sector equality duty is set out at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and is as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) Tackle prejudice, and

(b) Promote understanding.

The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race,
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil partnership

6.2 No potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified at this stage. However, the equalities implications identified in the Equality Analysis will continue to be considered and assessed as further data / information is obtained or becomes available during the implementation process.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 None specific.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 None specific.

<p>AMAR DAVE Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment</p>
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APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2018-2019

The Management Plan outlines the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir. These are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable in the short term. This Action Plan tracks current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress: 2018-19 to 19 October 2018
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (C&RT)	C&RT	Maintain. On-Going	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing and sports development	WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	Led by the sailing and water sports clubs.
Litter. Clean up projects.	Brent Council. Barnet Council. Canal & River Trust. Thames 21. Environment Agency.	Landowners: Brent Council, Barnet Council, Canal & River Trust. Leaseholders. Also much volunteer involvement.	On-going.	Volunteers from the local community and the Welsh Harp Litterpickers have made recent contributions along the reservoir edge at Neasden Recreation Ground; and elsewhere around the Reservoir. Brent Council clean up of parts of Neasden Recreation Ground earlier in year. Litter on the shoreline remains at locations.

River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year.	Maintenance is on-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site. Note also the actions to contain and reduce run-off and pollution following a fire in early 2018 near to Staples Corner.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.
Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 rafts.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts.	On-going. Autumn / winter.	WHCG have a programme for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. Recent problems with access for maintenance due to alluviation.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	The WHCG organise projects around the hides during the winter of 2018/19.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	Led by the WHCG. Autumn / winter works.
Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.

Marshland: maintain	Brent Council, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Canal and River Trust.	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports (by reducing excess growth of trees).	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	Willow growth is exceeding management work on the shoreline. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) has reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland. Discussions by sailing clubs, Brent, C&RT and other partners: autumn 2018.
Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet.
Marshland: increase	Brent, Barnet, Brent Catchment Partnership	Investigate sources of finance for long-term restoration of river catchment; and for flood alleviation.	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports.	Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.

South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	The boardwalk is damaged.
Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species	C&RT, Barnet Council, Brent Council	Brent parks have been dealing with Japanese Knotweed at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Thames 21 are investigating possible systems for mapping of invasive species; possibly by linking to existing work by other recording partners.	Control of these species requires continuing attention: timely short-term control; control at the time of other works; and as part of longer term management.	On-going by Brent Council and Barnet Council. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment. Operational knowledge is also shared via the River Brent Catchment Partnership. Project led by River Brent Catchment Partnership to reduce Himalayan Balsam scheduled on 1st July 2018. However, on balance, considerable issues remain with invasive species.
Wet woodland	C&RT, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing.
Grasslands, paths cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded. Current path cutting estimated at £5,000 / year.	Spring to autumn.	Paths maintained but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland). Grasslands: A new grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) in spring 2018. Includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value. Fine-tuning in 2019; and aiming for long-term improvements to biodiversity and amenity value.

Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Un-funded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, (Brent)	Thames 21 are managing the Centre following a Community Asset Transfer from Brent Council.	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre re-opened from January 2016.	Thames 21 have managed the Centre from January 2016.
Allotments	Brent, West Hendon Allotment Society	Brent: refer to Allotments and Food Growing Strategy. Barnet: West Hendon Allotments are self-managed by the holders.	Allotments are maintained. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close, commenced in 2013.	West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, and other parks furniture. Litter collection.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	Maintained; and well-used. Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.

Wood Lane traffic: Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.	Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017.	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2018/2019. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).
Signage	Brent / Barnet.			Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 -	Action Plan published at: http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/


Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

20 November 2018

Title	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Strategic Director - Environment
Wards	West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	None
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Matthew Gunyon, matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7403

Summary

To update the committee regarding the on-going site management issues and report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Officers Recommendations

1. That the committee consider and note the contents of this report and to invite the committee to make comments on the contents of the report.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee comprises of British Waterways, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee only and meets on a quarterly basis.

1.2 The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter as follows:

1.3 Illegal encampments

The Greenspaces Team has worked closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments;

- A small camp was in West Hendon Playing Fields, this has been cleared completely
- A larger camp was near to housing development, the occupants were removed however due to access issues the Greenspaces Service was not able to remove the waste.

1.4 Litter

Due to the abnormal weather, this summer the council notices a larger than usual amount of litter across the borough. Bin collections were increased where resources permitted.

1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court

SLC (The Sport, Leisure and Culture Consultancy) is currently undertaking an engagement exercise on the first draft of the West Hendon Sports Hub Master Plan. The engagement will run from 5 Nov – 2 Dec.

Details of the draft Master Plan and how to get involved with the engagement will be provided at the meeting.

The council is moving ahead with the creation of a temporary Ball Court on one of the Tennis Courts in West Hendon Playing Fields, these works will start early in 2019.

1.6 Wider Area Improvements

The council will seek to align the West Hendon Master Plan with other improvements and enhancements to the surrounding area including the SSSI. Section 106 monies that relate to mitigation measures for the SSSI will be used to deliver improvements. The council is engaging with London Wildlife Trust to help to deliver a first phase of improvements, details will be provided once the specification and workplans have been finalised.

1.7 Drainage Encroachment

The two identified drainage encroachments have been repaired by the council and we are seeking to reclaim costs from the offending individuals.

Any such issues should be reported to parks@barnet.gov.uk this will then be investigated by an officer, enforcement action and relevant repairs completed as appropriate.

1.8 Cool Oak Lane Bridge

The Highways Team has reported that the section of Cool Oak Lane Bridge that had been damaged has had the following repairs;

- Coping stone repairs and repointed on the wall parapet.
- The bridge itself has been resurfaced and remarked.
- New safety bollards have been installed.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee include that it considers and co-ordinates all the interests of recreation, leisure, maintenance and nature conservation with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The committee note the actions being implemented as set out under section one.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities that Barnet's parks and open spaces will be amongst the best in London. The need to develop more innovative ways of maintaining its parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within the existing Greenspaces budget.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners

should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 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.
- 5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:
“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 Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation”.
- 5.4.3 Barnet’s Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.01 that the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these Local Authorities.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 *There are no risk management issues associated with this report.*

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 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, wherever possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises of the land owners, legislative bodies, and third sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

5.8 **Insight**

- 5.8.1 None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: www.brent.gov.uk/parks in the biodiversity section.

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