



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
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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.