



## Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

19 November 2020

<b>Title</b>	London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update
<b>Report of</b>	Executive Director - Environment
<b>Wards</b>	West Hendon
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	None
<b>Enclosures</b>	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 is comprised of Canals and Rivers Trust, 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 continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments;
- 1.4 Litter and Flytipping
- 1.4.1 A request has been put to the Barnet Community Safety Team to consider the need for CCTV along Cool Oak Lane.
- 1.4.2 Fly Tipping should be reported to the [BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk)
- 1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court
- 1.5.1 The Sports Hub Master Plans which covers West Hendon Playing Fields and Barnet/Kind George V Playing Fields Master plans were presented to the Environment Committee 12 March 2020 (<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=695&MIId=9910&Ver=4>), the committee approved the following recommendations;
1. That the Committee noted the outcomes of the public and stakeholder consultation on the draft Master Plan for Barnet and King George V Playing Fields.
  2. That the Committee approved the Final Master Plan for Barnet and King George V Playing Fields.
  3. That the Committee noted the outcomes of the public and stakeholder consultation on the draft Master Plan for West Hendon Playing Fields.
  4. That the Committee approved the Final Master Plan for West Hendon Playing Fields including the inclusion of Woodfield Park in the Final Master Plan.
  5. That the Committee noted that the Business Cases for the Sports Hubs for Barnet and King George V Playing Fields, and West Hendon Playing Fields will be reported to a future meeting of the Environment Committee and other Theme Committees as appropriate.

- 1.5.2 Key changes to the West Hendon proposal following the review of the consultation;
  - 1.5.2.1 Relocation of car parking to Woodfield Park. The proposed car park would be 94 spaces compared to the 99 spaces provided in the Cool Oak Lane car park.
  - 1.5.2.2 Relocation of the high ropes course to Woodfield Park.
  - 1.5.2.3 Include a new pedestrian crossing point along Cool Oak Lane to provide safe access between West Hendon Playing Fields and Woodfield Park.
  - 1.5.2.4 Simplified pedestrian / cycle route through SSSI and relocation of proposed bird hides.
  - 1.5.2.5 Include increased planting to create a 'buffer zone' between the Astro Turf Pitches and Local Nature Reserve.
- 1.5.3 One of the tennis courts in West Hendon Playing Fields is being converted into a Basketball Court. Posts have been erected and we are seeking quotations to complete an overlay of the playing surface along with new lines.
  - 1.5.3.1 Note these facilities are currently close due to the current government guidelines in relation to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

## **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 8.1 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 **Corporate Parenting Principles**

5.7.1 N/A

## 5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

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

## 5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 None

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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