



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 7.00 pm

This will be held as an online virtual meeting via MS Teams

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Vincent Lo (Chair)

Anne Clarke (Vice-Chair)

George Crane

Saira Don

John Hart

Parvez Ahmed

Roxanne Mashari

Nagus Narenthira

Representing

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Barnet

Substitute Members (Brent Council)

Councillors:

Amer Agha, Liz Dixon, Harbi Farah and Shama Tatler

Substitute Members (Barnet Council)

Councillors:

Alex Prager and Helene Richman

Membership continued:

Organisations

Brent River Catchment Partnership
Canal and River Trust
Cleaner Earth UK
Environment Agency
Friends of Welsh Harp
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
Phoenix Canoe Club
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)
Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
West Hendon Allotment Society
West Hendon Community Forum
West Hendon Residents' Association /
Friends of York Park
Woolmead Residents' Association
Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association

<p>For further information contact: Andrew Phillips, Governance Officer 0208 937 4129, Andrew.Phillips @brent.gov.uk</p>

<p>For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: democracy.brent.gov.uk</p>
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The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting as an online virtual meeting. The link to attend and view the meeting is available [HERE](#)

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:

- To which you are appointed by the council;
- which exercises functions of a public nature;
- which is directed is to charitable purposes;
- whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).

- (b) The interests of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for absence and declaration of any alternate members	
2 Declarations of Interests Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.	
3 Deputations (if any) 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. Any members of the public wishing to address the committee should submit their request at least 3 days in advance of the meeting to the contact officer named on the agenda. The request will then be passed to the Chair for consideration.	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 28 July 2021 as a correct record.	1 - 8
5 Matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DEFRA response from Rebecca Pow MP, regarding trash screens issue.	9 - 10
6 Management Plan (Barnet) The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee comprises British Waterways, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee and meets on a quarterly basis. The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues identified within the report during this quarter.	11 - 16

7 Management Plan (Brent)

17 - 34

This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2020/21 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.

8 Welsh Harp Vision- Verbal Report

To receive a verbal update on the Welsh Harp 'Vision' project that involves Brent and Barnet Councils, the Canal and River Trust; the London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority and Thames 21.

9 Dates of Future Meetings

To note the following dates for future meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee:

- Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7pm- to be held as an online meeting

10 Any other urgent business

No business other than that appearing on the agenda shall be transacted at the meeting unless the Chair decides that it is urgent. Any member of the committee wishing to raise an item of urgent business should provide sufficient notice to permit consideration by the Chair.

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MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Held as an online meeting on Wednesday 28th July 2021 at 7.00 pm

Members Present:

Councillor Vincent Lo (Chair)	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Parvez Ahmed	London Borough of Brent
Councillor John Hart	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Roxanne Mashari	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Nagus Narenthira	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Helene Richman	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Alan Schneiderman	London Borough of Barnet
Peter Eros	Cleaner Earth UK
Lucy Shuker	Brent River Catchment Partnership
Thomas Oliver	Canal and River Trust
Neil Earnshaw	Canal and River Trust
Danielle Levene	Friends of Welsh Harp
Dale Langdale	Hendon Rifle Club
Dianne Murphy	London Wildlife Trust
John Shepherd	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Judy Shepherd	West Hendon Community Forum
Liz Hall	West Hendon Allotment Society
Andrew Haynes	Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Leo Batten	Welsh Harp Conversation Group
Freda Raingold	Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association
Julie Johnson	Local Agenda 21
Geoffrey Johnson	Woolmead Residents Association
Commander G.E Beck MBE	Training Ship Broadsword
Nathan Smith	Barrett Homes

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2021-22

Councillor Vincent Lo (Brent) was elected as Chair and Councillor Anne Clarke (Barnet – in her absence) as Vice-Chair of the Joint Consultative Group for the 2021-22 Municipal Year.

2. Apologies for Absence and clarification of any alternate Members

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Crane (London Borough of Brent) and Councillors Anne Clarke & Saira Don (London Borough of Barnet) with Councillors Alan Schneiderman & Helene Richman substituting for each member from the London Borough of Barnet. Apologies for absence were also received from Derrick Chung (West Hendon Residents Association).

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

4. Deputations (if any)

None.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

AGREED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 4 March 2021 be approved as a correct record

6. Matters Arising

The following issues were raised under Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

- (a) Further clarification was sought by a member of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group on the statement included within Minute 4a relating to the felling of a stretch of willow trees adjoining the Barrett Housing Development. It was not felt, as had been stated by Natural England, that sufficient alternative screening and protection was present in the area with concerns highlighted at the way in which the felling had been undertaken and gaps this had created along with the impact on the diversity of flora and water birds in the area. As a result it was agreed that a further response should be sought from Natural England regarding this issue.
- (b) In relation to Item 5 of the previous minutes, it was noted that a response had yet to be obtained from Matthew Gunyon regarding the correspondence obtained from Matthew Offord MP from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on the issue of trash screens. It was agreed that this would be followed up in order to obtain a response.

7. Membership Application

The Committee were asked to consider a membership application from the Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association. In considering the application, it was noted that the Resident Association had been an active local organisation in relation to their involvement with the Welsh Harp and that they were looking forward to contributing as a member organisation on the Joint Consultative Committee.

Freda Raingold (Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association representative) was invited to address the Joint Consultative Committee as Chair of the Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association in support of their application and highlighted the Association's involvement in seeking to improve and protect the Welsh Harp and contribution which it was felt they could make to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee, which was welcomed by Members.

As a result of the discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the application and addition of the Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association as a member organisation on the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.

8. Membership Plan (Brent)

Leslie Williams presented a report outlining progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2020/21 year to date. The Management Plan was jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust.

In introducing the item, Lesley Williams drew the Committee's attention to the updated Action Plan attached as Appendix A to the report which detailed current progress and highlighted those actions that may require a longer time frame and/or the identification of the necessary resources.

In terms of specific issues, Lesley Williams highlighted the marshland conservation works which had been postponed due to the pandemic but were due to recommence after the bird breeding season in September 21. It was noted this would primarily be on the Canal and River Trust land, also touching upon the margins of the marshland edge of the reservoir range, as well as open spaces with a rich array of wildflowers, shrubs and trees. The work would be conducted by volunteers with the main focus on the southern shore of the reservoir and consent obtained from Natural England for the programme of works. In noting the nature of work to be undertaken the Committee were advised of the positive impact which it was expected to have in relation to habitat and wildlife, tree growth, landscape and amenity and also water sports. It was also noted that the works to be undertaken would need to be carefully managed given some of the intricate variations in vegetation on the southern side of the reservoir and need to consider the method of working to re-open views and stack the cut material.

Further updates were provided in relation to the work with partner organisations on litter clearance and the healthy walk programmes. Member organisations were also informed of reports that the oak processionary moth species had also recently been spotted at the Welsh Harp Open Space. The species could be an irritant to skin and lungs and whilst most people were unaffected, this could cause allergic reactions. The Forestry Commission had been working to try to control the spread of the species, with more details available via the link included in the Committee report.

Finally, the Committee was advised of the ongoing work relating to the future of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre, once it had been vacated by Thames 21. This involved a range of discussions with existing partners to understand the opportunities at the location in terms of its ongoing role as an education centre.

Thomas Oliver (Canal and Rivers Trust Local Area Operations Manager) was then invited to update the Committee on additional issues from an environmental perspective. He took the opportunity to advise members of the recent discovery of blue-green algae in parts of the reservoir. Whilst a natural occurrence, given the hazardous nature of this algae he advised that notifying signs had been installed to provide the necessary warning and the environmental team were also aware.

Questions and comments were then invited on the update, with the following issues raised.

A question was asked about the Brent Management Plan and what was meant by the reference under Marshland (northern arm of reservoir) to 'Restoration of shore by phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment'. In response, Lesley Williams clarified that this related to part of the Barnet Management Plan and involved the clearance of screening willow trees on the bank of the North marsh of the reservoir. As highlighted earlier in the meeting, further concerns were expressed in relation to the loss of the trees with Neil Earnshaw (Canal and River Trust) advising, in response, that this work was carried out on the condition of replanting and reinstatement and in consultation with ecologists, Barretts, the Canal and River Trust and London Borough of Barnet. The aim had been to open up the view of the reservoir.

In view of the concerns expressed, members were keen to ensure that any similar type of work undertaken in the future was managed in a more sensitive way, given the ecological impact with an assurance provided that Natural England had also been consulted to ensure the work was undertaken in an appropriate way. Confirmation was provided that replanting was already in progress with the Canal and River Trust also willing, if necessary, to provide details of the work agreed at the time.

As no further issues were raised it was **AGREED** to note the Management Update from Brent

9. Membership Plan (Barnet)

Cassie Bridger (Operational Director – Environment Barnet Council) presented a report updating the committee regarding the on-going site management issues and the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The Committee noted that Barnet Council had been progressing the masterplan for West Hendon Playing Fields, with a business case having now been approved by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on the 16th June. The business case included £18.8m of capital funding for delivery of the scheme, with the Council now working towards forming a Programme Board and a Project Team in order to develop the design work towards submission of a future planning application. The Committee requested that detail around development and delivery of the masterplan be reported to a future meeting. The link to the report considered by the Policy & Resources Committee is available below:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10888&Ver=4>

In terms of other recent activity, the Committee were advised of the work undertaken in relation to litter clearance efforts around the Welsh Harp as part of a borough-wide anti-litter and fly tipping campaign. This had involved a range of partners and local community groups with all involved thanked for their efforts. Details were also provided on the work being undertaken by Barnet's Greenspaces and Community Safety Teams, local police and other partners to identify and remove illegal encampments located around the Welsh Harp.

Questions and comments were then invited on the update, with the following issues raised.

Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum) expressed a number of concerns relating to problems being caused by an increase in illegal night time fishing around the Welsh Harp and the use of pontoons, with details sought on what preventative measures were being taken to tackle the issue. Cassie Bridger advised that the Council were aware of the issue and had installed and updated the signage in the area in order to provide clear guidance. In terms of wider enforcement activity 'ParkGuard' an organisation commissioned by Barnet to support park patrols and carry out enforcement activity would also be tasked (based on an intelligence led approach) and deployed to provide additional patrols in the area.. It was confirmed that whilst the primary goal would be to 'engage and educate' the officers involved did have enforcement powers that could be used, if required. Chris Whyte (Operational Director, Environment Services, Brent Council) advised that Brent would also be willing to work in partnership with Barnet in order to support any relevant enforcement activity through its Neighbourhood Patrol Team. Neil Earnshaw (Canal and River Trust) advised they would also be willing to support any action taken working with their Fisheries Team. Given the level of concern expressed it was **AGREED** that a joint update from Barnet & Brent be provided for the next meeting outlining the current restrictions, measures available, risks and action being taken to address the concerns raised in relation to illegal night time fishing at the reservoir.

Member organisations were advised that in order to support the deployment of the Neighbourhood Patrol teams any incidents witnessed could be reported via the Parks@barnet.gov.uk mailbox or on 0800 807060

A further issue was raised in relation to progress on the footbridge across the Northern Marsh. In response the Committee was advised that a meeting had now taken place with discussions progressing and on which a further update would be provided for the next meeting of the Committee.

As no further issues were raised it was **AGREED** to note, subject to the actions identified above) the Management Update from Barnet.

10. Welsh Harp Vision- Verbal report

Neil Earnshaw (Canal and River Trust) was then invited to provide the Joint Consultative Committee with an update on the Welsh Harp "Vision" project which involved both Brent & Barnet Councils, the Trust, London Wildlife Trust, Thames 21, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Natural England. The project had been established to develop an overarching vision for the Welsh Harp and review of the Management Plan. It was reported that DK-CM had been appointed as the lead consultant on the project and to lead on the detailed engagement process.

The Committee was advised that the initial phase of the project would involve the development of a strategic focus involving a baselining exercise to understand the environmental and social features of the Welsh Harp, which had been underway for two to three weeks. This baselining phase was expected to last until mid-August,

prior to a more detailed engagement programme aimed at reaching out to a range of different organisations and local interest groups, including all members of the Joint Consultative Committee. The committee was advised this would be a citizen led approach, to give a strong voice to those already engaged and knowledgeable around the reservoir and Welsh Harp, with the intention of building a social and ecological portrait of the area and responding to the need for improved mapping and updating of biological records.

In terms of stakeholder engagement, the Committee was advised this would consist of a series of online and in person events designed to engage stakeholders, members of the public as well as previously hard to reach groups such as young people. The aim of the project would then be to produce a joint vision for the Welsh Harp, which it was planned to publish in November. This would then form the basis of supporting further partnership funding bids relating to ongoing management of the reservoir and the local environment. In terms of funding already secured, this included the Peoples Postcode Lottery (to support wetlands restoration work), as well as commitments from Natural England, both Barnet and Brent Councils, the Wildlife Trusts, GLA and Thames 21 in order to work collectively to ensure that all objectives were aligned to ensure the best outcome for the Welsh Harp as a site of specific scientific interest

Questions and comments were then invited on the update, with the following issues raised.

In response to a request for further details on the baseline assessment being undertaken, Neil Earnshaw advised that whilst the aim was to include a full ecological appraisal this was initially being based, due to the need to manage costs, on the use of existing knowledge and subsequent verification by ecologists. Support for the project was also expressed by Thames 21 at the meeting with the Committee endorsing the approach outlined and inclusion of key deliverables as part of the final vision.

The suggestion was also made regarding use of volunteer ranger posts to support the engagement process. Member organisations were also keen to ensure that ways in which it may be possible to secure the sustainable long-term future of the Education Centre was included for consideration as part of the project.

Given the importance of the project, the Committee **AGREED** that progress updates should continue to be provided along with details on the final outcome in terms of the vision developed once complete.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

The dates for future meetings of the Committee were noted, as follows:

- Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 7pm (hosted by Brent) – to be held as an online meeting
- Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7pm (hosted by Brent) – to be held as an online meeting

12. Any other business

12.1 Welsh Harp Waste Management

An update was sought regarding progressing in addressing the issues raised at the previous meeting regarding waste and litter management. In response Neil Earnshaw (Canal and River Trust) advised that a series of meetings had now been held with a range of different stakeholders in order to progress a programme of active on-site clean ups within the area. Discussions had also been held with the Environment Agency in order to consider how clearance and regular servicing of the debris traps could be improved.

Thomas Olivier (Canal & Rivers Trust) advised that he would also share dates of future volunteering events to assist in the clearance programme and reminded those present of the need to avoid attempting to clear the debris traps by hand, given the safety issues identified.

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Rebecca Pow [The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

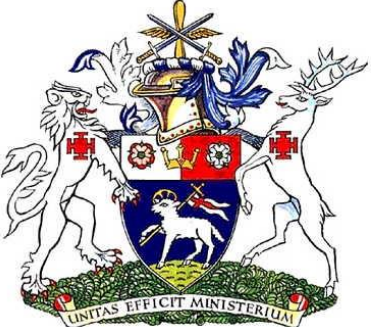
[The Welsh Harp](#) or Brent reservoir is owned by the [Canal and River Trust](#).

As the Environment Agency does not own the asset, it is not responsible for dredging the reservoir or testing the chemical composition of the silt. Riparian landowners are responsible for maintaining the river channel, banks, and associated vegetation in order to control flood risk. This includes the removal of general rubbish.

[The Environment Agency](#) is, in partnership with the council, responsible for maintaining two trash screens that lie at the entrance to the [Brent Reservoir](#): the Priestley Way trash screen that sits on the [River Brent](#) and the Edgeware auto-trash screen that sits on the River Silkstream. Both of these trash screens are cleared of debris on a weekly basis due to the large amount of debris that comes down the two rivers and collects at these locations.

The Priestley Way trash screen is due some repair and maintenance work. This will include removal of overgrown vegetation, replacement of worn/damaged parts, and removal of current debris. Whilst these repairs need to be completed to keep the asset in good working condition, they do not currently prevent the asset from operating as it should. The Environment Agency hopes to complete this work by the end of February.

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 November 2021</p>
Title	London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update
Report of	Executive Director - Environment
Wards	West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	None
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager 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
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Illegal Fishing

The council has installed additional no fishing signage in recent years however it is a regular target for vandalism.

During the summer months on 2021 ParkGuard were commissioned to undertake patrols in a number of parks across the borough including Welsh Harp and they engaged with any anglers informing them it was not permitted and reported such instances to the Environment Agency.

1.5 Litter and Flytipping

Fly Tipping should be reported to the BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk

1.6 Parks Patrols

During the summer of 2021 the Council commissioned ParkGuard as part of a pilot project to undertake parks patrols in some key hotspot locations which included the Welsh Harp.

The pilot has come to a closure and the council is undertaking a review of the pilot in order to consider if there is an option to provide a similar service in the future subject to funding being available.

1.7 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan

1.7.1 The outline business case for The West Hendon Playing Fields Master plans was presented and approved at Policy and Resources Committee 16 June 2021 under agenda item 9;
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10888&Ver=4>

The committee approved the outline business case and £18.8m of capital funding for the delivery of the scheme.

1.7.2 The council is now forming a Programme Board and Project Team in order to develop the design and submit a planning application.

1.8 Welsh Harp and SSSI management

- 1.8.1 The council in partnership with Brent Council, Canals and Rivers Trust, The GLA, The London Wildlife Trust and Thames 21 is developing an overarching Vision for the Welsh Harp and a review of the Management Plan.

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 N/A

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 project supports the wider strategy of the local authority and the upcoming Barnet Plan, and its four main priorities, in the following ways:

Clean, safe and well-run

- a place where our streets are clean and anti-social behaviour is dealt with so our residents feel safe; providing good-quality, customer-friendly services in all that we do
- improvements to the quality of parks infrastructure
- operational arrangements introduced to a site to ensure security, safety, maintenance and longevity
- ecological improvements to a Site of Special Scientific Interest, increasing awareness of the natural environment

Family friendly

- creating a family friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and our young people to achieve their best an informed and well-researched facility mix which caters for all age groups and considers all stakeholders
- improved offer for younger people, including improved junior pitches and new, accessible community facilities

Healthy

- a place with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy and healthy lives development of facilities to promote healthy and active lifestyles among residents
- inclusion of free-to-access facilities alongside more specialist options, to provide a unique offer to local residents
- improvement to community facilities

Thriving

- a place fit for the future, where all residents, business and visitors benefit from improved, sustainable infrastructure and opportunity
- Improvements to cycle and pedestrian routes through the park, increasing Barnet's offer in terms of active travel
- A significant placemaking contribution to the wider West Hendon regeneration works
- Improvement to facilities for existing local businesses

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 in the biodiversity section.

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 Brent	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 17 November 2021
	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:	One Appendix A: Welsh Harp/Brent Reservoir Management Action Plan 2021-22
Background Papers:	▪
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Parks Services, Brent Civic Centre. Email: 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 2021/22 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 Management Plan:

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/culture-leisure-and-parks/parks-and-allotments/park-finder/welsh-harp-reservoir/>

3.2 Welsh Harp 'Vision':

Other partner organisations will update the Committee on the Welsh Harp Vision' project that involves also Barnet Council, the Canal and River Trust; the London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority and Thames 21.

3.3 Action Plan:

The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan that 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 indicates current progress. For Brent Council, additional notes are provided in the following paragraphs:

3.4 Marshland work:

Marshland conservation work recommenced in late September 2021 (after the end of the bird breeding season), on the southern, Neasden Recreation Ground side of the Reservoir. The work is mainly within the Canal and River Trust's land on the marshland edge of the reservoir while also being partially on the Brent Council land of Neasden Recreation Ground. The work has been conducted by volunteers of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association. The focus is on the margins of the southern shore of the reservoir. The Canal and River Trust, and the Welsh Harp Sailing Association have obtained consent from Natural England for the programme of works. Work however has paused temporarily to enable discussions with some members of the community; Brent Council and the Canal & River Trust.

3.5 The work involves the reduction of shade from scrub and from coppiced (previously cut and regrown) trees, to enable the marshland flora to regenerate. A range of trees will be retained, particularly less frequent species there, for example most of the Alder, Silver Birch, Apples, clumps of Osier, regenerating Elms and large Willows. The work is in the marshland and on paths alongside the marshland, which often coincide with a belt of acid grassland. The works aim to improve:

- Habitat and wildlife: The marshland and the marshland flora are valuable for wildlife. The marshland is typically 5-20 metres wide.
- Water wind-sports: Trees on the edge of the reservoir create a wind shadow that can extend over the reservoir and which reduces the wind for water sports.
- Landscape and amenity: The growth of the trees can reduce the view of the reservoir and the views across the reservoir.

3.6 Litter and fly-tipping:

During the late summer and early autumn, volunteers of The Welsh Harp Group and others cleared previously fly-tipped tyres, from the wet woodland on the southern side of the reservoir, to a location in the open at Neasden Recreation Ground. From there the tyres have been collected (due in late October 2021) by the Canal & River Trust.

Brent Council and volunteers have continued to work to keep the open spaces clear of litter.

3.7 Healthy Walks programme:

The walking programme has continued with walkers following social distancing guidelines. Details may change depending upon the Covid regulations and guidance current at the time of the walk: See:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/sports-and-wellbeing/sport-activity-finder/healthy-walks-in-brent-welsh-harp-nature-walk/>

3.8 Oak Processionary Moth:

Though the Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars are unlikely to be encountered during the autumn and winter, there were reports during the spring /early summer from the Welsh Harp Open Space. The hairs of the caterpillar can cause an irritation to the skin and to the respiratory tract. The Forestry Commission and others have been attempting to control the spread of the species since it was introduced to the UK in about 2005. More information is on the Forestry Commission website, including guidance on reporting of the caterpillars:

<https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/oak-processionary-moth-thaumetopoea-processionea/>

3.9 Fishing:

The July meeting of the WHJCC requested a joint update from Barnet and Brent be provided for the next meeting outlining the current restrictions, measures available, risks and action being taken to address the concerns raised in relation to illegal night time fishing at the reservoir. The following notes summarise the current information from land managers and others:

Current restrictions on fishing at the Brent Reservoir:

In respect of the Site of Special Scientific Interest, the area of which covers the whole of the water area of the Brent Reservoir, Natural England include fishing as one of the activities that could potentially damage the special interest of the site. As such fishing is an operation requiring Natural England's consent to take place at the reservoir. Fishing is taken to mean 'freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling'. Natural England do not consent fishing at the SSSI. The Canal & River Trust, as landowners of the Reservoir, do not permit fishing at the Brent Reservoir.

Measures available and risks of addressing concerns raised:

The Canal & River Trust, as owners of the Brent Reservoir, have primary responsibility for the management of the reservoir.

Brent Council and Barnet Council do not generally have enforcement responsibilities for the water of the reservoir. However, where fishing is taking place from Council land (which is not necessarily on the boundary with the water), there may be options to apply other enforcement, for example if camping is taking place.

The Environment Agency have some enforcement powers (see below).

Actions being taken to address concerns raised in relation to fishing:

- At the July 2021 meeting of the WHJCC, the Canal & River Trust advised they would be willing to support any action taken working with their Fisheries Team.
- The Environment Agency explain that their powers are covered by the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 as amended.
- The Environment Agency explain that given the SSSI status of the Brent Reservoir, they have a duty to enforce the statutory close season for coarse fish from 15th March to 15th June inclusive. Outside of that time period the Environment Agency will only check anglers present for rod licence compliance. The Environment Agency have no legislative power to enforce unauthorised angling by rod and line which is classed as Theft of Fishing Rights under the Theft Act, being a police matter. The Environment Agency, where resources permit, may provide a response for more serious offences under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, such as illegal netting.
- In May 2021, the Environment Agency attended the Welsh Harp on the Spring Public Holiday Monday, 31st May 2021. The officer encountered fishing on the reservoir, in both the geographic areas of the London Borough of Barnet; and of Brent. Those fishing were issued with offence tickets and the Environment Agency officer submitted the information to the Environment Agency Legal Department for their decision. Decisions usually take the form of either a formal warning or prosecution.
- The Environment Agency explain that their Fisheries Enforcement Officers do include the Brent Reservoir in normal routine patrols.
- The most recent visit up to the time of publication of this report was during the week commencing 1st November 2021.
- The Environment Agency are of the view that individuals will continue to attempt to fish at the Brent Reservoir given its location and population of fish, namely carp.
- The Environment Agency have a national hotline for reporting of environmental incidents, including of illegal fishing.
The number is 0800 80 70 60.
- Brent Council does not have powers to issue offence notices for fishing. However, the situation and site notices could be reviewed as part of a future review of the Public Space Protection Orders. Officers could liaise with Barnet as consistency of approach would be advised.
- Barnet Council: Barnet Council have updated signage in the area that includes guidance that fishing is not permitted. The ParkGuard team, an organisation that was commissioned by Barnet to support park patrols during the summer months of 2021 took an engagement role, and reported instances of fishing to the Environment Agency.

3.10 Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre:

Discussions are continuing regarding the future of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan is primarily a land-use document to guide land managers and others in the maintenance, management and legislative issues affecting the land management of the Brent Reservoir and associated land. The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan also has a forward planning role, particularly in identifying the needs of land management over timeframes into the future.
- 4.2 The actions in the accompanying Action Plan (Appendix A) are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable within existing budgets in the short term. More details of works are included in Appendix A. Where those works are not currently achievable, the Action Plan highlights key issues. Works are only undertaken when approved by the service responsible for delivering the works within existing approved budgets.
- 4.3 As is being reported to the Committee, the main land-holding organisations at the Welsh Harp and some other organisations are currently working on a 'vision' exercise, which will include a review of possible sources of funding and income for those works currently not affordable

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp is a designated 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' ('SSSI'). Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ('CROW') and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) sets out the duties in relation to SSSIs. 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 SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest). Natural England will issue consent, which may have conditions or refuse consent. It is a criminal offence to carry out a listed operation without Natural England's consent or to ignore any conditions of a consent which may result in an unlimited 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 a SSSI. 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 and the methods being used are those that cause as little damage as practicable to the land:-

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

- 5.2 It is good practice for landowners 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, when exercising their statutory functions, must have regard to the conservation of biodiversity, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.
- 5.4 Section 28Q of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires the owner of land included in a SSSI 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. 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.

In terms of advancing equality of opportunity, this means to:

- (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) 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.

In terms of

- (a) Tackling prejudice, and
- (b) Promoting 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 At this stage, no potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified. 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.

ALAN LUNT

Strategic Director of Regeneration &
Environment

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APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2021-2022

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. Officers of the main land-holding organisations at the Welsh Harp and some other organisations are working on a 'Vision' exercise which will include a review of possible sources of funding and income. This Action Plan tracks current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Note also the draft of a Forward Work Programme for the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee that has been tabled by Barnet Council.

RAG colour coding is subjective and may take account of the significance of the issue and of any progress.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	RAG status (text column provided for use if plain printing)	Progress: 2021-22 to 3rd November 2021
Welsh Harp Vision	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, Thames 21, London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority.	Funding and/or resources for the Vision have been provided by the partner organisations.	In progress.	Amber – in progress	Developing a vision and options for the Welsh Harp. Appointed earlier in the year, the consultancy has been preparing information and consulting with the local communities and others.
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (Canal and River Trust)	Canal and River Trust	Maintain. On-Going	Green	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards. Statutory inspection and works conducted in January to February 2021.

Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	Green	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing Infrastructure: club-houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the Canal and River Trust; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	Green	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure. See also Phoenix Canoe Club.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	Green	The WHCG organise winter projects at and near to the hides.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, Brent Council		Thames 21 have managed the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre since January 2016 but are vacating in the summer of 2021.	Red	Activities at the Centre have been affected by the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thames 21 have vacated the Centre from the summer of 2021. Brent Council is in discussion with partners to understand the opportunities at the location as an education centre.
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. There are some areas for biodiversity within the Dors Close Allotments.	Green	Barnet Council: West Hendon Allotments are Self-Managed. Brent Council: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close Allotments.

Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, and parks furniture.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	Amber	Maintenance, particularly of the well-used paths and features.
Signage; and interpretative signage.	Brent / Barnet.			Amber	Maintained. The Canal & River Trust are currently reviewing a selection of the signage. Part of the review extends beyond the Canal and River Trust land to other areas of the Welsh Harp.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Green	<p>Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.</p> <p>Birchen Grove Car Park: Installation of mini-humps to deter excessive speeding and other anti-social behavior in car park: January 2020.</p> <p>Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: resurfaced and line-marked: January 2020.</p>
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Amber – diverse wildlife but potential for improvements.	<p>See the most recent (2020) report on wildlife produced by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group, available on their website and via the following link:</p> <p>Publications – Welsh Harp Conservation Group (wordpress.com)</p> <p>Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for: refer to the website.</p>

Grasslands and cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded.	Spring to autumn.	Green	Grasslands: A grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) from spring 2018 includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value of amenity grassland. Sown areas of bee-friendly plants were added in 2019. See the following link for areas for areas of spring and summer grassland at Neasden Recreation Ground: https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16413216/neasden-recreation-ground.jpg
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.	Amber	Paths maintained but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland). The lower grassland path at the Welsh Harp Open Space is narrow. Work in 2020 aimed at reducing encroaching scrub, but the path width could benefit from occasional cutting.
Sailing and sports development	WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	Amber	Led by the sailing and water sports clubs. Phoenix Canoe Club are working on proposed improvements to their club facilities for water sports, particularly for educational use; and for a café accessible from the Welsh Harp / Capital Ring path.

Litter	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.	Red	<p>The January to February 2021 temporary partial drawdown of the water level within the Reservoir revealed large quantities of litter, waste and alluvium (silt). Of the alluvium, the Canal & River Trust have stated that the removal is logistically beyond any resources that are currently available to the Canal and River Trust.</p> <p>The Canal & River Trust mapped some of the larger items and those were subsequently removed.</p> <p>There has been much activity by the wider community to clear, where it is safe to do so; and within Covid-19 regulations; material near on the shorelines.</p> <p>During the summer and early autumn of 2021, volunteers of The Welsh Harp Group moved a large number (c. 200 plus?) of previously fly-tipped tyres in the wet woodland on the southern side of the Reservoir, to an open area for subsequent collection by the Canal & River Trust.</p> <p>There remains, in addition to litter and rubbish in the reservoir; one area of fly-tipped waste in the wooded wetland on the southern shore of the reservoir; areas of less-accessible waste around the reservoir; and issues related to the inflow of waste on the Silk Stream and River Brent.</p>
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River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going.	Amber / Red	<p>The Environment Agency clear accumulations of litter from the trash screens on the tributary rivers entering the reservoir, at the Silk Stream and at the River Brent.</p> <p>The Environment Agency clear and remove the material on a maintenance schedule but accumulations of material in the river have been evident during recent months.</p>
Clean up projects	The community		On-going but with increased projects while the shoreline has been exposed due to lowered water levels.	Amber / Green: Much has been achieved, but much is beyond the safe reach of shore work.	As noted above, where safe to do so, litter clean-up projects have been organized over several years by the Welsh Harp Litter Pickers and by residents near to Neasden Recreation Ground. More recently that has involved also The Friends of the Welsh Harp; and The Welsh Harp Group at Neasden Recreation Ground and a range of other volunteers organized via social media.
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.	Amber	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 to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	Amber	Led by the WHCG.
Reedbeds: remove young trees and marginal encroachment	Canal and River Trust	£85,000 PPL funding	Removing young trees and vegetation overhanging margins	Amber	Led by CRT

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.	Amber	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016. As at 2021 there are reedbeds on the main arm of the reservoir in the eastern marsh, on the shore of Neasden Recreation Ground near to the dam wall; and on the shore of the Welsh Harp Open Space.
Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Amber	Largely self-managing. Rubbish noted in (during the water drawdown of Jan-Feb 2021) and in the vicinity of the woodland.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, Canal and River Trust	Largely self-managing. Un-funded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		Amber	Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.

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).	Reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	Amber	<p>During the past decade or so, Willow and scrub growth has exceeded the rate of 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.</p> <p>Discussions from autumn 2018 onwards by Canal & River Trust, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Brent Council; and from summer 2020 with Barnet Council and Welsh Harp Conservation Group.</p> <p>Welsh Harp Open Space: trialled marshland works by Welsh Harp Sailing Association, February 2019.</p> <p>January and February 2020: Continuation of work in marshland edge by Welsh Harp Sailing Association on north shore (Welsh Harp Open Space). Works continued from September 2020 to late 2020.</p> <p>2020: Northern shore. Due to Covid restrictions, work was postponed in January to February 2021. Work recommenced in late September 2021 but has temporarily paused.</p>
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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.	Amber	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.	Status currently not known.	As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations or may have other specific requirements.
Marshland (northern arm of Reservoir)	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon Redevelopment.	Green	Refer to Barnet.
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	Red / Amber	The Canal and River Trust had plans to restore a boardwalk, though now awaiting the outcome of the Vision exercise.

Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species. Invasive species at the Welsh Harp extends also to a number of other species where growth is across paths, excessively shading marshland or causing other issues.	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council	Brent Council Parks actions: Knotweed Reduced at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet Council have Reduced Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge.	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.	Red	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. Thames 21 working with Brent Council and others, have been working on control of Knotweed and Giant Hogweed on the River Brent section downstream of the dam wall (spring / summer 2021).
Cool Oak Lane bridge. Cool Oak Lane bridge and Wood Lane traffic.	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	Barnet Council and others.	New pedestrian bridge in place.	Green	Pedestrian footbridge alongside historic, vehicular footbridge.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 - ongoing	Amber – in progress, with large challenges to improve the River catchment.	Action Plan published at: see website: https://www.thames21.org.uk/catchment-partnerships/brent/