



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Thursday 23 November 2023 at 6.00 pm

This meeting will be held as an online virtual meeting.
The link to view the proceedings is available [HERE](#)

Membership:

Members

Representing

Councillors:

Ernest Ambe Esq

London Borough of Barnet

Andrea Bilbow

London Borough of Barnet

Alan Schneiderman (Vice-Chair)

London Borough of Barnet

Rishikesh Chakraborty

London Borough of Barnet

Krupa Sheth (Chair)

London Borough of Brent

Saqib Butt

London Borough of Brent

Parvez Ahmed

London Borough of Brent

Mary Mitchell

London Borough of Brent

Substitute Members (Barnet Council)

Councillors:

Nagus Narenthira, Sara Conway, Humayune Khalick and Andreas Ioannidis

Substitute Members (Brent Council)

Councillors:

Amer Agha, Harbi Farah, Arshad Mahmood and Liz Dixon

Membership Continued

Organisations

Brent River Catchment Partnership
Canal and River Trust
Cleaner Earth UK
Cool Oak
Environment Agency
Friends of Welsh Harp
Hendon Rifle Club
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
Phoenix Canoe Club
Silkstream Friends
Silver Park Jubilee Residents Association
Thames 21
Thames Water
Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
West Hendon Allotment Society
West Hendon Residents' Association / Friends of York Park

For further information contact: Adam Woods, Governance Officer
020 8937 4737, Adam.Woods@brent.gov.uk

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**

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 14 March 2024 at 6pm

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 of trade union).

(b) The interests a 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

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1 Apologies for Absence and Clarification 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	1 - 8
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 27 July 2023 as a correct record.	
5 Matters Arising (If Any)	
To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.	
6 Update from the Canal & River Trust	Verbal Update
To update Committee members regarding the Winter works at the Brent Reservoir.	
7 Management Plan (Barnet)	9 - 16
To provide an update to the committee in relation to Council activities during Quarter 2 & 3 (July-Nov 2023) in respect of the Welsh Harp / West Hendon Playing Fields	
8 Management Plan (Brent)	17 - 32
This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the	

2023/24 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.

9 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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Agenda Item 4

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Held as an online meeting on Thursday 27 July 2023 at 6.00pm

Members Present (In Remote Attendance)

Councillor Krupa Sheth (Chair)	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Alan Schneiderman	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Parvez Ahmed	London Borough of Brent
Cassie Bridger (Officer)	London Borough of Barnet
Leslie Williams (Officer)	London Borough of Brent
Adam Woods (Governance)	London Borough of Brent
Sian Palmer-Ferry	Canal & River Trust
Ben Watt	Cool Oak Group
Lewis Elmes	Environment Agency
Daniella Levene	Friends of Welsh Harp
Leila Taheri	Friends of Welsh Harp
Dale Langdale	Hendon Rifle Club
Dianne Murphy	London Wildlife Trust
Phil Atkinson	Phoenix Canoe Club
Diane Mitchell	Silver Park Jubilee Residents Association
Hannah Reid	Thames 21
John Shepherd	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Manfred Starkl	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Liz Hall	West Hendon Allotment Society

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair 2023-24

As the meeting was the first of the 2023/24 municipal year, in accordance with the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee Constitution, the Committee were required to appoint a Chair from Brent Council and a Vice Chair from Barnet Council. Consequently, Councillor Krupa Sheth from Brent Council was nominated by members and unanimously appointed to the position of Chair, and Councillor Alan Schneiderman from Barnet Council was nominated and unanimously appointed to the position of Vice Chair. As a Chair and Vice Chair had been appointed, Councillor Krupa Sheth was handed chairing responsibilities for the meeting and members turned to consider the substantive items on the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence and Clarification of any Alternate Members

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Saqib Butt (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Mary Mitchell (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Rishikesh Chakraborty (London Borough of Barnet), Councillor Ernest Ambe Esq (London Borough of Barnet), Councillor Andrea Bilbow (London Borough of Barnet) and Derrick Chung (West Hendon Residents Association).

3. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations made.

4. Deputations (If Any)

None.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 16 March 2023 be approved as an accurate record.

6. Matters Arising

None.

7. Management Plan (Barnet)

Cassie Bridger (Assistant Director, Greenspaces and Leisure, Barnet Council) presented the report, which provided an update to the Committee on the activities of Barnet Council during Quarter 1 (Apr-June 2023) in relation to the Welsh Harp and West Hendon Playing Fields.

In highlighting the key details of the report, the Committee were informed that Barnet Council had concluded a procurement exercise and awarded the contract to develop a new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and a Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP had replaced Biodiversity Action Plans) to Land Use Consultants (LUC). Although Barnet Council were in the early stages of the commission, members were advised that there would be opportunities to contribute to the development of the documents through public consultations and engagement exercises.

Similarly, following the conclusion of the two stage design competition in partnership with the Landscape Institute, Barnet Council had awarded the contract to design the development of West Hendon Playing Fields to Ove Arup and Partners. Once again, the Committee were informed that a series of consultation and engagement activities, likely to be held in Autumn, would be delivered to help inform the design development for the playing fields.

Furthermore, members also noted that Barnet Council's Community Safety Team had been commissioned to deliver weekend patrols in a number of parks and open spaces over the summer period. It was explained that the patrols were intelligence led and based on known issues and reporting, with the Welsh Harp and West Hendon Playing Fields included in the patrol sites.

In welcoming further support from community groups regarding litter picking, Cassie Bridger detailed that contract litter pickers swept Welsh Harp during the week commencing 3 July 2023. In addition, the burnt-out car adjacent to the West Hendon Playing Fields was removed. It was stated that Barnet Council would arrange another contractor litter sweep in the winter when annual soft vegetation had subsided, and contact would be made with Natural England concerning dead hedging to mitigate bankside litter around the Silkstream trash screen.

To conclude their update, Cassie Bridger explained that, as members of the Thames21 Brent Catchment Partnership Steering Group, Barnet Council had approved the establishment of the following working groups:

- Data, Evidence and Monitoring
- Invasive Non-Native Species Control
- Eradication of Litter

Moreover, it was explained that Barnet Council would attend regular meetings with working group members, such as Thames Water, Canal and River Trust, the Environment Agency and other London Boroughs, to discuss how best to deal with the aforementioned issues across the Brent Catchment, all of which were relevant to the Welsh Harp.

Having thanked Cassie Bridger for the update, the Chair invited comments and contributions from Committee members, with questions and responses summarised below:

- Regarding the Silk Stream bridge, the Committee were informed that a decision had not been taken on the future of the bridge. However, Barratt London was exploring a lighter weight design along the same route which was hoped to be more sensitive to the Welsh Harp area. In response to a suggestion to re-route the bridge amid concerns that a lighter weight alternative in the same place would significantly damage the SSSI, Councillor Schneiderman recognised the concerns but explained that Barratt London had received planning permission to build the bridge in that specific location. Nevertheless, Councillor Schneiderman reassured members that the design would have to be jointly approved by stakeholders such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Canal & River Trust, and reiterated that the design would have to be reviewed before making a final decision.
- In response to an issue relating to the condition of the bird hide at the Welsh Harp, which was particularly impacted by litter, members were advised that the issue would be raised with colleagues at Barnet Council and options would be explored to reduce the impact of waste at the bird hide.

As no further issues were raised, the Committee **AGREED** to note the report.

8. Management Plan (Brent)

Leslie Williams (Project Officer, Parks Service, Brent Council) introduced a report that outlined the progress made regarding the Brent Reservoir and Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last Committee meeting and during 2023/24. The Committee noted that the Action Plan for the Management Plan, attached in Appendix A of the report, had undergone a format review which replaced the 'Red', 'Amber', 'Green' rating with a text description of the action to provide a more accurate and nuanced update.

In moving to the main part of the update, Leslie Williams detailed that a new Grounds Maintenance Contract was commencing with Continental Landscapes Ltd on 1 August 2023 for the operational works in Brent Council's parks and open spaces. The contract included the Welsh Harp Open Space, Neasden Recreation Ground and Silver Jubilee Park. Members were also informed that the Park Warden Service was now an in-house Council service.

The Committee were advised that previous work to manage the marshland on the shore of the Welsh Harp Open Space provided for a range of conservation, landscape and recreational needs while retaining a variety of trees within the

marshland. However, shade was continuing to reduce the marshland vegetation on the southwestern shore of the reservoir alongside Neasden Recreation Ground. Thus, Brent Council was planning to review the trees on the marshland to mitigate against overshading.

Following the approval of the proposals for a Post 16 Skills Resource Centre for young people with special educational needs by Brent Council's Cabinet at their May 2023 meeting, the Committee were informed that the Centre would be located in the Welsh Harp and would provide horticulture, work experience and volunteering opportunities. In addition to its main purpose, there was also the potential for use at other times by third sector and community organisations, with Thames 21 continuing to provide some limited services at the existing Centre.

In thanking the volunteers who were vital in the delivery of the programme, an update was provided regarding the Healthy Walks Programme, with walks held at the Welsh Harp taking place on Thursdays from 10am to 1pm, meeting at the Welsh Harp Open Space end of Birchen Grove, Kingsbury NW9.

It was explained that signage had been installed on a new way-marked walking route between Wembley Park Station and the Welsh Harp (Welsh Harp Open Space at Birchen Grove). The route extended through a mix of quieter roads and green spaces including the Canal Feeder and River Brent at Quainton Street Open Space, Chalkhill Open Space, St David's Close Open Space and Chalkhill Park.

In concluding the update, Lewis Elmes (Environment Agency) provided further context to the update on pollution incidents occurring in the southern side of the Brent Reservoir SSSI. In response to an incident occurring in November 2022, a polluter had been identified and contacted regarding potential prosecution. The source of the pollution had been blocked and the suspected polluter had spoken to Thames Water concerning their discharge system. Moreover, the polluter had agreed to 48 hour rolling monitoring and they were in the process of remapping their drainage system. Regarding the pollution itself, the discharge, said to be a white powder, had ceased and PH levels had dropped to normal levels. Whilst there was evidence of ongoing foreign sewage entering the water, in which Thames Water were actively being engaged on, it was not linked to the original incident.

In thanking Leslie Williams and Lewis Elmes for the update, the Chair welcomed questions from Committee members, with contributions summarised below:

- In response to a query on the progress of the marshland work, members were informed that no work had commenced since the last Committee meeting and local discussions needed to be held before progressing,

although it was planned to eventually have trees approximately 30 metres apart.

- Regarding pollution incidents in the Welsh Harp, the Committee were advised that there were ongoing issues with misconnected properties that Thames Water was aware of, businesses had been educated on pollution in response to incidents in Mutton Brook, there were a number of projects to address pollution and invest in the sewage network in Wealdstone Brook, and a more serious issue connected to Thames Water assets was being addressed further downstream. The work of Clean Up River Brent was also detailed, who had created a novel, cost-effective way of monitoring pollution. Members were informed to contact Lewis Elmes if they wanted to learn more about Clean Up River Brent's work or wanted to get involved in the work.
- Committee members highlighted that the public were accessing the water at Brent Reservoir as they were not aware of the restrictions in place. In response, Sian Palmer-Ferry (Canal & River Trust) explained that internal conversations were occurring within the Canal & River Trust to provide greater clarity concerning access to the waters. Thus, there were plans to improve the Terms of Reference on the Canal & River Trust website and increase signage at the reservoir.
- In reiterating the number of people using the water at Welsh Harp, members called for more communication regarding pollution incidents. In response, the Committee were informed that it was not practical to notify the public about every incident. However, the Environmental Agency was meeting Thames Water weekly to receive progress updates on existing incidents and mitigations. In addition, the Environmental Agency had asked for more frequent public communications from Thames Water.
- Consultative Committee members offered their assistance with the removal of trees on the marshland.
- Regarding the impact that draining the reservoir would have on the marshland, members were informed that most of the marshland consisted of perennial's which could cope with the change. Although recognising the minor impacts that the draining could have, it was explained that the seeds would remain in the soil and more rain was expected over the period of the draining.

With no further issues being raised, the Committee **AGREED** to note the update.

9. Update from the Canal & River Trust

Sian Palmer Ferry (Canal & River Trust) presented the update, which focussed on the Welsh Harp Joint Vision (the Vision) and the planned Winter works at Brent Reservoir. To begin, a one-page summary of the Vision was shared with members, which detailed its four key themes: environment, wellbeing, place and inclusion. Sian Palmer-Ferry explained that answers to frequently asked questions were being drafted to accompany the Vision, and welcomed emails from members if there were any further questions after the meeting.

The Committee were then informed about the planned Winter works which would ensure that essential maintenance of Brent Reservoir was completed. Included in the works was the draining of the Reservoir funded by the People's Postcode Lottery, which was said to take approximately four weeks, with members noting that refilling was anticipated to commence before the bird nesting season in March. The Committee heard that the next steps for the Canal & River Trust were to publish answers to frequently asked questions and start a crowdfunding campaign for £15,000 in order to fund the fish rescue and clean up, which was expected to start at the end of Summer.

Before finishing the update, Sian Palmer-Ferry explained that vacancies within the team at the Canal & River Trust had now been filled, with new additions in the roles of Community Roots Manager, Volunteer Leader and Area Operations Manager. It was hoped that these additions would increase both engagement with the community and the number of volunteering opportunities available.

Following the conclusion of their update, the Chair thanked Sian Palmer-Ferry for presenting the item and opened up the discussion to Committee members, with questions and responses summarised below:

- In response to a query on the impact that an unsuccessful crowdfunding attempt would have, members were advised that the fish rescue and clean-up had to occur. Thus, the Canal & River Trust would have to self-fund the operation which would impact other projects as the activities were not budgeted in the organisation's core delivery.
- In reiterating the importance that the public were aware of the maintenance works due to safety risks, officers from both Brent and Barnet councils offered support in publishing and distributing relevant information. Sian Palmer-Ferry welcomed support with the winter works and outlined that signage of the works would be widespread throughout water access points and engagement with schools, colleges and community groups was planned to ensure extensive knowledge of the planned works.
- Regarding crayfish in the Welsh Harp, members were advised that environmental scientists from the Canal & River would be informed of

the concerns, who could explore the possibility of sampling crayfish in the Welsh Harp area.

- Sian Palmer-Ferry noted the worries raised regarding terrapins in the north side of the Welsh Harp.
- In response to concerns about community groups being named in Canal & River Trust press releases without sufficient communication with the relevant organisations, members were given an apology as Sian Palmer-Ferry believed that community organisations had been contacted regarding volunteering. It was explained that the new Volunteer Lead at the Canal & River Trust would foster closer relationships with community groups going forward.

Having thanked Sian Palmer-Ferry for the update, and with no further queries, the Committee **AGREED** to note the update.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following meeting dates of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year:


- Thursday 23 November 2023 at 6pm
- Thursday 14 March 2024 at 6pm

11. Any Other Urgent Business

On behalf of Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association, Diane Mitchell addressed the Committee concerning an ongoing issue regarding trees behind the bungalows in Kinloch Drive, which were the responsibility of Barnet Council but located near the border with Brent Council. It was explained that the trees were not being maintained in a proper manner and were impacting local residents. Despite contacting officers from Barnet Council there had been little progress on the matter and therefore an update was requested on the issue. In response, Cassie Bridger reassured Diane Mitchell that the issue would be investigated further and apologised for any delays in communications. As a next step, Cassie Bridger informed Diane Mitchell that contact would be made to clarify the full details of the issue, with the Chair stating that Barnet Council and Brent Council would work together to resolve the issue.

The meeting ended at 7:22pm.

Councillor Krupa Sheth
CHAIR

	<p>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p>23 November 2023</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Executive Director for Communities, Adults, and Health</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>West Hendon</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Key</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon, Head of Greenspaces matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7403</p>
<p>Summary</p>	
<p>To provide an update to the committee in relation to Council activities during Quarter 2 & 3 (July-Nov 2023) in respect of the Welsh Harp / West Hendon Playing Fields.</p>	

<p>Officers Recommendations</p>
<p>1. That the committee notes the contents of this report.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC) 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 and meets on a quarterly basis.

1.2 During July – Nov 2023 (Quarter 2 & 3), the Council progressed a series of activities in relation to the management and operation of West Hendon Playing Fields / Welsh Harp. The committee are requested to note the following.

1.3 Management and Operations

1.3.1 There has been one reported illegal encampment during this period and is currently under investigation. The Councils Greenspaces and Leisure Team continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police, and other partners to identify and remove encampments when notified.

1.3.2 An area was reported and identified as being used to grow illegal substances. It was investigated by the Community Safety Team and Police and all illegal material was removed from site.

1.3.3 A new Volunteer Handbook with associated risk assessments has been released to the Barnet Green Spaces Network. We are actioning feedback to inform an updated version, but in the meantime following the processes outlined in that document should ensure volunteering work conducted on London Borough of Barnet land is safe and covered by the Councils insurance.

1.3.4 The councils Community Safety Team were commissioned to deliver weekend patrols in a number of parks and open spaces over the summer period. The patrols were intelligence led and sites were included within the patrol based on known issues and reporting, the Welsh Harp and West Hendon Playing Fields fell within the patrol sites list. We are currently reviewing the data collected from the patrols and this will be used to inform a decision around the possibility of future deployments.

1.3.5 Contractors Maydencroft are undertaking survey work to inform the proposed extension of the West Hendon Allotments into their disused tenanted land. The scope of the project includes ecological surveying before the production of a landscape concept plan then specification for works. The proposals will include new allotment space as well as conservation areas, a pond, orchard, apiary, and event space.

1.3.6 Following the contractor litter pick of July 2023 Barnet Council have arranged contractors to undertake a winter deep clean of the site in January 2024; focusing on the site's paths and areas of congregation. The Barnet Greenspaces Team are working with CRT to aid litter removal during the reservoir draw down and have contacted

Natural England to investigate options to mitigate bankside litter around the Silkstream trash screen.

1.3.7 As members of the Thames21 Brent Catchment Partnership Steering group, the council have approved the establishment of the following working groups: Data, Evidence and Monitoring, Invasive Non-native Species Control, and Eradication of Litter (reducing litter in Brent Rivers is a Catchment Partnership priority). The council will continue to attend regular meetings with other working group members such as Thames Water, Canal and River Trust, the Environment Agency and other London Boroughs, to discuss how best to deal with these issues across the Brent Catchment, all of which are relevant to the Welsh Harp.

1.3.8 We continue to work with Thames21 and the members of the Brent Catchment Partnership on catchment-wide projects such as the London Water Vole Recovery Program with ZSL and WRT. We are currently scoping survey locations at the Welsh Harp for American mink and water voles as part of this research, funded by the Mayor's Rewild London Fund.

1.4 **Parks and Openspaces Strategy and Local Nature Recovery**

1.4.1 The Council continues to work towards developing a New Parks and Openspaces Strategy in partnership with Land Use Consultants. Following the last meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultive Committee on 23 July 2023, the Committee are asked to note that a SINC review is underway in order to assess the baseline conditions of each SINC site that will lead to recommendations for changes in the level of designation, potential to extend the boundaries of the SINC sites to include adjacent habitats, and identification of opportunities to enhance the SINC network. Twelve SINC sites have been completed to date and it should be further noted that more sites shall be assessed in the spring of 2024. A desk-based review will soon commence so that the Council can collect and review baseline data this will include the field survey involving habitat mapping and assessment of SINC criteria in accordance with best practice methods and the GiGL data standards.

1.4.2 The Council plan to conduct a consultation exercise in the new year and will encourage, welcome, and appreciate the views of the Membership of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultive Committee.

1.5 **West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan**

1.5.1 Engagement Launch: Barnet Council, in collaboration with design partners Ove Arup & Partners, has initiated the first phase of public engagement for the West Hendon Playing Fields redevelopment.

1.5.2 Engagement Strategy & Plan Development: A comprehensive engagement strategy and plan were meticulously developed over several months. Input from key stakeholders and Members was solicited during the strategy development. Final approval for the engagement plan has been successfully obtained.

- 1.5.3 The first two formal community engagement activities took place in November 2023; These activities aim to actively involve the community in informing the design development for the playing fields.

Date: 15th November 2023, Venue: Barnet Multicultural Community Centre.

Date: 18th November 2023, Venue: Birchen Grove Garden Centre

- 1.5.4 Online Engagement Platforms: Engage Barnet and Commonplace have launched engagement platforms for the West Hendon Playing Fields project. Community members can actively participate and provide input through various tools, including: Survey, Interactive map and Memory map for sharing thoughts and experiences.

[Have Your Say Today - West Hendon Playing Fields - Commonplace](#)
[West Hendon Playing Fields community engagement | Engage Barnet](#)

- 1.5.5 Statutory Consultations: Statutory consultation meetings which have been conducted with key entities so far: Metropolitan Police, Natural England, Sport England. Ongoing consultations are in place to ensure comprehensive engagement with relevant authorities.

1.6 **Welsh Harp and SSSI management**

- 1.6.1 Working with our in house and contract network we will be developing an updated litter management regime across the whole of the Welsh Harp and surrounding environs. We are finalising a revised weekly bin collection and litter picking schedule, augmented by a contractor deep clean in January 2024.

- 1.6.2 We are also investigating options to replace the public bird hide with a solution which makes the location less attractive for anti-social use.

- 1.6.3 The council has been consulting with the CRT to assist with the community volunteer days in November 2023 after the winter work and dewatering has commenced.

- 1.6.4 Damage to the SSSI caused by development on neighbouring properties was reported to the Council by members of the WHCG in April 2023. The Planning Enforcement Team are working with Natural England to resolve the issues and served enforcement notices to the address in May 2023. In August, a retrospective application for the construction work (23/2569/RCU) was refused by the London Borough of Barnet Planning Department. On the week commencing 13th November 2023, Barnet Planning Enforcement served a notice to the property owner requiring the demolition of the outbuilding and the removal of the constituent materials from the property within four months of the date of the notice. LBB will continue to monitor to ensure this is done and no further damage is done to the SSSI.

- 1.6.5 The council continues to work in partnership with Brent Council, Canals, and Rivers Trust, The GLA, The London Wildlife Trust and Thames 21 in delivering the overarching Vision for the Welsh Harp and updating the existing Management Plan.

The CRT are leading on two bids to the NHLF and are working closely with Barnet and Brent on the EOI submission. We are also looking at other sources of external funding to deliver the 'Vision,' for example the Mayor of London Rewild London Fund.

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 Council will continue to develop the new and emerging policies as set out in section 1.4 of this report.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Following the declaration of a climate emergency, delivering, and implementing the Sustainability Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy is a key corporate priority for the Council.

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

- 5.2.1 The programme of activities listed within this report are delivered within existing resources, some initiatives or tasks may require additional investment which will be considered in the development of new policies and assessed through the Councils budget setting process.

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 Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) 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.”

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 conducted according to the management plan and considers 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 landowners, 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.

6.2 [West Hendon Playing Fields Outline Business Case – Policy and Resources Committee 16 July 2021, Agenda Item 9](#)

6.3 [Parks and Open Spaces Update – Environment and Climate Change Committee 9 June 2022, Agenda Item 9](#)

6.4 [Welsh Harp Vision Update – Environment and Climate Change Committee 6 September 2022, Agenda Item 14](#)

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 Brent	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 23 November 2023
	Report from the Corporate Director of Resident Services
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 Plan: Action Plan for 2023-2024
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Parks Services, Brent Council 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 2023/24 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 and Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities

3.1 Welsh Harp 'Vision':

The 'Welsh Harp Vision' was published in July 2023. The Vision has been prepared by the Canal & River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, the London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority, Thames 21 and other partners.

3.2 Management Plan:

The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan, (dated 2016 but a long-term management plan) is available from Brent Council. Refer to the Action Plan (3.3).

Website links to parts of the Welsh Harp are at:

[Neasden Recreation Ground | Brent Council](#)
[Welsh Harp Open Space | Brent Council](#)
[Welsh Harp Reservoir | Brent Council](#)

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 Action Plan provides notes and updates on issues and projects, rather than listing the details in this covering report. The 'Progress' column indicates current progress.

3.4 Grounds maintenance contractor:

A new grounds maintenance contract commenced on 1st August 2023 for the operational works in Brent Council's parks and open spaces. This includes the Welsh Harp Open Space, Neasden Recreation Ground and Silver Jubilee Park. The contractor is Continental Landscapes Ltd.

3.5 Marshland work:

A site meeting was held with officers of the Canal & River Trust in early October 2023 as to options to re-start work to manage the growth of scrub on the marshland of the shores alongside Neasden Recreation Ground. Previous work to manage the marshland on the shore of the Welsh Harp Open Space provided for a range of conservation, landscape and recreational (water wind sports) needs, while retaining also a variety of trees within the marshland. However, shade is continuing to reduce the marshland vegetation on the south-western shore of the reservoir alongside Neasden Recreation Ground.

3.6 Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre:

Officers of Brent Council are working to consider the potential details for a Welsh Harp Centre to replace the current portacabin building. This follows a decision by Brent Council's Cabinet in May 2023 to approve proposals, as in the report for that Agenda, for the future of the Welsh Harp Centre as a post-16 skills resource centre for young people and young adults with special educational needs; and to enable horticulture, work experience and volunteering opportunities. There is the potential for use at other times by third sector and community organisations. Currently, Thames 21 are continuing to provide some limited services at the existing Centre.

3.7 Healthy Walks programme:

The walking programme continues. The Welsh Harp walks are on Thursdays from 10am to 11am, meeting at the Welsh Harp Open Space end of Birchen Grove, Kingsbury NW9. For details please email healthyliving@brent.gov.uk

3.8 Brent Reservoir de-watering:

The Canal & River Trust will probably elaborate during their report, but they ask us to emphasise the need to keep out of the reservoir, during the de-watering from mid-November 2023 until the end of February 2024. The reservoir water-level is being reduced to enable works on the dam wall and associated mechanisms, while the low water level will enable works on some marginal areas particularly in the eastern marsh. The reservoir contains varying depths of alluvium ('mud') which can be dangerous to attempt to walk upon. The Canal & River Trust are providing signage around the reservoir. For those who may wish to be involved in the clean-up of the reservoir, the Canal & River Trust are providing information about organised projects on their website and contact information regarding the reservoir.

3.9 Pollution incidents:

Refer to the Environment Agency. A fly-tip on the southern side of the Welsh Harp is being investigated by the Canal & River Trust.

3.10 Priestley Way Trash Screen:

The Environment Agency attend the Priestley Way screen on a fortnightly basis to use a grab lorry to clear the screen. The Environment Agency have requested a reminder that other than of their trained teams, there should be no accessing of the trash screen beyond the fence and gate into the trash screen area. Signage is provided on the screen's exterior fence.

4.0 Financial Considerations

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 timeframes, though many are not affordable within existing budgets in the short term. The actions will be closely monitored, prioritised and re-profiled to ensure there are existing resources available to mitigate against any possible overspends. 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 Considerations

- 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, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 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 Stakeholder and Ward Member Consultation and Engagement

7.1 None specific.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 As set out in the report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Implications

9.1 None specific.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 None specific.

Report Sign Off

Peter Gadsdon

Corporate Director Resident Services

APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2023-2024

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 timeframes, though many are not affordable in the short term.

The Action Plan here tracks current year progress on the existing Management Plan while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Progress is indicated within the text and may include the priority of the issue, risks and progress.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress: 2023-24 to 23 rd November 2023
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.	Published in late July 2023.	Developing a vision and options for the Welsh Harp.
Implementation of the Welsh Harp Vision	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, Thames 21, London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority.	The Vision team are investigating potential grant sources. The first is a potential application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.	Autumn 2023 for an application.	In discussion.

River Brent Catchment Management Plan – the Brent Reservoir is on the River Brent.	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21 / London Boroughs within the River Brent Catchment.		Ongoing since 2011.	River Brent Catchment Partnership Action Plan published at: https://www.thames21.org.uk/catchment-partnerships/brent/
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (CRT)	Canal and River Trust	Works: October 2023 to February 2024.	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards. Statutory inspection and works conducted in January to February 2021. Works, involving pre-drawdown of the Reservoir, commencing October 2023.
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 Infrastructure: club-houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the Canal and River Trust; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	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	The WHCG organise winter projects at and near to the hides.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Brent Council, Thames 21		Brent Council are leading on the future of the Education Centre, while Thames 21 are currently maintaining a presence.	Brent Council are working on details for a new Welsh Harp Centre building as a post-16 skills resource centre, with a focus on horticulture, work experience and volunteering opportunities. There is the potential for use of the site at other times by third sector and community organisations.

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.	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.	Maintenance, particularly of the well-used paths and features.
Signage; and interpretative signage.	Brent / Barnet.		The C&RT have a series of interpretative signs in design.	Maintained. The Canal & River Trust are currently preparing a set of interpretative panels, for installation in 2024.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies. Birchen Grove Car Park: Mini-humps installed in January 2020. Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: resurfaced and line-marked: January 2020. Cool Oak Lane Car Park: Barnet.

Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	See the most recent 2022 report (published in June 2023) by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group, available on their website and via the following link: Publications – Welsh Harp Conservation Group (wordpress.com) Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for: refer to the website.
Grasslands and cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded.	On-going – seasonal effects with various cutting frequencies for different types of grassland.	Grasslands: A grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including at Neasden Recreation Ground) from spring 2018 includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value of amenity grassland. Sown areas of bee-friendly plants were added in 2019. Cutting of these areas is usually in September or October. There are also rough-grassland habitats both at Neasden Recreation Ground and at the Welsh Harp Open Space.
Grasslands: paths cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded.	Spring to autumn.	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	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.	<p>Preparations, for organized litter collections during the late autumn and winter of 2023/24.</p> <p>Previous clean-ups have included: The January to February 2021 temporary partial drawdown of the water level within the Reservoir revealed large quantities of litter, waste and alluvium (silt). The Canal & River Trust mapped some of the larger items and those were subsequently removed. There has been activity by the wider community to clear material on the shorelines, where that can be safely done.</p> <p>Autumn 2021: volunteers of The Welsh Harp Group moved approximately 200 fly-tipped tyres from the 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; fly-tipped waste in the wooded wetland on the southern shore of the reservoir; and issues related to the inflow of waste on the Silk Stream and River Brent. A proportion of that waste is of materials fly-tipped into the rivers upstream.</p>
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintenance of Priestley Way trash screen - weekly.	<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; which for the Priestley Way (Staples Corner) trash screen is once fortnightly. As the screens collect waste that has been deposited in the river upstream, frequent and large quantities of waste can continue to accumulate in the river upstream of the screens. Inevitably, some smaller items will flow through the screens into the reservoir.</p>

Clean up projects	The community		On-going.	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 other volunteers.
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 to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG – volunteer projects. Canal & River Trust.	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	The Canal & River Trust reduced and removed in early 2022, some willows in the reed bed in the eastern marsh.
Reedbeds: remove young trees and marginal encroachment	Canal and River Trust	£85,000 PPL funding	Removing young trees and vegetation overhanging margins	In early 2022, The Canal & River Trust made improvements in the eastern marsh including removal of some debris and reduction of willow growth where that is causing obstructions or affecting other habitats. There is more to be done.
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 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. 2023: CRT works to create alcoves in the reedbed in the Eastern Marsh.

Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing. Rubbish noted during the water drawdown of Jan-Feb 2021 which needs to be extracted, and the possibility of some additional materials since.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, Canal and River Trust	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		Where permanent, woodland at the Welsh Harp is largely self-managing. If resources were available, some areas could be enhanced. However, where willow and other tree species are encroaching onto other habitats, for example marshland or reedbeds, then management is required to maintain the mix of habitats, particularly at the margins of the 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.	<p>During the past two decades, Willow and scrub growth has exceeded the rate of management work on those sections of the shoreline with marshland habitat. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland.</p> <p>Discussions from 2018 onwards by the Canal & River Trust, the Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Brent Council, led to a consent for works from Natural England and a programme of winter works from 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. Works have temporarily paused for discussions with partners.</p>

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 or may have other specific requirements.
Marshland and habitats (northern arm of Reservoir)	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon Redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet. Discussions are in progress regarding other works in the northern arm of the Reservoir.
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	The remnants of the previous boardwalk have been collected by volunteers. A section of the original boardwalk and a small footbridge remain in place after repairs by volunteers.

<p>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.</p>	<p>Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council</p>	<p>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 and Giant Hogweed elsewhere.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>On-going by Barnet Council, Brent Council, and the Canal and River Trust. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment; and knowledge is shared between partners of the River Brent Catchment Partnership. Thames 21 working with Brent Council and others, have treated some Knotweed and Giant Hogweed on the River Brent section downstream of the dam wall (spring / summer 2021). There are similar projects upstream in Barnet.</p> <p>Spring 2022: Brent: Control of Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space near to Wood Lane. Barnet: Similar work on invasive species.</p> <p>Autumn 2023: Completion of Riverside Connections control programme for Japanese Knotweed and visible Giant Hogweed between Quainton Street Open Space and the foot of the Welsh Harp dam wall.</p>
<p>Cool Oak Lane bridge. Cool Oak Lane bridge and Wood Lane traffic.</p>	<p>Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.</p>	<p>Barnet Council and others.</p>	<p>New pedestrian bridge in place.</p>	<p>Pedestrian footbridge alongside historic, vehicular footbridge.</p>
<p>West Hendon Playing Fields</p>	<p>Barnet Council</p>	<p>Barnet Council</p>		

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