



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Wednesday, 11 November 2009 at 7.30 pm
Council Chamber, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane,
Wembley, HA9 9HD

Membership:

Members Councillors:	Representing	first alternates Councillors:	Second alternates Councillors:
Farrell (Chair)	LB Brent	Eniola	Singh
Motley	LB Brent	Castle	Corcoran
O'Sullivan	LB Brent	Kansagra	Van Colle
Wharton	LB Brent	Gupta	Hirani
Davey	LB Barnet		
Hart (Vice-Chair)	LB Barnet		
Johnson	LB Barnet		
Rayner	LB Barnet		

For further information contact: Elly Marks, Democratic Services Officer,
0208 937 1358, Elly.Marks@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:

www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Membership continued:

Member

David Carter
Leela O'Dea
Martin Everett
Neale Hider
Neil Winter
Peter Castle
A Jefferson
Klaus Schuricht
Molly Savage
Clive Cohen
John Colmans
Kate Mitchell
John Thompson
Jon Bell
Commander G F Beck MBE
Dr Leo Batten
R Beddard
Harry Mackie

Brian Turgoose
Judy Shepherd
Geoffrey Johnson

Organisation

Brent Sports Council
British Waterways
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
Hendon Rifle Club
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Training Ship Broadwalk
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Environmental Education
Centre
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
West Hendon Community Forum
Woolmead Residents' Association

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
1 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.	
2 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 4
3 Matters arising (if any)	
4 Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent)	5 - 8
This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main local land-holding organisations: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.	
5 Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Barnet)	
Officers from Barnet Council will present a verbal update on issues related to the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan.	
6 Planning Issues	9 - 10
The Chair has agreed to hold a discussion, as part of this item, on the planning application which has been made for the erection of 71 dwellings with amenity open space at the Greenhouse Garden Centre Site. The Council's Planning Service have provided the committee with a summary document on the application.	
7 175th Anniversary of the Welsh Harp	
8 Any Other Urgent Business	
Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.	

9 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 12th January 2010



Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
- Toilets are available on the second floor.
- Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near the Grand Hall.
- A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Thursday, 16th July 2009 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell (Chair, London Borough of Brent) and Councillors Corcoran and O'Sullivan (London Borough of Brent) and Councillor Hart and Johnson (London Borough of Barnet) and Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust), Neale Hider (Environment Agency), Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents Association), Molly Savage (Local Agenda 21), Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) and Farzana Yousaf (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Motley and Wharton (London Borough of Brent) and Councillor Davey and Councillor Rayner (London Borough of Barnet) and John Colmans (London Wildlife Trust) and Kate Mitchell (Natural England)

Also in attendance was Jenny Warren (Barnet Parks Service) and Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Service).

1. **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

Nominations were invited for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the municipal year. Following nominations, Councillor Farrell was elected Chair and Councillor Hart was elected Vice-Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee for the municipal year 2009/10.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting – 31 March 2009**

RESOLVED:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 March 2009 be received and approved as an accurate record subject to the following being noted:

On page 5 of the minutes under an action heading, it was stated "that Councillor Julie Johnson organise volunteers to count the number of visitors during the summer." However, whilst Councillor Johnson made a suggestion that the number of visitors be counted over the summer, she did not volunteer to organise this.

4. **Matters Arising**

Display of the Welsh Harp

Councillor Hart explained to the committee that the displays, for exhibition in schools, were being prepared and should be ready for September. He suggested that it would be a good idea for a reminder to be sent out.

Use of pesticides and herbicides

Councillor Hart informed the committee that a question was presented at the last Barnet council meeting which asked what the annual costs of using

pesticides and herbicides were a year. He suggested that Brent Council might want to ask a similar question at a council meeting.

5. **Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent)**

Leslie Williams (Brent Park Services) introduced his report which provided an update on the progress of the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues.

Leslie Williams explained that the Management Plan was undergoing an annual review and that members of the committee were being asked to send any comments that they have to him by email. He pointed out that the deadline for comments was the 31st of July, but that the deadline date was somewhat flexible.

Following a request at the last meeting for information on the number of visitors to the Welsh Harp, Leslie Williams provided the committee with figures from the 2008 annual Parks Customer Survey. He explained that according to the 2008 survey there was an estimated 447,696 visits to the Welsh Harp during the year prior to the survey. He emphasised that the figures were an estimate rather than an actual count and warned that not everyone would have been aware of the exact boundaries which were being referred to. He also highlighted that if the same person visited twice in one day it would have been counted as two visits.

Leslie Williams explained that unfortunately British Waterways were not present and therefore were unable to give the committee an update on the clean-up of the southern side of the reservoir. However, he did make the committee aware of a meeting which took place between council officers and British Waterways and the Environment Agency in June, where the possibility of the annual monitoring, through an annual site visit, of the woodland and marshland between the North Circular was discussed. He explained how the issue of swimming was also discussed at the June meeting and emphasised that whilst wardens do not have responsibility for the water as this was British Waterways' responsibility, wardens would warn anyone they see swimming. Wardens would also be used in an advisory capacity to deter fishing.

Leslie Williams informed the committee that the Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp) had been assessed by Brent to have scored for the National Indicator 197. He stated that it was among the 34% of sites in Brent which were found to have scored positively for conservation management. Following the request from the committee for clarification on the inclusion of the Brent Reservoir Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in National Indicator 197, he explained that the advice from Natural England, the GLA and the London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum was that, in London, the areas of Local Nature Reserves should be included within the assessment of NI 197 except where the same land was also a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Therefore the land included in the NI 197 assessment was that part of the Welsh Harp Site of Importance for Nature Conservation that was beyond the SSSI boundary.

Leslie Williams made the committee aware of upcoming events in the Welsh Harp. He also advised the committee that 'Walk the Capital Ring' leaflets had been updated mostly to reflect new contact details. The leaflets for section 9 and 10 were made available for committee members. Furthermore, he informed members that SULTRANS had published the results of their consultation on proposed 'Greenways'. He explained that the controversial

proposal to create an eastern path through sensitive habitats had been removed. He highlighted the other route proposals which had remained, including a proposed route by the Dam Wall.

In the discussion which followed, the committee were informed that someone had been responsible for killing cignets on the Graham Park Estate. A concern was raised that the person responsible was taken in by the police but was not charged. A concern was also raised that there was a persistent offender who continued to fish in the reservoir and that there was no one able to prevent it. Following a question on the dangers of swimming in the Welsh Harp Reservoir, the committee discussed what the reasons were for it being dangerous. The reasons mentioned included deep water, strength of the current and the presence of a large amount of weed and algae.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted.

6. **Welsh Harp Management Plan (Barnet)**

Jenny Warren (Barnet Parks Service) provided the committee with a verbal update on issues related to the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan. She confirmed Leslie Williams's interpretation of the National Indicator 197 and informed the committee that Barnet had adopted the same policy. She stated that in Barnet, 36% of sites were found to have scored positively for conservation management.

Following a request from the committee at the last meeting regarding the introduction of a barbecue area, Jenny Warren explained that benchmarking had been carried out with other Local Authorities and that a report would be going to the next Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee for consideration. In response to the committee's concern, raised during the last meeting, over unwanted fisherman using the pontoon at the old sailing base to fish, she informed the committee that she had spoken to Children Services as to how to prevent access to the platoon. It was asked whether the pontoon could be removed so as to prevent it from being used for fishing. Jenny Warren stated that she would investigate this and would report back to the next meeting.

In response to a request for an update on the Bird Hide, it was reported that the funding had been secured, that contractors had been employed and that it should be built within the next two months. A suggestion was made by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group that this be delayed until the Autumn. Following a request for an update on the eradication of the Japanese Knotweed, the committee were informed that the eradication process was going well and that there was evidence that the programme was clearly having an effect. A debate then followed around whether glyphosate could be sprayed between the months of June and September. Concern over the possible effects of glyphosate and other pesticides on bees was also discussed.

RESOLVED:-

that the verbal update be noted.

7. **Planning Issues**

There were none.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 11 November 2009.

9. **Any Other Urgent Business**

Update on the Welsh Harp Environmental Educational Centre

Farzana Yousaf (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre) informed the committee that the centre was completely booked for the summer and that they had received a lot of interest from schools.

She explained that the centre ran a Healthy Walks Scheme and that the walks were being spoilt by the fact that there was so much dog fouling on the path. The chair suggested that dog wardens could be used to patrol the paths to act as educators.

It was noted that the Welsh Harp Sailing Association was working with the Welsh Harp Environmental Educational Centre to provide children with the chance to take part in canoeing and be on the water. It was hoped that this would fill some of the gap left by the closing down of the Youth Sailing Base. Councillor Johnson thanked the Welsh Harp Sailing Association for carrying out this work and suggested that they should contact her if they required any assistance.

The meeting ended at 8:25 pm

M FARRELL
Chair



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

11 November 2009

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For Information

Wards Affected: ALL

Welsh Harp Management Plan

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main local land-holding organisations: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 Detail

Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan

- 3.1 As part of the annual review of the Management Plan, officers of the three main land-owning / managing organisations hope to present draft revisions to the Committee. In view of that, the report headings in this committee report have been retained, but unless otherwise reported, current details will be covered by the Management Plan. To view the current Management Plan (with zones map), approved by the WHJCC on 10 November 2008, go to www.Brent.gov.uk/parks

Management works

- 3.2 Management works:
- 3.3 Weed issues: There has been a problem with weed growth in the water during the summer. British Waterways have been leading on possible solutions.

British Waterways

- 3.4 Clean-up on the southern side of the Reservoir:

Environment Agency

- 3.5 Verbal report if present.

Heritage Lottery Award

- 3.6 Maintenance of the Heritage Lottery Fund award project continues.

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.7 Refer to the Management Plan.

Events / Other

- 3.8 Brent Council Sports Service: The Healthy Walks Programme continues to March 2010. Walks meet at the Welsh Harp Open Space car park, Birchen Grove, every Thursday (except on Bank / Public Holidays) from 10am-11am. The walks are 'low to moderate' in pace. For details contact Brent Council Sports Service, tel: 020 8937 3707, [www. Brent.gov.uk/sports](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/sports)

- 3.9 Capital Ring:

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None specific, but some of the priorities identified in the Management Plan will require additional resources and decisions by, as appropriate, Brent Council, Barnet Council or British Waterways, if they are to be implemented in the future. For Brent Council Parks Service, the Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Brent Parks Service Parks Strategy, and Service Plan; both of which derive from the Council's Corporate Strategy. Thus implementation is partially dependent upon revenue and capital budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management. The Parks Service pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), land owners or occupiers are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England for 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);

and Natural England will issue consent, issue consent with conditions or refuse consent. CROW (and section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) places a duty on all public bodies to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the site.

- 5.2 It is good practice for land owners or occupiers to produce Management Plans for the SSSI, which when approved by Natural England, enable the carrying out of the works specified in the Management Plan. This can reduce the administrative work inherent in obtaining consent for individual items of management work.
- 5.3 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires that from 1 October 2006 all public authorities in England and Wales have a general duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no diversity implications.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 None specific.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan co-ordinates environmental works in the Reservoir area.

Background Papers

Dated correspondence and other documents referred to in the Report including:

Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan.

Equality Impact Assessment Completion Form: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee: Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan: 20 January 2005. Form dated 06b.01.2005.

Contact Officers

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Mr Leslie Williams, Environmental Policy Officer, Brent Parks Service, 660 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HB. Tel.: 020 8937 5628. E-mail: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk

Richard Saunders
Director of Environment and Culture

Meeting: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative
Committee
Date: 11 November 2009

Version no. 1.1
Date: 23.10.2009

Agenda Item 6

Greenhouse Garden Centre, Birchen Grove, London, NW9 8RY – LPA Ref: 09/3220

Case officer – Victoria McDonagh, Tel: 020 8937 5337

Proposal

Outline planning permission for the erection of 71 dwellings with amenity open space (matters to be determined: access)

UDP Designations and surrounding uses

- The Greenhouse Garden Centre lies within Metropolitan Open Land (MOL).
- The site abuts a Site of Metropolitan Conservation Importance (Welsh Harp) & public open space to south and west. The proposed access road off Birchen Grove will run through the Site of Metropolitan Conservation Importance and public open space.
- The site abuts residential properties to the north (Doreen Avenue, Glenwood Grove) and Woodfield School to east.
- Welsh Harp is designated as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). This is located to the south of the site but does not abut the application site.

Summary of the proposed scheme

- 71 houses (18 x 2bedroom, 36 x 3bedroom and 17 x 4 bedroom) and 110 car parking spaces
- density – 196 habitable rooms per hectare
- 50% affordable
- communal amenity space in centre of the site
- existing landscaping to remain with new trees on northern and southern ends

Matters to be determined as part of this application – Means of Access

The existing access to the garden centre is through the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre. The garden centre also has planning permission from 1999 (99/0868) to create a new access to the site by extending the Birchen Grove carriage way and footpath.

This application proposes to close the existing access through the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre and for the new access off Birchen Grove to be implemented with alterations

Key issues

- impact upon the Metropolitan Open Land in terms of the residential development and access road
- impact upon the Welsh Harp in terms of the residential development and access road
- impact upon the wildlife
- whether the access road is suitably designed and can accommodate the new residential development
- impact upon Birchen Grove and the traffic lights at the junction of Birchen Grove and Blackbird Hill

Timescales for application

Consultation Period due to expire on 11th November 2009

Likely timescale for decision – to be reported to the planning committee meeting on 16th December 2009.