



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Tuesday, 12 January 2010 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	Ahmed	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

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www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Membership continued:

Member

David Carter
Leela O'Dea / Jon Guest
Martin Everett / Neale Hider / Neil Winter
Peter Castle / A Jefferson / Klaus Schuricht
Molly Savage
Clive Cohen / John Colmans
Kate Mitchell
John Thompson
Jon Bell
Vacancy

Commander G F Beck MBE / Brian Turner
Dr Leo Batten / Roy Beddard
Harry Mackie

Brian Turgoose
Judy Shepherd
Geoffrey Johnson

Organisation

Brent Sports Council
British Waterways
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Strategy Directorate of Greater London
Authority
Training Ship Broadsword
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
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1	Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests	
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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 - 6
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3	Matters arising (if any)	
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4	Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent)	7 - 12
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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)	
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Report with Action Plan to follow.

6	Planning Issues (if any)	
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7	175th Anniversary of the Welsh Harp Reservoir	
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8	Any Other Urgent Business	
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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	
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The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 24th March 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

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Wednesday, 11 November 2009 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell (LB Brent) (Chair) and Councillors Motley (LB Brent), O'Sullivan (LB Brent), Wharton (LB Brent) and Johnson (LB Barnet) and Peter Castle (Hendon Rifle Club), Molly Savage (Local Agenda 21), John Colmans (London Wildlife Trust), Brian Turner (Training Ship Broadsword), Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), Farzana Yousaf (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre), Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association), Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum) and Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents' Association)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Davey (LB Barnet), Hart (LB Barnet) and Rayner (LB Barnet) and Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust), Commander G Beck (Training Ship Broadwalk) and Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre)

Also in attendance: Jeff Bartley (LB Brent), Jenny Warren (LB Barnet), Stephen Weeks (LB Brent), Leslie Williams (LB Brent), Victoria McDonagh (LB Brent) and Hugh Petrie (LB Barnet)

1. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

There were none declared.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th July 2009 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising (if any)**

Use of chemicals:

Following an expressed interest from Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust – Barnet Group) regarding what chemicals were being used in the borough, Jenny Warren (Barnet Parks Service) explained that Councillor Hart had raised a question about the use of herbicides, for which an answer was being formulated.

Bird hide:

In response to a request for an update on the bird hide, Jenny Warren informed the committee that they were due to meet with the contractor on the 23rd November and that the hide would be erected before Christmas.

4. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent)

Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Services) introduced his report which provided an update on the progress of the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues. He began by informing the committee that there had been a problem with weed growth in the water over the summer and that British waterways had been leading on possible solutions. He explained that the clean up, by British Waterways, on the southern side of the Reservoir continued. He added that the maintenance of the Heritage Lottery Fund Award project also continued, as did the maintenance of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Leslie Williams made the committee aware of upcoming events in the Welsh Harp. He informed the committee that the Healthy Walks Programme, organised by Brent Council Sports Services, was continuing until March 2010 and that the walks started at the Welsh Harp Open Space car park every Thursday from 10am-11am. He noted that on November 18th, at 7.30pm, the Willesden Local History Society had arranged for a talk to be held on 'Eric Simms and the Bird life of Dollis Hills.' He concluded by adding that organisations should contact him if they would like any copies of the capital ring leaflets for walks 9 and 10.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted.

5. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Barnet)

Jenny Warren (Barnet Parks Services) informed the committee that a working group meeting with key stakeholders was held on the 4th November. She stated that the group decided that, in addition to the annual management plan, an action plan would also be created that would address key issues and priorities for the Reservoir. The action plan, she explained, would contain objectives, actions and targets and would assign responsibilities for actions. She stated that the working group were meeting on the 8th December to produce the action plan. Jenny Warren explained that they hoped to be able to bring the draft action plan to the January meeting of this committee. Due to time constraints she noted that the action plan may not be ready in time for the dispatch deadline for January's meeting. She asked therefore whether the committee would consider it acceptable to receive the action plan either just before the day of the committee meeting or, if this was not possible, on the evening of the committee meeting. The committee agreed that due to time constraints this was acceptable.

RESOLVED:-

that the verbal update be noted.

6. Planning Issues

Following a request from a committee member, the Chair had agreed to hold a discussion on the planning application (09/3220), which had been submitted to Brent Council, for the erection of 71 dwellings with amenity open space at the

Greenhouse Garden Centre site in Birchen Grove. Victoria McDonagh (Senior Planning Officer, Brent Council) introduced the summary note that was provided to the committee, which set out a summary of the proposed scheme and the key issues.

The committee sought clarification from Stephen Weeks (Head of Area Planning, Brent Council) and Victoria McDonagh on a number of points regarding the detail of the application. Following an enquiry, Stephen Weeks explained that the applicant was proposing to reduce the number of current car spaces from 170 spaces and therefore was arguing that the amount of vehicles being used would be reduced. It was noted by members of the committee that the applicant had suggested, in the information given out to the public at the site, that he was planning to go ahead with either this development in Brent or the one in Barnet, but not both. In response, Stephen Weeks stated that this had not been made a formal part of the application and would need to be confirmed. In response to another enquiry, Stephen Weeks explained that the planning permission granted in 1999, to create a new access to the site by extending the Birchen Grove carriage way and footpath, was still live because the development had been started. It was noted by a member of the committee that it seemed that this planning application was not brought to the attention of this committee in 1999.

The Chair then asked for the committee's views on the application and agreed to feedback the committee's views as part of the consultation process. Following a vote, the committee unanimously agreed to object to the planning application on the following grounds:

- It was noted by the committee that the application site was on Metropolitan Open Land and that the nature of the development was clearly an inappropriate use of this land.
- The committee noted the site's proximity to the SINC and SSSI. They were concerned about the impact, in conservation terms, of the disturbance which would be caused by the construction and the completed development once occupied. The impact on wildfowl and bats was raised as a particular concern. The committee felt that the applicant had failed to provide any detailed proposals on how to limit the impact of the development on the SSSI and SINC.
- The applicant had stated that he was of the opinion that the scheme would cause less traffic as there would be less car parking spaces than there currently were at the garden centre. However, it was noted by the committee that from visiting the car park at the garden centre that the car park seemed to rarely be more than a quarter full. The committee were also concerned about the 24 hour use of vehicles which would result from a development of this nature.
- The committee were concerned that if the application was accepted that it would set an unwelcome precedent should further applications be made in the future for similar schemes. This included the parallel application which had been submitted to Barnet Council which was discussed under any other business.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the Chair feeds back the views of the committee as part of the consultation process noting that the committee objects to the planning application for the reasons set out above.
- ii) that members of the committee send any further comments regarding the application to the Chair or to Elly Marks (Democratic Services, Brent Council).

7. **175th Anniversary of the Welsh Harp**

The chair introduced Hugh Petrie (Heritage Officer, Barnet Council) who was present to talk about the exhibition which had been put together to celebrate the history of the Welsh Harp. He explained that the aim was to show the exhibition in schools, museums and libraries across Brent and Barnet in order to give people an insight into the area's history. The timing of the exhibition, he stated, could not be better as it tied in with the 175th Anniversary. The display, he added, was available in A2 and A3 size.

Cllr Farrell expressed an interest in having the exhibition at the school, in the Welsh Harp, that she was a governor in. The Welsh Harp Environmental Educational Centre also expressed an interest in holding the exhibition. In response to an enquiry, Hugh Petrie explained that notice of the exhibition would be going into Brent and Barnet's school circular and that it would also need to be circulated to the libraries. He added that the Canal Museum in Central London had shown an interest in holding the exhibition and that the display would be going up in the Church Farm Museum later this month.

Hugh Petrie informed the committee that an example of the exhibition had been set up at the back of the council chamber and that committee members were welcome to have a look after the meeting.

The committee then discussed further ways to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Welsh Harp. There was a suggestion from a member of the committee that organisations who work and use the Welsh Harp could hold an open day where the exhibition could also be shown. A suggestion was made to tie it in with the Kingsbury Open Day. It was noted that clarification of the date of the Kingsbury Open Day was required. The Welsh Harp Sailing Association stated that they had participated in a Kingsbury Open Day in the past and that they had some concerns regarding safety which would need to be discussed further. The Chair asked those representing their organisations on the committee to go back to their organisations and to discuss whether there was a commitment from them to participate in an open day. The Chair suggested that this issue be discussed further in the committee's meeting in January.

8. Any Other Urgent Business

It was agreed to discuss the planning application (03560/09), which had been submitted to Barnet Council after the agenda for this committee meeting was sent out, for the demolition of all existing buildings and the erection of 90 dwellings and the creation of areas of open space at the Woodfield Nursery site on Cool Oak Lane, as any other urgent business.

The Chair asked for the committee's views on the application and agreed to feedback the committee's views as part of the consultation process. Following a vote the committee unanimously agreed to object to the planning application on the following grounds:

- It was noted by the committee that the application site was on Metropolitan Open Land and that the nature of the development was clearly an inappropriate use of this land.
- The committee noted the sites' proximity to the SINC and SSSI. They were concerned about the impact, in conservation terms, of the disturbance which would be caused by the construction and the completed development once occupied. The impact on wildfowl and bats was raised as a particular concern. The committee felt that the applicant had failed to provide any detailed proposals on how to limit the impact of the development on the SSSI and SINC.
- It was noted that the proposed development would result in increased congestion in the area. The concern was raised that Cool Oak Lane was a very narrow road and would be unable to cope with the additional vehicle movements which would result from the proposed development.
- The close proximity of the Woodfield Nursery Site to an outdoor rifle range was also raised as a concern.
- The committee were concerned that if the application was accepted that it would set an unwelcome precedent should further applications be made in the future for similar schemes. This included the parallel application that had been made to Brent Council which had been discussed under item 6.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the Chair feeds back the views of the committee as part of the consultation process noting that the committee objects to the planning application for the reasons set out above.
- ii) that members of the committee send any further comments regarding the application to the Chair or to Elly Marks (Democratic Services, Brent Council).

Jeff Bartley (Environmental Projects & Policy Manager, Brent Council) informed the committee of the launch of the Brent Climate Strategy which was taking place at the Sattavis Patidar Centre on the 2nd December 2009.


Leslie Williams (Parks Services, Brent Council) noted that a talk on the 'History of the Welsh Harp' which had been organised by the Wembley History Society would be held on the 15th January 2010, 7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church Hall, St. Andrew's Church, Kingsbury NW9.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

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

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

M FARRELL
Chair

	<p>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 12 January 2009</p> <p>Report from the Director of Environment and Culture</p>
For Information	Wards Affected: ALL
<p>Welsh Harp Management Plan</p>	

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 met with others to review the Management Plan. Details will be edited into a revised draft of the Plan; and in addition an Action Plan of key current issues will be presented to the Committee. To view the current Management Plan (with zones map), approved by the WHJCC on 10 November 2008, go to www.Brent.gov.uk/parks

3.2 The draft of the revised Management Plan is in preparation and will be placed for consultation on Brent Council's consultation tracker webpages at www.Brent.gov.uk

3.3 An Action Plan of objectives, actions and targets of priorities from the draft Management Plan will be presented to the Committee.

Management works

- 3.4 Management works:
- 3.5 Weed issues: Officer of regulatory and land managing organisations met recently with the Welsh Harp Sailing Association. A representative of that meeting will brief the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.
- 3.6 Dogs: Some problems have been reported by the Healthy Walks programme at the Welsh Harp Open Space regarding dogs not under control causing problems to the walkers and of dogs' mess. The Area Parks Manager reports that this appears to be due to a minority of dog owners. Dog-waste bins are provided on site. Animal Welfare Officers will be asked to make some visits to the Open Space.

British Waterways

- 3.7 Clean-up on the southern side of the Reservoir: British Waterways are continuing to lead on this three-year programme.

Environment Agency

- 3.8 The Environment Agency have provided advice on the issue of the management of the weed in the reservoir.

Heritage Lottery Award

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

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.10 Refer to the Management Plan and the draft Action Plan including focus on the priority habitats that are common to more than one of the 'zones' of the Management Plan. Information will also be presented on BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System) which is the online system for national reporting of Biodiversity Action Plans. For information that is currently on BARS (listed as appropriate under Barnet or Brent) see <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>
- 3.11 Natural England have prepared the London Landscape Framework. The Reservoir is within the 'Brent River Valley' local landscape type. For details please see: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/london/ourwork/londonnatural/signatures.aspx>

Events / Other

- 3.12 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)
- 3.13 Walks are also organised by the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre.
- 3.14 Capital Ring:
- 3.15 A talk on the 'History of the Welsh Harp' with a particular emphasis on the reservoir has been organised by Wembley History Society on Friday 15 January 2010 at 7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church Hall, St. Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Kingsbury NW9. (Speaker: Leslie Williams).

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

Name
Title
Unit



Welsh Harp Reservoir: Management Plan Zones Map

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