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MEETING

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH, 2013

AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG

TO: MEMBERS OF WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor John Hart BA (Hons) MA (Chairman),
Vice Chairman: Councillor Alison Hopkins (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors

Julie Johnson
Dhiraj Kataria

Sury Khatri
Roxanne Mashari

Hugh Rayner
Harbhajan Singh

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

Aysen Giritli – Head of Governance

Governance Services contact: Paul Frost 020 8359 2205 paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk

Media Relations contact: Sue Cocker 020 8359 7039

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Minutes	
2.	Absence of Members	
3.	Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests	
4.	Presentation by Barratt Metropolitan LLP - New Regeneration Application, West Hendon	
5.	London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan	1 - 10
6.	Any Other Business	
7.	Any Other Items that the Chairman Decides are Urgent	

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Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

14 March 2013

Report from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Welsh Harp Management Plan

Forward Plan Ref:

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 land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 Detail

Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan

- 3.1. A copy of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is available on the Brent Council website at
<http://www.brent.gov.uk/pks.nsf/pages/LBB-67>

Management works

- 3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan for the current year, which for this report, is detached from

Meeting: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative
Committee
Date: 14 March 2013

Version no. 1.3
Date: 01.03.2013

the Management Plan and updated here as Appendix 1. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress.

- 3.3 Work has been undertaken to reduce, by coppicing, the growth of willow trees on the shores of the main arm of the Reservoir, at the Welsh Harp Open Space and at Neasden Recreation Ground. This winter, work has been undertaken on both sides of the Reservoir to catch up with the programme of work. This work serves several purposes: conserving the marshland habitat and flora; benefits sailing and water sports by reducing the wind shadow on the reservoir; and maintains the open views across the reservoir and open spaces.

3.4 **Planning Application for Multi-Use Games Area**

The planning application for the construction of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was approved on 19 November 2012. Officers from Sports and Parks Service have appointed a consultant to finalise designs and specification of the MUGA. Invitations to quote were sent to contractors affiliated to the Sport And Play Construction Association (SAPCA – the industry body for the construction of sports facilities). ETC Sports Surfaces Ltd were the successful contractor. Works are expected to start on 12th March 2013 and take six weeks.

Sports and Parks Service will also plant approximately six metres of hedgerow (Hawthorn and *Rosa rugosa*) along the existing hedgerow near the site of the MUGA in the autumn. This is to compensate for the loss of some of the hedgerow (approximately two metres) removed to allow for a footpath to run from the MUGA to the existing recreation ground footpath alongside the A406 road.

Planning details are at:

<https://forms.brent.gov.uk/servlet/ep.ext?extId=101150&reference=109324&st=PL>

Events / Other

- 3.5 Brent Council Sports and Parks Service organises weekly leader-led Healthy Walks. Those interested in taking part 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
- 3.6 Capital Ring: The Capital Ring is a round-London recreational walking route of about 70 miles and a section passes through the Welsh Harp. The walk can be walked in sections and stocks of the leaflets are available from Barnet, and Brent Councils. Information is also available at <http://www.walklondon.org.uk/route.asp>

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 the Canal & River Trust, if they are to be implemented in the future.
- 4.2 For Brent Council Sports and Parks Service, the Welsh Harp Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Council's Corporate Strategy and service strategies. Thus implementation is dependent upon revenue budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management and capital budgets for specific project work. The Sports and Parks Service pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, land owners or occupiers 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); and Natural England will issue consent, issue consent with conditions or refuse consent. Failing to follow this process is a criminal offence which may result in a 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 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 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:

Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan.

Contact Officers

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Sue Harper:
Director of Environment and
Neighbourhood Services

APPENDIX 1. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2012-2013

The Management Plan outlines the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir. These are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable in the short term. This Action Plan tracks progress of current year priorities and projects.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress to February 2013
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal & River Trust (C&RT)	Budget provided by the C&RT	Maintain. On-Going	Dam wall maintained.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	WHSA cleared weed; summer 2012
Sailing and sports development	WHSA	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	Continuing
Clean up projects: and pulling Himalayan Balsam	Thames 21 Environment Agency	Provided by Thames 21. Work on site by volunteers.	Projects: Two projects in 2012.	Projects undertaken.
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.	Upstream of the Priestly Way screen an oversized willow has been removed which had partially fallen into the river.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	On-going.

service areas.				
Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 (tbc) rafts.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts. .	On-going. Autumn / winter.	WHCG programme as winter work 2012-2013.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	WHCG programme as winter work 2012-13.
Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but refer to the need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	Some evidence of long-term increase.
Marshland: maintain extent	Brent Council;	Estimated at £700 per year.	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space	Willow managed on shores of Welsh Harp Open Space, Feb. 2013. Neasden Recreation Ground: Feb. 2013.
Marshland: increase	Brent, Barnet, Canal & River Trust,	At West Hendon the renovation is included by Barratt Homes in their development costs.	West Hendon development shoreline project: 2012-	Design prepared by project managers for the marshland adjacent to phase 1. Planning Applications submitted to Barnet Council. Planning.
Marshland: increase		Brent has £10,000 of section 106 for works to increase the capacity to	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the	Hold. Awaiting detail.

		hold flood waters / marshland works.	Reservoir.	
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	
South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work possibly averages £500 / year.	As required.	Condition assessed by C&RT
Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed	C&RT, Barnet Council, Brent Council	No budget: works undertaken as part of other works; or with grant funding. Barnet: three-year programme. Brent: grant funding used in 2011-13, c. £1,500	Complete the control within the SSSI at Neasden Recreation Ground. Barnet:	Control at SSSI at Neasden RG 2011 and 2012. Slight regrowth in summer 2012: treated. Follow-up treatment undertaken 2013.
Wet woodland	C&RT, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing.
Grasslands, paths cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded. Path cutting estimated at £5,000/ year.	Spring to autumn.	Cutting of mown paths undertaken. Loss of acid grassland is a concern to biodiversity.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Un-funded: management	Planting of disease-resistant Elms,	Disease resistant Elms planted. Other woodland

		of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.	winters 2011/12 and 2012/13.	largely stable. Some areas could benefit from more active management.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Brent	Brent Council and external funding. Details: TBC.	On-going.	Centre is maintained. Bookings maintained.
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.	West Hendon: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove and Dors Close included in service improvements.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, litter and dog bins,	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent grounds maintenance budgets: TBA.	On-going.	Maintained; and well-used.
Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	TBC.	New: 18.07.2012	Barnet are investigating.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Continuing.
Signage	TBC	TBC	TBC	Inspected: 2012
Infrastructure	TBC	TBC	TBC	Inspected: 2012
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency		2011 -	Draft plan and catchment partnership in preparation.
Green Flag	Brent		Achieved 2012.	2013 application in preparation.

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