



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Tuesday 18 July 2017 at 7.00 pm
Boardrooms 7&8 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,
Wembley HA9 0FJ

Membership:

Members Councillors:	representing	first alternates Councillors:	second alternates Councillors:
Khatri	Barnet		
Agha	Brent		
Ahmed	Brent		
Crane	Brent		
Mashari	Brent		
Hart	Barnet		
Kay	Barnet		
Langleben	Barnet		

For further information contact: Joe Kwateng, Governance Officer
0208 937 1354, joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk

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democracy.brent.gov.uk

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Membership continued:

Member

David Carter
Sam Thomas
Neale Hider
Neil Winter
A Jefferson
Dale Langdale
Clive Cohen
Dianne Murphy
Julie Johnson
Phil Atkinson
Jon Bell
Commander G F Beck MBE
Brian Turner
Roy Beddard
Harry Mackie

John Shepherd
Martin Hall
Judy Shepherd
Derrick Chung

Geoffrey Johnson

Organisation

Brent Sports Council
Canal and River Trust
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
Hendon Rifle Club
London Wildlife Trust
London Wildlife Trust
Local Agenda 21
Phoenix Canoe
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Training Ship Broadsword
Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Environmental Education
Centre
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
West Hendon Allotment Society
West Hendon Community Forum
West Hendon Residents' Association /
Friends of York Park
Woolmead Residents' Association

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

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
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1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2017/18	
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2 Declarations of pecuniary 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.

3 Deputations (if any)	
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4 Matters arising	
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5 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 8
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6 Management Plan (Brent)	9 - 18
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This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir /Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2017/18 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 and River Trust.

7 Management Plan (Barnet) Verbal update	
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Officers from Barnet will give a verbal update.

8 Planning Issues (if any)	
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9 Date of next meeting	
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The next scheduled meeting of the Welsh Harp is on 28 November 2017 at Brent Civic Centre.

10 Any other urgent business	
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Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Head of Executive and Member Services or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.



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.

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Decisions of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

14 March 2017

Members Present:-

Chairman: Councillor Sury Khatri
Councillor Adam Langleben

Also in attendance:

Matthew Gunyon	London Borough of Barnet
Leslie Williams	London Borough of Brent
Roy Beddard	Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Neale Hider	Environment Agency
Samantha Ho	Environment Agency
Derrick Chung	West Heddon Residents Association/Friends of York Park
Diane Murphy	London Wildlife Trust
Clive Cohen	London Wildlife Trust
Phil Atkinson	Phoenix Canoe Club
John Shephard	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Geof Johnson	Woolmead Residents Association
Eric Holroyd	Barratt London
Dale Langdale	Hendon Rifle Club
Martin Hall	West Hendon Allotment Society
Liz Hall	West Hendon Allotment Society

1. MINUTES

The Chairman updated the Committee that the request for substitute officers to attend the Welsh Harp meetings on behalf of colleagues who could not attend was still being looked into. The issue would have to be taken through the constitution Committee. (**Action:** Cllr Khatri)

An update on Mr Hider's action point from the last meeting can be found in 'post meeting' part of the minutes on page 4.

Page 5 of the minutes raised the point regarding vandalism. Mr Gunyon will look into the issue and provide an update at the next meeting, (**Action:** Matthew Gunyon).

Page 6 of the minutes an action point for Mr Williams has been covered in 3.9 of the Brent report submitted to this meeting.

Page 7 of the minutes an action point for Mr Williams have been covered in 3.8 of the Brent report submitted to this meeting.

Page 9 of the minutes and action point raised for Mr Holroyd will be covered in his presentation at this meeting.

The Chairman updated the Committee on the damage to Cool Oak Bridge. He said that Contractors are due to submit estimates for repair of the bridge, however the issue was more complicated than first thought due to the bridge being a listed building. He said that

measures were now in hand to have the bridge repaired and updates would be provided to the Committee hopefully at the next meeting.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Councillor John Hart
Councillor Devra Kay
Catherine Cullen from the London Wildlife Trust.
Judy Shepherd from the West Hendon Community Forum
Julie Johnson from Local Agenda 21

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Nature of Interest	Details
Councillor Langleben	Pecuniary Interest	Trustee on the West Hendon Estate Community Trust Fund

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Gunyon from the London Borough of Barnet introduced the report.
Mr Gunyon updated the Committee that there had been no reports of illegal encampments for January 2017 and that the data for February would be available shortly. The key points in regard to illegal encampments are summarised in table 1.3 on page 16 of the report.

Mr Gunyon informed the Committee that maps had been included in the report for sites where Knotweed had been identified. He asked that if any other locations were identified that they are emailed to [parks @barnet.gov.uk](mailto:parks@barnet.gov.uk) and these would be investigated.

Mr Cohen told the Committee it was important that all knotweed is treated before it flowers; otherwise the nectar might be collected by bees and enter into the human food chain. Mr Gunyon noted this and said treatment would commence before flowering. Mr Hider agreed with Mr Cohen that it should be treated before flowering, but said it can also be treated after flowering.

Councillor Langleben asked Mr Gunyon whether there was a tender being put through for bins and if so would this be implemented before the beginning of the summer season. Mr Gunyon said a tender was due to commence at the beginning of next week and was hopeful these bins should be in place before the beginning of summer. However the time of implementation is depended on the value of the contract. Mr Gunyon said he would update the Committee on the progress of this. (**Action:** Mr Gunyon)

Mr Dale Langdale said the bins were often overflowing and were not emptied regularly enough. Mr Gunyon said all the bins were on a programme to be emptied and he would look into any bins that had been missed. He asked that any missed bins should be reported to parks@barnet.gov.uk , and these cases would be passed on to a supervisor to sort out.

Councillor Langleben asked whether the bins on the pathway which cut through the West Hendon Estate were Barnet Council or Barrett Homes bins. Mr Holroyd said currently the land could be readopted by the Local Authority if it wished to do so; however the decision had yet to be made. Mr Holroyd assured the Committee that whoever ended up owning the land would ensure that bins were maintained and managed properly and this would be done throughout the process. In the short term, he said, the land would remain with Barratt, however Barratts were in discussion with Barnet Council regarding adoption of the roads, bridges and greenspaces over the long term. Mr Holroyd said that over the summer the bins would be provided on the site by Barratts, and that Barratts and Barnet Council would ensure they work together to ensure a maintenance regime is established.

Mr Shepherd enquired as to how often the bins were emptied as he had found rubbish spilling out of bins in the area. Mr Gunyon said that in the winter season bins were emptied twice a week and this increases to 4 times a week during the peak summer season. Mr Gunyon said during summer the emptying of bins would be assessed and could be increased to up to 7 times a week if required. Mr Gunyon also confirmed that play areas are inspected and emptied every day. Mr Langdale commented that he found the bins were always full. Mr Gunyon said he would take this back to the team to look into. (**Action:** Mr Gunyon)

6. LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Leslie Williams from the London Borough of Brent introduced the report. Mr Williams informed the Committee that the joint management plan for Barnet and Rivertrust can be found on the Brent Council website. The Action Plan is attached as an appendix to the Welsh Harp Management plan report. Mr Williams said that Brent Council were trying to establish a new timetable, however currently there was little progress on this.

Mr Williams told the Committee that there had been no new reports since the last meeting in relation to rough sleepers.

He informed the Committee that Brent was undertaking sport and physical activity sessions, and details of this could be found on the website. He asked that any organisations able to offer activities to residents to go on and log their details on the site or provide a link to a website.

Mr Williams gave an update on the weekly walks at the Welsh Harp and said consultations would take place regarding the programme going forward. He said an update would be given on future arrangements for the walks once received.

Mr Williams said that the removal of timber tow boarding from the river was in progress and that Brent Council was looking to set up projects both up-stream and down-stream of the site.

In relation to the item raised at the last meeting concerning dead Swans in the reservoir, Mr Williams said Brent Council's policy of removal of dead animals was dependant on the circumstances of the incident. He said that the Brent reservoir water was the responsibility of the Canal and River Trust and Brent Council does not have facilities at the site to launch boats into the water to deal with dead animals. He said that if the animal were near to the shore, dependant on the circumstance, Brent Council would endeavour to deal with it.

Mr Williams commented that there was erosion on the recreational ground where it meets the damn wall, and this area is popular with visitors. He said currently no immediate solution had been established, however Brent Council are looking into reducing tree vegetation to spread out over a wider area.

Mr Williams updated the Committee on disease and pests and said there are currently two main pest species affecting the Horse Chestnut. He said there are also a number of insect pests and fungi affecting the trees in Britain and information on these can be found via the Forestry Commission website, links to which could be found in the report.

Mr Cohen enquired about the progression of the Sand Martin Banks. Mr Hider said that he had visited the site in February; Catherine Cullen was unable to attend at the time. Mr Hider said discussions had taken place in regard to possible sites for the banks and the trust had been approached to provide details on embankments that had previously been deployed. Mr Hider said the RSPB would be sending information over to him and plans were on-going.

Mr Langdale said that there were still rough sleepers on the Brent side of the reservoir. Mr Atkinson said blue tarpaulin had been located on the site for two weeks near to BirchEnd Grove. Mr Williams asked Mr Atkinson to email details about this location after the meeting so that it could be investigated.

Mr Cohen flagged the issue of deaths from swimming in recent years; he asked whether signage could be made available in languages other than English. Mr Williams said that advice on the dangers of swimming had been tackled via several approaches. He said safety advice was outlined in the management plan and that there was a limit to the amount of signage that could be provided. He said it was not practical to provide a very large number of signs. Mr Johnson agreed on the impracticality of additional signs and said that pictorial signs were provided which were much easier to understand and were universal across languages.

Mr Atkinson notified the Committee that another illegal encampment near the Canoe Club had appeared and had been there for at least three weeks. Mr Williams said he would follow this up. **(Action: Mr Williams)**

Mr Shepherd said he had enquired about the rough sleepers on the north circular road side and also a caravan which has been there for around six weeks on the Birchend Grove, Mr Williams said he would also follow up these reports. **(Action: Mr Williams)**

Mr Shepherd said that wood that was being cut on the side of the lake and was entering the water and should be cleared. Mr Williams said he was not aware there was wood entering from their side; however he would endeavour to look into the matter. **(Action: Mr Williams)**

Ms Murphy asked whether the open session's portal on the Brent website could include volunteering for work days. Mr Williams said that anything physical could be included which could involve conservation, walking etc. He said that allotments and gardening organisations could put information on the website too. Ms Murphy said she would inform Ms Cullen of this.

Mr Cohen said the Canals and River Trust did not seem to attend the Welsh Harp meetings even though a lot of the issues involved them as they are responsible for water and banks. The Chairman notified the Committee that he had written to the Canal and River Trust requesting their attendance and would keep pursuing this to secure a

representative, however he was yet to receive a reply. Mr Holroyd said he would forward the Chairman contact details of an officer at the Canal and River Trust. Mr Hider agreed a representative would be useful and also could provide details of an officer working at the Trust.

Mr Cohen mentioned in the last meeting (page 3 of the minutes) that there was a problem with rats at the Welsh Harp. Mr Cohen said currently there are staff employed at Barnet Council to deal with rats, however he was not sure this was the case at Brent Council. Mr Cohen asked that a report on how frequently rats are present be produced, so that the rat population could be treated in whatever way necessary. Mr Williams said he would liaise with Barnet Council on their approach to handling rats. **(Action: Mr Williams)** He said currently Brent Council's approach within parks was to discourage bird feeding and encourage education around responsible park use. Councillor Langleben said the issue with rats was a major problem on the estate and the regeneration had exacerbated the issue in some parts. Councillor Langleben suggested Barnet Homes and Barretts needed to consult and cooperate on a solution to the problem. Mr Beddard said that the public feeding animals from the bridge was adding to the problem. Mr Hider suggested the public needed to be encouraged to feed the animals with alternatives to bread such as seeds or lettuce leaves. Mr Holroyd said he would take the comments surrounding better education of feeding to Ms Cullen and potentially investigate appropriate signage.

Mr Gunyon said that Barnet Council could send enforcement officers down to the site if there were any issues regarding fly tipping or littering and issue fines, but agreed engaging and education people was a good first step.

Mr Beddard noted that someone had been spotted on more than one occasion disposing of waste food into the lake. Mr Gunyon asked that details of the day and time of this activity be reported to him so that enforcement officers could visit the site and investigate.

RESOLVED – That the Committee noted and made comments on the report.

7. BARRATTS - UPDATE PRESENTATION ON THE WEST HENDON REGENERATION

Mr Eric Holroyd made a presentation to the Committee updating them on the West Hendon Regeneration plans.

Mr Holroyd told the Committee that Phase 3a of the scheme was completed and work was progressing on Phase 3b and 3c and updated the Committee on the parameters of the buildings and surrounding landscape.

Mr Holroyd said that the planning application for Phase 4 had been submitted to Barnet Council and consultations were carried out earlier in the year. He said he expected the decision to be made in March or April 2017. Mr Holroyd said that work would then take place on the site until 2019. Currently Barnet Council was administering 2 Compulsory Purchase Orders (and which will only be used as a last resort) for the land required to deliver Phase 4. A Public Enquiry was due to take place towards the end of March 2017. Mr Holroyd updated the Committee on the Cool Oak Bridge and said that a planning application for a new pedestrian and cycle bridge had been submitted to Barnet Council in January 2017. He said that the bridge would provide improved access from the development to Woodfield park and West Hendon playing field.

Mr Holroyd updated the Committee on the removal of trees on the estate, he said he was not able to get details on the total number of trees removed, however he informed the Committee that during Phase 3 the intention was to retain as many of the trees as possible. He said that out of the 50 trees, half of them are planned to be removed and replaced with 145 trees, which would significantly increase the number of trees within the estate. Mr Holroyd said plans for the trees in later phases were still to be agreed, but consultation with Barnet Council would happen before any plans were put in place.

Mr Hider enquired about proposals for the land on the opposite side of the road to the estate. Mr Holroyd said that the Canals and River Trust had leased this land to Barnet Council and who then leased this to Barratts. He said in the longer term Barnet Council would look at improvements via s106 and there were plans to provide a type of games area in the location after consultation had been completed. Mr Hider asked if they were open to proposals on what the land could be used for. Mr Holroyd said that this would be a decision for Barnet Council once lease of the land had terminated. Mr Gunyon said that alternative ideas could be considered at the point of consultation.

Ms Murphy asked about changes to buildings on the Broadway and whether older buildings would be demolished to open up the junction during this phase of building. Mr Holroyd said the Broadway had relatively few buildings being demolished as part of the scheme and smaller properties will be removed where the junctions require widening. He said that there was a piece of work being conducted with Barnet Council to look at the retail strategy for the West Hendon Broadway. Ms Murphy also asked about the buildings on Station Road on the north side as there was a nest of House Martins colony present. Mr Holroyd confirmed that they were keen to maintain and protect all life and appropriate investigations would be performed if the building was directly affected. Mr Beddard said the colony situated here was the largest in London. Mr Holroyd told the Committee no work was planned on these buildings for at least a couple of years which would give them time to look into plans. Mr Holroyd said he would discuss the issue with colleagues and all wildlife would be taken into consideration before any work commenced. Mr Beddard said that alternative nests would need to be sought in a suitable site nearby, close to the reservoir with feeding opportunities for them. Mr Cohen said it was critical that new nests were placed facing the same direction as the existing nests.

Mr Cohen said that any felling of trees should be conducted outside of the breeding season. Mr Holroyd said he would consult with an ecologist and that in terms of the 25 trees being taken down over the 4 or 5 year period, these would be removed as late as possible. Mr Holroyd said a survey is conducted prior to every tree being taken down and could be delayed if needed, he stressed that everything possible will be done to mitigate the effects on wildlife.

Mr Chung said that the trees being removed were 50 or 60 years old and the new trees planted would therefore not be a good replacement. Mr Holroyd said that only trees on the site were being replaced and none on the Welsh Harp itself were affected. Mr Chung also enquired about where the new play area would be situated. Mr Holroyd said the ball court was due to be removed from the estate, with two new bridges built across to playing fields. He said they were currently working with Barnet Council for provision of the ball court and once a suitable location had been identified they would fund the development, residents would be consulted first on the best location.

Mr Johnson asked whether Herbert Road would remain open. Mr Holroyd said as he understood it the direction of the one way traffic would be reversed down this road, however the road would remain open and still be one-way. He said there were individual

section agreements for the junctions and these would be publicised to ensure people understand the changes and how they will affect the community. Mr Holroyd also said that work on the bridge would commence in autumn 2017 and was due to be completed by spring 2018, avoiding the breeding season. The pre-fabrication of the bridge would be conducted off site to minimise the effect on the Welsh Harp and then craned into place within 1 or 2 weeks minimising the impact on the Welsh Harp.

Councillor Langleben reiterated to the Committee that he and his colleagues opposed the principle of the scheme due to the loss of hundreds of homes. He asked that the Council commit to re-house within the borough all the residents made homeless as a result.

8. PHONEIX CANOE CLUB- PRESENTATION OF PLANS TO RE-GENERATE THE PHOENIX CANOE CLUB

Mr Phil Atkinson presented a short presentation on the new designs for the Phoneix Canoe Club.

He told the Committee that the design team had finished the plan drawings and they would be submitted for planning permission at the end of the week. He explained the need for the new building was because the existing building was very old and did not accommodate the needs and facilities of the club.

Mr Atkinson explained that Timber had been chosen as it blends in with the surrounding area. The building design incorporates a community café and a company was due to be employed to work with adults with learning difficulties. Mr Atkinson said the new plan meant that the boats were now situated at the front of the building toward the water and that an additional 2 changing rooms had been added.

Mr Cohen asked whether a green roof had been considered as it offered cost savings and would be appropriate for the location. Mr Atkinson said they had been advised that there is so much greenery surrounding the area already that this would not have much additional effect.

.Mr Holroyd said that they had researched sustainability measures and that a green or brown roof was costly, and the plan needed to be deliverable and cost effective. Ms Murphy stated it was difficult to understand how a green roof would not be cost effective. Mr Holroyd said he would take the feedback from the Committee to the architects to re-look at the plans.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Cohen asked that schools be invited to the Welsh Harp to get involved in conservation activities. The Chairman said he would pass this request on to the education officers. **(Action:** Cllr Khatri) Ms Murphy said Thames 21 already ran such a scheme.

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The chairman thanked the Committee Members for attending this year. He updated the Committee that no dates had yet been set for the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee meetings 2017 -2018 which would now be held at Brent Council. The Chairman told the

Committee that as soon as the dates had been finalised they would be circulated. Dates can be found on Brent's website via the following link:
<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=286>

The meeting finished at 8.55pm.



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 18 July 2017

Report from the Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment

For Action

Wards Affected: ALL

Welsh Harp Management Plan

Forward Plan Ref: Not applicable.

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2017/18 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 and River Trust.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 DETAILS

- 3.1 The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan (dated 15 March 2016) is available on the Brent Council website at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16404048/brent-reservoir-welsh-harp-management-plan-15-03-2016.pdf>
- 3.2. The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan for the current year; which for this committee report is updated as Appendix 1. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress.
- 3.3 The sawn logs, reported at the last meeting, and potentially close to the shore line near to Cool Oak Lane bridge, were reported to Barnet Council to investigate.
- 3.4 Rough sleepers: Reports of rough sleepers made during the last meeting and subsequent reports, have been reported by the Council's Parks Services to the outreach team for rough sleepers. The report of a caravan on Birchen Grove was forwarded to the Public Realm team.

- 3.5 Promoting Sport and Physical Activity sessions: The Council are encouraging organisations who organise sport or physical activity to promote their contact details and/or activities on the Open Sessions portal at <https://app.opensessions.io/> This is searchable by the public, so enabling people to locate physical activities by type or in their locality. If needed, help with registration is available from hello@opensessions.io
- 3.6 The weekly walks programme at the Welsh Harp continues. Walks generally attract 15-25 people and are led by a walk leader. These take place on Thursdays from 10-11am meeting at Birchen Grove Car Park, Kingsbury NW9. The walks are free of charge. A review of the walks programme has been undertaken and this has included public consultation via the Brent Council website on Healthy Walks and Outdoor Gyms. Options to consider will include a possible reduction in the number of walks offered and the use of volunteers to lead walks. Brent may pilot a walk with a volunteer to see how effective it is before rolling it out across the whole walks programme. It is hoped that there will be a walk on offer at Welsh Harp, in some capacity.
- 3.7 Committee members commented recently on erosion of the bank of the reservoir at Neasden Recreation Ground, near to the south side of the dam wall. The Parks team are suggesting the possibility of a design for a platform, near to the interpretative panels and above the shore. The relationship with land under the responsibility of the Canal & River Trust; and the proximity to the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) would need to be investigated. This could enable visitors to view while causing less erosion than at present. There would be some form of edge and upstand so as to make the platform wheelchair accessible.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan is a long-term document and not all works are feasible in the short-term. Works listed in the management plan include the programmed operational works and longer-term works to maintain, restore and enhance the Welsh Harp area. Works are undertaken only where the budgets or resources are available. Programmed operational works are undertaken only within the existing budgets.
- 4.2 A significant amount of work is undertaken, or in kind, by the voluntary sector, and by the volunteers of the sailing clubs, conservation groups and other community organisations. In addition, the Council and partners, endeavour where feasible, to seek additional funding from grants and other sources.

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, 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 site of special scientific interest ('SSSI'), and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest); and Natural England will 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. 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 –

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

- 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.
- 5.4 The owner of land included in a SSSI has a legal duty to inform Natural England within 28 days of any changes in ownership or occupation of the site, including leases, easements and rights.

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 (IF APPROPRIATE)

- 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 include:
Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan (version 15 March 2016).

CONTACT OFFICERS

Leslie Williams, Strategy and Service Development Officer, Brent Council, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. Tel: 020 8937 5628. Reception: 020 8937 1234.

Amar Dave

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Meeting date: 18 July 2017

APPENDIX 1. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2017-2018

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: 2017-18 to 19 June 2017
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (C&RT)	C&RT	Maintain. On-Going	Dam wall and mechanism maintained as required to operational and statutory standards.
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 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.
Clean up projects: including some control of invasive plants.	Thames 21 Environment Agency	Provided by Thames 21. Work on site by volunteers.	On-going.	Thames 21 clean-up projects on Brent and tributaries.
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.	Maintenance is on-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.

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 in 2017-18 for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	The WHCG are expecting to organize projects around the hides during the winter of 2017/18.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	Led by the WHCG. Autumn / winter works.
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 has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.
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 (where trees are reduced).	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	Willow growth appears to be exceeding management work on the shoreline. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) has reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland.
Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet.

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. Most species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.
South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	Comments from visitors (2016?) suggest that condition of boardwalk requires regular checking.
Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed	C&RT, Barnet Council, Brent Council	Brent parks have been dealing with Japanese Knotweed at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Thames 21 are investigating possible systems for mapping of invasive species; possibly by linking to existing work by other recording partners.	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.	On-going by Brent Council and Barnet Council. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment. Operational knowledge is also shared via the River Brent Catchment Partnership.
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. Current path cutting estimated at £5,000/ year.	Spring to autumn.	Paths maintained.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, (Brent)	Thames 21 are managing the Centre following a Community Asset Transfer from Brent Council.	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre re-opened from January 2016.	Thames 21 have managed the Centre from January 2016.
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. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close, commenced in 2013.	West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, and other parks furniture. Litter collection.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	Maintained; and well-used. Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.
Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.	Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017.	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development.

Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2016/2017. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).
Signage	Brent / Barnet.			Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 -	Action Plan published at: http://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/brent_river_corridor_improvement_plan_final_2014.pdf

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