



## Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

**Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 7.00 pm**

Boardrooms 3&4 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,  
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

### Membership:

#### Members

Councillors:

Agha (Chair)  
Khatri (Vice-Chair)  
Ahmed  
Crane  
Hart  
Kay  
Langleben  
Mashari

#### Representing

London Borough of Brent  
London Borough of Barnet  
London Borough of Brent  
London Borough of Brent  
London Borough of Barnet  
London Borough of Barnet  
London Borough of Barnet  
London Borough of Brent

#### Substitute Members (Brent Council)

Councillors:

Dixon, Farah, Mahmood and Tatler

**For further information contact:** Bryony Gibbs, Governance Officer  
0208 937 1355, [bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk](mailto:bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk)

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

**[democracy.brent.gov.uk](http://democracy.brent.gov.uk)**

**The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting**

## Membership continued:

### Member

Edel Fingleton  
David Carter  
Sam Thomas  
Sam Ho  
A Jefferson  
Dale Langdale  
Julie Johnson  
Clive Cohen  
Dianne Murphy  
Phil Atkinson  
Jon Bell  
Commander G F Beck MBE  
Brian Turner  
Andrew Haynes  
Roy Beddard  
John Shepherd  
Martin Hall  
Judy Shepherd  
Derrick Chung  
  
Geoffrey Johnson

### Organisation

Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)  
Brent Sports Council  
Canal and River Trust  
Environmental Agency  
Hendon Rifle Club  
Hendon Rifle Club  
Local Agenda 21  
London Wildlife Trust  
London Wildlife Trust  
Phoenix Canoe  
Princes Park Youth Football Club  
Training Ship Broadsword  
Training Ship Broadsword  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
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.

Item	Page
<b>1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of interests</b>	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary, personal or prejudicial interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.	
<b>3 Deputations (if any)</b>	
By prior arrangement with the Chair, persons who are not members of the Committee may attend to address the Committee on a particular issue or item. Any members of the public wishing to address the committee should submit their request seven days before the meeting to the contact officer named on the agenda. The request will then be passed to the Chair for consideration.	
<b>4 Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	1 - 6
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.	
<b>5 Matters arising (if any)</b>	
To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.	
<b>6 Management Plan (Barnet)</b>	7 - 12
The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee comprises of British Waterways, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee only and meets on a quarterly basis. The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter.	
<b>7 Management Plan (Brent)</b>	13 - 22
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 & River Trust.

## **8 Thames 21**

A representative of Thames 21 will discuss a recent paint pollution incident and the support available to partners from the new Development Manager for the Brent Catchment Partnership.

## **9 Environment Agency - Verbal Report (if any)**

Representatives of the Environment Agency are invited to provide a verbal update to the committee on matters affecting the Welsh Harp.

## **10 Planning Issues (if any)**

The committee is asked to consider and discuss any planning issues affecting the Welsh Harp.

## **11 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed following the annual council meetings of Brent and Barnet Councils.

## **12 Any other urgent business**

No business other than that appearing on the agenda shall be transacted at the meeting unless the Chair decides that it is urgent. Any member of the committee wishing to raise an item of urgent business should provide sufficient notice to permit consideration by the Chair.



Please remember to switch your mobile phone to ***silent*** during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.

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## MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Agha (London Borough of Brent) (Chair), and Councillors Ahmed (London Borough of Brent), Hart (London Borough of Barnet), Langleben (London Borough of Barnet) and Farah (London Borough of Brent). Also present were Julie Johnson (Local Agenda 21), Dianne Murphy (London Wildlife Trust), Phil Atkinson (Phoenix Canoe), Haynes (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), John Shepherd (Welsh Harp Sailing Association), Derrick Chung (West Hendon Residents' Association / Friends of York Park) and Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents' Association).

### 1. **Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

The following apologies were received:

- Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group)
- Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust)
- Councillor Crane (Brent)
- Catherine Cullen (London Wildlife Trust)
- Liz Hall (West Hendon Allotment Society)
- Councillor Kay (Barnet)
- Councillor Khatri (Barnet and Vice Chair)
- Councillor Mashari (Brent)
- Julie Shephard (West Hendon Community Association)

Councillor Farah (Brent) was present as a substitute member of the committee for Councillor Crane.

Andrew Haynes (Secretary of WHCG) was attending on behalf of Roy Beddard.

### 2. **Declarations of interests**

Councillor Langleben declared that a personal interest as he was a trustee of the West Hendon Estate Community Trust Fund. He further declared for purposes of transparency that his spouse was employed by Brent Council.

### 3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

### 4. **Matters arising (if any)**

#### Park Furniture

An update was sought on the larger bins to be installed at the Welsh Harp. Matthew Gunyon (Partnership and Development Manager, Greenspaces Team) advised that the procurement process for the contract for park furniture had been slightly delayed but would be awarded at the start of the new calendar year.

### Silk Stream

An update was sought on what actions had been taken in response to reports provided at the past two meetings regarding debris and rubbish dumped in the Silk Stream. Matthew Gunyon advised that he had identified that the land in question was in the control of Barnet Council and a site visit would be arranged with the relevant team. Discussion had been held with the planning regarding the possibility of opening up access to dissuade anti-social behaviour. Dianne Murphy (London Wildlife Trust) cautioned that this could have a negative impact on birdlife in that area.

### Attendance by the Canal and River Trust

It was agreed that the Canal and River Trust be contacted to encourage attendance at future Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.

## 5. **Management Plan (Barnet)**

Matthew Gunyon (Partnership and Development Manager, Greenspaces Team) introduced the report. The committee heard that no reports of illegal encampments had been received. A procurement exercise had been launched for landscape design services for Barnet Council's two new Sports Hubs. The consultant would be asked to look at Woodfield Park in parallel to West Hendon Playing Fields and the Ball Court would also be picked up through this process. The consultant would be required to undertake stakeholder engagement as well as a full public consultation. Matthew Gunyon concluded his introduction by referring the committee to the advice set out in the report provided by Barnet Council's in-house pest control service. Dianne Murphy (London Wildlife Trust) advised that the ecology concerns set out in this advice related only to use of poison within the SSSI and not to use in homes.

In response to queries raised by the committee, Matthew Gunyon confirmed that signs regarding littering would be installed once the new Parks Furniture contract was in place in the new calendar year. The contract for enforcement officers was currently under review and an update would be provided in due course. With regard to the spread of the Oak Processionary Moth, the core zone was gradually getting closer to the Welsh Harp. The residents in Woolmead Avenue who had dug a drainage ditch from their premises into the Welsh Harp had been written to and advised that they either needed to repair the damage or Barnet Council would do so on their behalf and recharge the costs. The bird hide that had been vandalised and burnt had now been refurbished in such a way as to discourage overnight use.

Derick Chung (West Hendon Resident's Association) emphasised that it was important that in relocating the ball court, the size of the facility was not reduced and noted that parents would not be happy with it being located across the bridge and out of sight of their homes. Eric Holroyd advised that some of these concerns were raised at the consultation and explained that the regeneration scheme provided for a number of different play areas aimed at different age ranges. It was confirmed that there was sufficient space at the West Hendon Playing Fields to accommodate a multiuse playing space.

## 6. **Management Plan (Brent)**

Leslie Williams (Strategy and Service Development Officer) introduced the report, thanking the committee for the reports of illegally dumped rubbish at Neasden Recreation Ground provided at the last meeting and advising that on removal, the volume of rubbish had amounted to a lorry load. The committee further heard that Giant Hogweed had been reported at two locations at Neasden Recreation Ground. Brent Council were investigating control of the plant. It had also been identified that the boardwalk in the Reservoir land beyond the eastern edge of Neasden Recreation Ground had damaged sections. The boardwalk also incorporated a small footbridge over the brook that flowed from Dollis Hill / the North Circular Road to the Reservoir. The landowner had been contacted; and as far as was practicable, access had been cordoned off to the start of the boardwalk.

Dianne Murphy (London Wildlife Trust) reported that there was a large pile of bags and rubbish which had been dumped at Birchen Grove. Leslie Williams confirmed that he would follow this matter up.

7. **Environment Agency - Verbal Report (if any)**

None.

8. **Planning Issues (if any)**

Planning Application - Tower

The committee considered the following planning application: **(Ref 17/4597) - Installation of a 25 meter high lattice tower to be situated adjacent to the south-western corner of the Welsh Harp reservoir, Embankment South of Welsh Harp Sailing Club, Birchen Grove, London, NW9.**

A number of concerns were raised by the committee, including:

- A tower had already been erected next to the Welsh Harp Sailing Club, though not in the location stated. It was unclear whether this was a temporary measure. This tower stood out, was unsightly and was not sited within tall trees as the planning application stated.
- The application was poorly worded and implied through lack of clarity that it was submitted by the Welsh Harp Sailing Club who had subsequently received complaints.
- The impact of the tower on birdlife and wildlife in the area. This was not adequately addressed by the application.

The committee noted that a petition had been established to object to the erection of a tower in a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

**RESOLVED:** That the concerns of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee be sent to the relevant Planning Department.

West Hendon Estate Regeneration

Eric Holroyd (Barratt Metropolitan Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)) advised that the reserved matters planning application regarding Phase 5, Phase 6 and the Silk Stream Bridge was currently being prepared. Construction on these phases was not due to commence until 2022/23; however, it was necessary to submit the reserved

matters planning application within three years of the approval of the outline planning application, which had been granted in 2013.

Eric Holroyd informed the committee that a consultation event had been held on Wednesday 22 November at the Community Hub on the West Hendon Estate. The committee received a detailed overview of the information provided at the event and copies of the display boards were tabled for the committee's consideration.

In response to queries raised by the committee, Eric Holroyd advised that an ecologist was employed by Barratt Metropolitan LLP to monitor the impact of construction and overall development on wildlife. The Silk Stream Bridge had been placed in dense wetted woodland, away from the water. The bridge would be made from noise-minimising materials and the edges had been designed to shelter movement. The bridge was not located near a breeding site. The reserved matters application, would include a detailed technical note from the ecologist setting out enhancements that had and would be made to improve the biodiversity of the area. These included removing invasive plant species and adding signage to provide information on the wildlife of the area. A series of approvals from the Environment trust, Natural England and the Canal and River Trust would also be required to move forward with the detailed proposals. As part of the planning permission granted in 2013, Barratt Metropolitan LLP was obliged to monitor the impact of construction on birds and wildlife and it was found that the greatest disturbance for birds was caused by large packs of dogs being walked in the area. The roof space of the new properties was divided between solar panels and green or brown roofs. In addition, bird and bat boxes and bricks were embedded in the development, as agreed with Natural England. Barratt Metropolitan LPP also funded the Warden position for the SSSI. Discussions were also being held with the London Wildlife Trust regarding the development of an overall strategy for the Welsh Harp.

Eric Holroyd further responded that a new public square and six new retail units to include a supermarket and coffee shop would be built as part of the phase of development currently underway. Major highway works had also been undertaken, including the provision of new paving, street furniture, lighting and 65 pay and display parking bays. Work was being done with existing traders to explore how to diversify the public offer. £30k funding had been secured by Barratt and this would be matched by Barnet Council to support this work. The possibility of accessing further funding from the GLA would be explored.

A number of queries regarding parking were raised. Eric Holroyd advised that the number of parking places provided for the development complied with Barnet's policy and the surrounding roads would be designated CPZ for residents. Councillor Langleben advised that the low take up of parking spaces provided for the residents of the development could in part be due to the significant initial charge made for the parking space. Eric Holroyd advised that he would explore this issue with Barnet Council.

During the discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- i) Eric Holroyd to share with the committee:
  - the results of the monitoring of bird and bat boxes and green roofs with the committee.

- information on the rafts installed
  - a note from the ecologist appointed by Barratt Metropolitan LPP regarding the habitat provided in the buildings.
- ii) Eric Holroyd to feedback to Barrett homes regarding councillor access to the residents in the development.

The Chair thanked Eric Holroyd for his contribution to the meeting.

**9. Date of next meeting**

The committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 13 March 2018.

**10. Any other urgent business**

Welsh Harp Education Centre

Edel Fingleton (Thames 21) advised that Thames 21 managed the Welsh Harp Education Centre (WHEC). The organisation wanted to expand provision, engage the community and be more involved with what was happening in the reservoir. A bid would be submitted for Brent Community Infrastructure Levy funding to enable the WHEC to run a community engagement project encompassing a taster programme to inspire the community and other stakeholders to use the centre. Members of the committee were asked if they would be willing to write a letter of support with regard to the bid and if so, to contact Edel Fingleton directly.

Littering by footballers using pitches

Matthew Gunyon (Partnership and Development Manager, Greenspaces Team) advised that this issue had been discussed with the lettings officer in contact with the clubs booking the pitches to ensure that the terms of booking were made clear regarding this matter. Unfortunately, this was an ongoing enforcement issue and it was necessary to be able to evidence who had left the litter. The pitches were also used casually without permission of the council.

The meeting closed at 9.33 pm

CLLR AGHA  
Chair

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	<p><b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b></p> <p><b>13 March 2018</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Welsh Harp Management Plan</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Strategic Director - Environment</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>West Hendon</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon, <a href="mailto:matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk">matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk</a> 0208 359 7403</p>

<b>Summary</b>
To update the committee regarding the on-going site management issues and report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

<b>Recommendations</b>
That the committee consider and note the contents of this report and to invite the committee to make comments on the contents of the report.

**1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee comprises of British Waterways, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee only and meets on a quarterly basis.
- 1.2 The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter as follows:

### 1.3 Illegal encampments

Details of all the encampments in the past twelve months have been stated in the table below.

Name of Park	Month	Number of individuals
Welsh Harp	March 2017	0
Welsh Harp	April 2017	0
Welsh Harp	May 2017	0
Welsh Harp	June 2017	0
Welsh Harp	July 2017	0
Welsh Harp	August 2017	0
Welsh Harp	September 2017	0
Welsh Harp	October 2017	0
Welsh Harp	November 2017	0
Welsh Harp	December 2017	0
Welsh Harp	January 2018	0
Welsh Harp	February 2018	0
TOTAL		0

The Council continues to work closely with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team to move on illegal encampments which also includes wider authorities such as the UK Border Agency. The area is monitored regularly with swift action taken to remove the encampments. No further encampments have been found.

### 1.4 Litter

In the low season (winter) the area is litter picked and the bins are emptied twice a week, and in the high season (summer) the frequency increases to four times a week. There are occasional action days on the site which includes litter picking by local volunteers in the accessible areas.

- 1.4.1 The new parks furniture contract is being processed by our legal team and is being set to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### 1.5 Replacement Ball Court

The consultant leading on the Sports Hub project for Barnet that includes the siting of a replacement ball court will be in place by the end of March. The project team are just finalising the date for the contract commencement meeting.

### 1.6 Drainage Encroachment

The issue of the drainage channel dug by the property owner is being dealt with by the council's enforcement team in order to ensure the repair is completed correctly.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee include that it considers and co-ordinates all the interests of recreation, leisure, maintenance and nature conservation with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 None

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The committee note the actions being implemented as set out under section one.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities that Barnet's parks and open spaces will be amongst the best in London. The need to develop more innovative ways of maintaining its parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough.

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

- 5.2.1 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within the existing Street Scene budget.

### **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to safeguard, protect and enhance sites of special

scientific interest. The Local Authority has the power under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. However, English Nature must be consulted by the Authority in the use of the powers given by section 21. The 1949 Act states that a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) must be managed in such a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

5.4.2 The Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee, as set out in its Constitution, include :

“to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation / leisure / maintenance / nature conservation and statutory requirements of the British Waterways Board and the Environment Agency at the Welsh Harp; with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation”.

5.4.3 Barnet’s Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.01 that the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these Local Authorities.

## 5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

## 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Parks and Open Spaces benefit all sectors of the community by improving the local environment. Maintenance is carried out according to the management plan and takes into account requests from residents, users and Members. Improvements are made, wherever possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

## 5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises of the land owners, legislative bodies, and third

sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 None

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: [www.brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) in the biodiversity section.

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## REPORT CLEARANCE CHECKLIST

*(Removed prior to publication and retained by Governance Service)*

Report authors should engage with their Governance Champion early in the report writing process and record the date below. If the decision/report has been reviewed at an internal board please record the date and name of the meeting (e.g. SCB). Otherwise enter N/A. All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Director/AD, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. **Legal, Finance and Governance require a minimum of 5 working days to provide report clearance. Clearance cannot be guaranteed for reports submitted outside of this time.**

**AUTHOR TO COMPLETE TABLE BELOW:**

Who	Clearance Date	Name
Committee Chairman		
Governance Champion		
Director / AD / Lead Commissioner	02 Mar. 18	Jamie Blake
Enabling Board / Delivery Board		
Commissioning and Policy		
Equalities & Diversity		
HR Business Partner		
Strategic Procurement		
HB Public Law		
Finance		
Governance		

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b> 13 March 2018
	<b>Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>
<b>WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	1
<b>Background Papers:</b>	▪
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Barham Park Project Officer, Regeneration & Environment, Brent Civic Centre. E: <a href="mailto:Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk">Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8937 5628

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

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

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

## 3.0 Detail

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 A. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress.

3.3 As reported at the last meeting, several areas of rubbish were removed from the shoreline and nearby areas of Neasden Recreation Ground during the summer of 2017. The local community and the Welsh Harp Litterpickers have organised, during the winter, a clean-up along several hundred metres of the shoreline and marshland of Neasden Recreation Ground. Brent Council are organising for contractors to clear litter along the boundary with the North Circular Road and in an area of scrub woodland near to the eastern end of Neasden Recreation Ground.

3.4 Boardwalk to the east of Neasden Recreation Ground. The boardwalk in the Reservoir land beyond the eastern edge of Neasden Recreation Ground remains with damaged sections (as at mid-February 2018). The boardwalk also incorporates a small footbridge over the brook that flows from Dollis Hill / the North Circular Road to the Reservoir. The landowner has been contacted; and as far as is practicable, access has been discouraged to the start of the boardwalk.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan provides recommendations for works to be undertaken. Works are only undertaken when approved by the service responsible for delivering the works within existing approved budgets.

#### **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 Equality Implications**

6.1 Decision makers must have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. Consideration of the duties must precede the decision. It is important that regard is had to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material. The public sector equality duty is set out at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and is as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) Tackle prejudice, and
- (b) Promote understanding.

The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race,
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil partnership

6.2 No potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified at this stage. However, the equalities implications identified in the Equality Analysis will continue to be considered and assessed as further data / information is obtained or becomes available during the implementation process.

## **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 None specific.

## **8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

8.1 None specific.

<p><b>AMAR DAVE</b> Strategic Director of Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>
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**APPENDIX A. 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.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Approximate timetable</b>	<b>Progress: 2017-18 to 16 February 2018</b>
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 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.	Brent Council. Barnet Council. Canal & River Trust. Thames 21. Environment Agency.	Landowners: Brent Council, Barnet Council, Canal & River Trust. Leaseholders. Also much volunteer involvement.	On-going.	Brent Council are (mid-February) organising a clean-up to improve Neasden Recreation Ground. Some adjacent areas also require attention. Volunteers from the local community and the Welsh Harp Litterpickers have made a significant recent contribution along the reservoir edge at Neasden Recreation Ground; and elsewhere around the Reservoir.

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. .	Maintenance is on-going.  Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.  Note also the responses to contain and reduce run-off and pollution following a fire in early 2018 near to Staples Corner.
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 (by reducing excess growth of trees).	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. Several of the 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.	The boardwalk is damaged. The Canal & River Trust have been asked for an update on actions.

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.
Wood Lane traffic: 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 2017/2018. 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: <a href="http://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/brent_river_corridor_improvement_plan_final_2014.pdf">http://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/brent_river_corridor_improvement_plan_final_2014.pdf</a>

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