

# Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

**Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 7.00 pm**

Boardrooms 7&8 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,  
Wembley HA9 0FJ

## Membership:

### Members

Councillors:

Ahmed

Crane

Lo

Mashari

Hart

Brayne

Don

Narenthira

### Representing

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

LB Barnet

LB Barnet

LB Barnet

LB Barnet

### Substitute Members (Brent Council)

Councillors: Agha, Dixon, Farah and Tatler

**For further information contact:** Joe Kwateng, Governance Officer  
0208 937 1354, [joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk](mailto:joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk)

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

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

## Membership continued:

### Member

Lucy Shuker  
Richard Bennett  
Peter and Renata Eros  
Maria Bailey  
David Johnson  
Daniella Levene  
A Jefferson  
Dale Langdale  
Julie Johnson  
Catherine Cullen  
Clive Cohen  
Dianne Murphy  
Rebecca Hart  
Phil Atkinson  
Christian Leite  
Edel Fingleton  
Commander G F Beck MBE  
Colette Murphy  
Andrew Haynes  
Roy Beddard  
David Rose  
John Shepherd  
Liz Hall  
Judy Shepherd  
Derrick Chung  
  
Geoffrey Johnson

### Organisation

Brent River Catchment Partnership  
Canal and River Trust  
Cleaner Earth UK  
Environment Agency  
Environment Agency  
Friends of Welsh Harp  
Hendon Rifle Club  
Hendon Rifle Club  
Local Agenda 21  
London Wildlife Trust  
London Wildlife Trust  
London Wildlife Trust  
Natural England  
Phoenix Canoe  
Princes Park Youth Football Club  
Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)  
Training Ship Broadsword  
Training Ship Broadsword  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
Welsh Harp Sailing Association  
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
<b>1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair 2019-2020</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of pecuniary interests</b>	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.	
<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 Brent Reservoir Big Splash Event</b>	1 - 2
To discuss an event being organised by the Canal & River Trust in partnership with the Phoenix Canoe club as Part of London's National Park City festival.	
<b>5 Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	3 - 6
<b>6 Matters arising</b>	
<b>7 Management Plan (Barnet)</b>	7 - 12
This report updates the committee regarding the on-going site management issues and report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).. The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter.	
<b>8 Management Plan (Brent)</b>	13 - 24
This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee. 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.

## 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 Update on activities in the Welsh Harp

## 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 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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## **Brent Reservoir Big Splash Event, 27 - 28 July 2019**

The Canal & River Trust is organising in partnership with the Phoenix Canoe club as Part of London's National Park City festival. The National Park City programme is a GLA backed initiative aimed at encouraging people to make the most of London's parks and waterways. In order to encourage the use of London's Green and Blue infrastructure the GLA are running a Festival in July, they hope this will be "the largest free celebration of London's outdoor spaces".

One element of the festival is the "Big Splash", this strand of the festival looks to put on a variety of water based activities across London so that Londoners can get out on to the water for free. The Trust is keen to promote Brent Reservoir as a part of the festival so that we can highlight the importance of the reservoir as a water resource, leisure facility and SSSI The event at Brent Reservoir will occur on the 27th and 28th July, Phoenix Canoe Club will be running Paddleboard, Canoe and kayak taster session and the Trust will have a gazebo set up outside the canoe club with some information about our work across London's waterways.

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## **MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 6th of March at 7.00 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

Barnet Councillors John Hart (Chairman) and Saira Don,  
Brent Councillors Roxanne Mashari (Vice Chairman) and Parvez Ahmed  
Canal and River Trust: Richard Bennett  
London Wildlife Trust: Dianne Murphy  
Hendon Rifle Club: Dale Langdale  
Welsh Harp Sailing Association: David Rose and John Shepherd  
West Hendon Allotment Society: Liz Hall

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

An amendment to Item 7 was noted. In the statement, 'The Council took a pro-active approach and was looking to plant 10,000 trees a year', the number of trees was amended to 1000.

### **2. Absence of Members**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Anne Clarke, Cllr Nagus Narenthira, Mr Richard Bennett, Derrick Chung, Daniella Picker, Mr Clive Cohen and Mr Roy Beddard.

### **3. Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non-Pecuniary interests**

None.

### **4. Report of the Monitoring Officer (if any)**

None.

### **5. London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan 19 - 28**

Mr Leslie Williams presented the report and reiterated that the joint management plan between the Canal River Trust, Barnet Council and Brent Council is on the Brent Council website.

The Action Plan is updated for each Committee attached to the agenda. The online version is colour coded according to progress. Under item 3.3 works with Canal and

River Trust and Welsh Harp Sailing Association to trial the willow scrub management at the edge of the reservoir was completed. The band of marshland about 5-20m wide along the southern and northern shores of the reservoir is very conducive for the growth of willow scrub and trees creating a wind shadow which affects water sports.

Brent introduced the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which comes into force in Brent's parks on the 3rd of April this year.

Initiatives are meant to be educational and about enforcement. Training of Brent staff will be carried out to undertake enforcement.

Mr David Rose from the Welsh Harp Sailing Association presented photographs of the marshland. The section of scrub that was cleared created a much better view to the Welsh Harp Reservoir. Reeds are preserved to allow sunlight and to encourage habitat in the area. Willows by the water edge have been cut and need to be controlled in future.

More activities will be organised following the consultation and discussion of best area for wild life and plants to form.

Engineers carried out works safely near the car park as discussed at previous meetings.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rose on behalf of the Committee.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKER – Anne John, Brent Resident**

Anne explained how she has walked extensive grounds along Barnet and Brent Greenspaces for a long time and has worked in the Council for many years.

One issue that has been raised to the Committee for immediate attention is the encampment, in York Park on a little bend opposite the first big tower block. It would be a huge operation to remove the gigantic long standing black tent. The main concern is the bird nesting area on the bend where so much rubbish has been dumped.

Other issues include the plastic along the side of the water by Cool Oak Lane bridge where many tins and bottles have been dumped.

It was noted that the dumping ground of furniture on cool oak lane was cleared by the London Wildlife Trust with a group of 50 volunteers a week ago. Bad areas were identified but it was too dangerous to carry on clearing. It is a hot spot identified by Community Safety team. If there was a CCTV camera in place, the Council could then capture number plates and catch culprits easily.

Cllr Don is regularly reporting on litter cleaning. It was noted that a cut-off lamppost and street sign have fallen. During a commitment meeting, CCTV was requested and Cllr Don has written to the Council for an update.

## **RESOLVED:**

- (i) The Chairman recommended a Notice be put up in the problematic area and/or installation of CCTV to prevent repeated cleaning. Matthew Gunyon to raise recommendation again with Barnet Community Safety.
- (ii) Joint work to be carried out with Barratt London, Canal & River trust, and Greenspaces with regards to illegal encampment and finding a more suitable place for campers to live.

## **6. London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management Plan pgs. 29 - 34**

The reported fly tipping over Cool Oak Lane Bridge was being investigated by Officers from Barnet Community Safety. The Council has tasked an external contractor to carry out enforcements.

An update was provided with regards to the West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan.

Key changes included the area of the local nature reserve as well as the tennis courts and skate park which will be relocated.

Final draft documents will be published on the Council's webpage on the 7th of March 2019.

The Section 106 update was provided on the West Hendon Estate money regarding the SSSI mitigation. Current work was being done by the London Wildlife Trust around the area on the A5 where scrub and bags of rubbish have been removed. The reported gap in the fence has been closed and replaced with a gate.

One of the members wanted to know if a SSSI Warden was going to be in post and if he or she would attend the next meeting. Matthew confirmed that there was already a Warden from the London Wildlife Trust who was not funded from s106 pot of money. It was explained that up to 60% of the £500,000 of the s106 money could be spent on a Warden.

Planning consent has been put in place for a fixed term and needed to be revisited.

**Action:** To check on claim grant £1000 a month from Baratt London – Welsh Harp Committee

## **7. Update on activities in the Welsh Harp**

Covered under previous items.

## **8. Any Other Business**

As good weather approaches for the canoeing season, the Welsh Harp Sailing Association welcomes residents to the Harp. Sunday is the 'Push the Boat Out' day.

Vice Chairman, Cllr Mashari announced that it was the last meeting under Cllr Hart's Chairmanship. Cllr Mashari thanked Cllr Hart for his excellent Chairmanship of the Committee.

### **Any Other Items that the Chairman Decides are Urgent**

None.

The meeting ended at 9.03 pm.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>17 July 2019</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Strategic Director - Environment</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Strategic Director - Environment</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>West Hendon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager  <a href="mailto:matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk">matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk</a> 0208 359 7403</p>

## Summary

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

## Officers Recommendations

1. 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 is comprised of Canals and Rivers Trust, 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  
The Greenspaces Team continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments;
- 1.3.1 The encampment discussed at the previous meeting located in York Park was cleared in partnership with Barratts, Canals and Rivers Trust and the Council. A team attended site after the event and undertook a cleansing of the area in question
- 1.4 Litter
- 1.4.1 Litter and bin schedules will continue to be reviewed by the operational service within Street Scene to ensure the service delivered meets the needs of the area.
- 1.4.2 The reported fly tipping in and around Cool Oak Lane Bridge was reported to the [BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk) and allocated to an officer to arrange enforcement patrols and to investigate if a camera should be deployed along this area.
- 1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court
- 1.5.1 The Draft Master Plan approved to go to full public consultation by the Environment Committee 14 March 2019. The Draft Master Plan is currently out to consultation (3 June – 28 July 2019). Representations can be made through the council's online engagement portal here;  
<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/draft-masterplan-west-hendon-3>  
Local residents were sent flyers, posters were erected in the park, social media is being used to inform people of the consultation and, several public drop in sessions have been arranged as part of the consultation;

Date	Time	Location
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm – 5pm	West Hendon Community Hub
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	10am – 1pm	By the playground at West Hendon Playing Fields
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	8.30am – 12pm	Parkside View Nursery, West Hendon Pavilion
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	3pm – 6pm	West Hendon Community Hub
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	2pm – 5pm	By the playground at West Hendon Playing Fields

## 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 Greenspaces 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 as a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:  
“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 8.1 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 Corporate Parenting Principles

5.7.1 N/A

## 5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises the land owners, legislative bodies, and third sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

## 5.9 Insight

5.9.1 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.

## REPORT CLEARANCE CHECKLIST

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

*Note: All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Committee Chairman, Chief Officer, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. Report authors should also engage with subject matter experts from other service areas where this is required (e.g. procurement, equalities, risk, etc.). The name and date that the chairman or officer has cleared the report must be included in the table below or the report will not be accepted.*

**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 and your report is likely to be withdrawn from the agenda and deferred to the next scheduled meeting.**

### AUTHOR TO COMPLETE TABLE BELOW:

Who	Clearance Date	Name
Committee Chairman		
Chief Officer	4 Jul. 19	Jamie Blake
HB Public Law		
Finance		
Governance		

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b> 17 July 2019
	<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, Environmental Services, 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 2019/20 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/services-for-residents/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks/park-finder/welsh-harp-reservoir/>

3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan that lists current year progress and actions that may require a longer time-frame and/or for the resources to be identified to undertake the action. For this committee the Action Plan is updated as Appendix A. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress. In particular note the following:

- 3.3 Marshland work: Following the work on the marshland reported to the March meeting of this Committee, officers will arrange discussions with interested organisations to review the earlier work, priorities and the best approach for work during the autumn and winter of 2019/2020. The aims of the work are to improve the reservoir for wind-water sports, for conservation of the marshland habitat and to re-open views of the landscape.
- 3.4 Public Spaces Protection Order. A Public Spaces Protection Order became effective in all of Brent's parks, open spaces and cemeteries from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. At the Brent Reservoir this will include Neasden Recreation Ground, and the Welsh Harp Open Space. The Public Spaces Protection Order will prohibit a range of anti-social behaviour. While education rather than enforcement is the initial focus, Brent Council are looking at how enforcement can be best achieved.
- 3.5 Meadow areas have been enhanced at Neasden Recreation Ground. Officers will re-visit to review the schemes.
- 3.6 The Forestry Commission have reported the presence of Oak Processionary Moth at the Welsh Harp this year. The Welsh Harp is within a zone where the Oak Processionary Moth is being monitored and wherever possible controlled to prevent further spread. Oak trees that have been inspected may have a colour code near to the base. For 2019 the colour code is blue. A blue dot indicates a tree that has been assessed as currently clear of Oak Processionary Moth; a blue coloured ring indicates a tree that is infested; and a blue horizontal line indicates an old nest.

#### **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 Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp is a designated 'Site of Special Scientific Interest ('SSSI')'. Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ('CROW') and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) sets out the duties in relation to SSSIs. 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 SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest). Natural England will issue consent, which may have conditions or refuse consent. It is a criminal offence to carry out a listed operation without Natural England's consent or to ignore any conditions of a consent which may result in an unlimited 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 a SSSI. 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 and the methods being used are those that cause as little damage as practicable to the land:-

The Council should demonstrate how it has assessed differing interests (including the special interests of the SSSI) before 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, when exercising their statutory functions, must have regard to the conservation of biodiversity, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.
- 5.4 Section 28Q of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires the owner of land included in a SSSI 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.

**AMAR DAVE**

Strategic Director of Regeneration &  
Environment

## APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2019-2020

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 current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	RAG status (text column provided for use if plain printing)	Progress: 2019-20 to 5 July 2019
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (Canal and River Trust)	Canal and River Trust	Maintain. On-Going	GREEN	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	GREEN	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the Canal and River Trust; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	GREEN	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.  See also proposals by Phoenix Canoe Club.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	GREEN	The WHCG organise winter projects around the hides.

Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	GREEN	Refer to Barnet.
Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	GREEN	Largely self-managing.
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.	GREEN	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.	GREEN	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.	GREEN	Maintained; and well-used.  Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	GREEN	Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2019/2020. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).

Signage	Brent / Barnet.			GREEN	Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			GREEN	Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.
Sailing and sports development	WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	AMBER	Led by the sailing and water sports clubs. Phoenix Canoe Club are developing their proposals for improvements to their club facilities for water sports, particularly for educational use; and for a café accessible from the Welsh Harp / Capital Ring path.
Litter. Clean up projects.	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.	AMBER	Spring 2019: Litter clean-up downstream at Quainton Street Open Space organized by Thames 21.
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going.	AMBER	Maintenance is on-going.  Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.
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.	AMBER	WHCG have a programme for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. Recent problems with access to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.

Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	AMBER	Led by the WHCG.
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.	AMBER	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.
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.	AMBER	Paths maintained but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland). Grasslands: A new grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) in spring 2018. Includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value. Fine-tuning in 2019; and aiming for long-term improvements to biodiversity and amenity value. See the following link for areas for areas of spring and summer grassland at Neasden Recreation Ground: <a href="https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16413216/neasden-recreation-ground.jpg">https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16413216/neasden-recreation-ground.jpg</a>

Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, Canal and River Trust	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		AMBER	Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 - ongoing	AMBER	Action Plan published at: <a href="http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/">http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/</a>

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.	RED	<p><b>Willow growth is 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.</b></p> <p><b>Discussions by sailing clubs, Brent, Canal and River Trust and other partners: autumn 2018.</b></p> <p><b>Welsh Harp Open Space: trial marshland works by Welsh Harp Sailing Association, February 2019.</b></p> <p><b>Discussions to be arranged in summer of 2019 for works in autumn / winter 2019/20.</b></p>
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.	RED	<p><b>Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.</b></p>
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	RED	<p><b>As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.</b></p>

South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	RED	<b>The boardwalk is damaged.</b>
Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species	Canal and River Trust, 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.	RED	<b>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.</b>

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.	Status to be advised	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development.
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