



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

12 January 2009

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For Information

Wards Affected: ALL

Welsh Harp Management Plan

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main local land-holding organisations: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 Detail

Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan

- 3.1 As part of the annual review of the Management Plan, officers of the three main land-owning / managing organisations met with others to review the Management Plan. Details will be edited into a revised draft of the Plan; and in addition an Action Plan of key current issues will be presented to the Committee. To view the current Management Plan (with zones map), approved by the WHJCC on 10 November 2008, go to www.Brent.gov.uk/parks
- 3.2 The draft of the revised Management Plan is in preparation and will be placed for consultation on Brent Council's consultation tracker webpages at www.Brent.gov.uk
- 3.3 An Action Plan of objectives, actions and targets of priorities from the draft Management Plan will be presented to the Committee.

Meeting: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date: 12 January 2010

Version no. 1.1
Date: 16.12.2009

Management works

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

British Waterways

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

Environment Agency

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

Heritage Lottery Award

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

Biodiversity Action Plan

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

Events / Other

- 3.12 Brent Council Sports Service: The Healthy Walks Programme continues to March 2010. Walks meet at the Welsh Harp Open Space car park, Birchen Grove, every Thursday (except on Bank / Public Holidays) from 10am-11am. The walks are 'low to moderate' in pace. For details contact Brent Council Sports Service, tel: 020 8937 3707, [www. Brent.gov.uk/sports](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/sports)
- 3.13 Walks are also organised by the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre.
- 3.14 Capital Ring:
- 3.15 A talk on the 'History of the Welsh Harp' with a particular emphasis on the reservoir has been organised by Wembley History Society on Friday 15 January 2010 at 7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church Hall, St. Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Kingsbury NW9. (Speaker: Leslie Williams).

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None specific, but some of the priorities identified in the Management Plan will require additional resources and decisions by, as appropriate, Brent Council, Barnet Council or British Waterways, if they are to be implemented in the future. For Brent Council Parks Service, the Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Brent Parks Service Parks Strategy, and Service Plan; both of which derive from the Council's Corporate Strategy. Thus implementation is partially dependent upon revenue and capital budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management. The Parks Service pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), land owners or occupiers are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England for any operation in an area of land that is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features (this requirement applies to operations within a SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest); and Natural England will issue consent, issue consent with conditions or refuse consent. CROW (and section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) places a duty on all public bodies to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the site.

- 5.2 It is good practice for land owners or occupiers to produce Management Plans for the SSSI, which when approved by Natural England, enable the carrying out of the works specified in the Management Plan. This can reduce the administrative work inherent in obtaining consent for individual items of management work.
- 5.3 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires that from 1 October 2006 all public authorities in England and Wales have a general duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no diversity implications.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 None specific.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan co-ordinates environmental works in the Reservoir area.

Background Papers

Dated correspondence and other documents referred to in the Report including:

Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan.

Equality Impact Assessment Completion Form: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee: Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan: 20 January 2005. Form dated 06b.01.2005.

Contact Officers

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