

Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	20 March 2014
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Director of StreetScene
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management.

Officer Contributors	Tracy Sawyer, Parks and Open Spaces Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	West Hendon
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	None
Contact for Further Information:	Jenny Warren, Head of Parks, Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance, 020 8359 7803.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the contents of the report be noted.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 23 March 2011 – approved the proposed boundary of the Local Nature Reserve.
- 2.2 Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 15 March 2005 agreed the designation of a Local Nature Reserve on the Welsh Harp.
- 2.3 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 agreed draft byelaws.
- 2.4 Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 5 September 2006 and Cabinet on 16 October 2006 endorsed the draft byelaws for formal approval by full Council on 7 November 2006.
- 2.5 Council formally endorsed the draft byelaws on 7 November 2007.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2013 – 2016 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities the need to maintain a well-designed, attractive and accessible place, with sustainable infrastructure across the borough. We will continue to maintain and improve the borough's parks and green spaces for residents to enjoy. But we are determined to do more than this. Encouraging residents to use parks and green spaces as a place for physical activity, entertainment, play and to enjoy nature will help them to improve their health, well-being and encourage a sense of community.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 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.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within existing StreetScene budgets.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to further the conservation and enhancement of 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.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 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 and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation”.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1 Current ongoing management issues

9.1.1 Fly Tipping

One of the overhead barriers at Woodfield Park was vandalised and a large amount of fly tipping occurred. Arrangements were made to resecure the overhead barrier and clear the fly tipping the same day.

9.2 Rough Sleepers

The police, pit team and greenspaces meet in February at the Verelum Court, Welsh Harp and carried onto Clarefield Park. This was to check for illegal encampments and arrange for their removal. Several illegal encampments were located but evidence showed that they had been vacated.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council’s website: www.brent.gov.uk/parks in the biodiversity section.