

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

The Management Plan outlines the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir. These are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable in the short term. This Action Plan tracks progress of current year priorities and projects.

| Action   | Lead  | Budget   | Approximate timetable   | Progress: 2017-18 to 19 June 2017  |
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| Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam | Canal and River Trust (C&RT)                                | C&RT   | Maintain. On-Going  | Dam wall and mechanism maintained as required to operational and statutory standards.                                    |
| Maintain open water for water sports   | Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)                       | Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)             | On-Going  | Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.  |
| Sailing and sports development   | WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs. | Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.                  | On-Going  | Led by the sailing and water sports clubs.   |
| Clean up projects: including some control of invasive plants.  | Thames 21 Environment Agency                                | Provided by Thames 21. Work on site by volunteers. | On-going.   | Thames 21 clean-up projects on Brent and tributaries.  |
| River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream   | Environment Agency  | Budget provided by the Environment Agency          | Maintain, On-going.<br><br>Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site. | Maintenance is on-going.<br><br>Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site. |
| Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.   | Sailing Clubs   | Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.  | On-going  | The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.                                   |

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| Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 rafts.                                      | Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)                                  | Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts. .   | On-going. Autumn / winter.   | WHCG have a programme in 2017-18 for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive.  |
| Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats. | Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others                                |  | On-going   | The WHCG are expecting to organize projects around the hides during the winter of 2017/18.   |
| Reedbeds: remove young trees  | WHCG  | Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.   | Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.   | Led by the WHCG. Autumn / winter works.  |
| Reedbeds: increase  | All   | Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but need to remove young trees.  | Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.   | Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.  |
| Marshland: maintain   | Brent Council, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Canal and River Trust. | Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports (where trees are reduced). | Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space. | Willow growth appears to be exceeding management work on the shoreline. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) has reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland. |
| Marshland   | Barnet, Barratt PLC   |  | Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.                        | Refer to Barnet.   |

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| Marshland: increase                 | Brent, Barnet, Brent Catchment Partnership | Investigate sources of finance for long-term restoration of river catchment; and for flood alleviation.   | Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports.            | Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.  |
| Marshland: orchids                  | WHCG, Brent                                | Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.  | WHCG to provide information.  | As for Marshland, above. Most species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.  |
| South-bank boardwalk                | C&RT                                       | Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.   | As required.  | Comments from visitors (2016?) suggest that condition of boardwalk requires regular checking.   |
| Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed | C&RT, Barnet Council, Brent Council        | Brent parks have been dealing with Japanese Knotweed at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Thames 21 are investigating possible systems for mapping of invasive species; possibly by linking to existing work by other recording partners. | Control of these species requires continuing attention: timely short-term control; control at the time of other works; and as part of longer term management. | On-going by Brent Council and Barnet Council. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment. Operational knowledge is also shared via the River Brent Catchment Partnership. |
| Wet woodland                        | C&RT, Barnet, Brent                        | Largely self-managing.  | On-going.   | Largely self-managing.  |

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| 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.<br><br>Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.                        |
| Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane   | Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways. | See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.  | Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017. | Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development.                                     |

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