

	<p style="text-align: center;">Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">28 November 2017</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Welsh Harp Management Plan</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Strategic Director - Environment</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>West Hendon</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon, matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7403</p>

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

Recommendations
<p>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.</p>

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	November 2016	0
Welsh Harp	December 2016	0
Welsh Harp	January 2017	0
Welsh Harp	February 2017	0
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
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 procurement has been completed however due to a short delay during the clarification stage the contract has been delayed but is expected to be finalised by the end of this calendar year.

1.5 Replacement Ball Court

The council has recently just launched a procurement exercise for landscape design services for its two new Sports Hubs as set out in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy. One of these Sports Hubs is West Hendon Playing Fields.

The consultant will be asked to look at Woodfield Park in parallel to West Hendon Playing Fields and the Ball Court will be picked up through this process.

The consultant will be required to undertake stakeholder engagement as well as a full public consultation.

1.6 Pest Control Advice

Barnet's in house pest control service was asked for advice regarding pest control within the Wels Harp and has provided the following response;

The main concern for the site is that it is a "site of specific scientific interest" (SSSI) for a variety of birdlife and rare species of flora.

Being an SSSI in itself demonstrates that any environmental impact to the area could be detrimental to many different species, as such an analysis of the negative effects of treatment against apparent gain must be used, in effect asking is the treatment worse than the problem?

In this case unless the numbers of rats in the area are dangerously high and negatively effecting native species numbers efforts are better spent in educating users of the space on the negative effects of bird feeding and littering in these areas.

1.7 Appendix 1 contains a map showing the locations where Oak Processionary Moth has been identified in Welsh Harp

1.8 The parks within the new estate will be managed and maintained by Barratt Residential Asset Management.

1.9 A5 Fly tip

It is unclear from our GIS mapping system who is responsible for this area. The Estates Team are investigating this issue further.

1.10 Other Fly tip

The reported shopping trolley in the water will be cleared either by LBB staff or the relevant responsible body.

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 in the biodiversity section.

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	17 Nov. 17	Jamie Blake
Enabling Board / Delivery Board		
Commissioning and Policy		
Equalities & Diversity		
HR Business Partner		
Strategic Procurement		
HB Public Law		
Finance		
Governance		

Appendix 1 – Oak Processionary Moth

Type/Code (*)	R	Seq/Plot	Plotted	Species	Locn/Xref/House	Site	Location	Last Visit	at	by	for	Trunk	OPM
Sgl/368628		14	Yes	Quercus robur	Reservoir side of footpath	Welsh Harp	West Hendon (A)	13/07/2017	14:49	ADI	Inspection	30	Yes

