
Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	9 November 2011
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Interim Director Environment, Planning & Regeneration
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management.

Officer Contributors	Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Services Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	West Hendon
Enclosures	Appendix One – Dollis Valley Greenwalk project overview Appendix Two – Welsh Harp planting scheme
For decision by	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

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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 Welsh Harp is a key greenspace in the London Borough of Barnet that serves both visitors and wildlife. The Welsh Harp and its management contributes to the corporate priority to “protect and enhance our natural and built environment so that the borough is clean and green” and in turn working towards continuing to make Barnet a successful London suburb.

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 Environment, Planning and Regeneration budgets.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 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.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The Council's Constitution Part 2 Article 11.02 Joint Arrangements, (a) The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities and/or their Executives to exercise functions which are not Executive functions in any of the participating authorities, or advise the Council. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these other Local Authorities.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1. Current ongoing management issues

- 9.1.1 Nothing to report

9.2 West Hendon Regeneration

9.2.1 West Hendon Masterplan Review

It was reported at the previously WHJCC on 19 July 2011 that Barratt Metropolitan LLP (BM LLP) were, due to viability issues pursuing a Section 73 application which would maintain the existing masterplan approach whilst amending the phasing, car parking ratio and level of affordable housing. Further investigations into this option have demonstrated to BM LLP that with the changes proposed there would remain a significant funding gap that could not be closed with a S73 application.

- 9.2.2 As a result a Masterplan Review process has been started with Allies and Morrison (architects) being employed to readdress the approach to the West Hendon Estate to try to find an approach that would close this remaining Viability gap. Weekly Meetings have begun between BM LLP, the Council, Allies and Morrison and other technical consultants to progress this review which if successful will result in a new planning application to take forward the regeneration of the Estate.

- 9.2.3 Statutory consultee involvement (including TFL, Natural England and British Waterways) is being organised at an early stage of the process (first meetings week of 24 Oct). Wider pre-application consultations will take place prior to submission of any application.

9.2.4 Planting to the Bank of the Welsh Harp

The planting to the bank of the temporary sales centre (former youth sailing base site) was conditioned to be completed prior to the end of the 1st planting season following the temporary approval. Planting in accordance with the attached scheme (Appendix 2) will be taking place in November 2011.

- 9.2.5 The design approach to the planting scheme focuses upon improving the environmental value of the edge of the Welsh Harp. In particular this approach seeks to benefit the waterfowl that are key in the SSSI designation. Furthermore the planting scheme is intended to provide a mature element to the vegetation forming the future 8m wide buffer strip to the edge of the Welsh Harp as required by the existing Outline approval. A condition has been attached to the temporary use of the site which requires the completion of the 8m planted buffer strip upon the cessation of the use on site.

9.3 Dollis Valley Greenwalk

- 9.3.1 The Dollis Brook is a tributary to the Welsh Harp Reservoir and any works that are carried out upstream in the Dollis Valley Greenwalk may impact the site positively or negatively.
- 9.3.2 The Dollis Valley Greenwalk was successful in obtaining an award of £400,000 from the Mayors Help a London Park scheme, which is due to be completed by March 2012. This project has seen a number of improvements throughout the length of the walk and drawn in additional funds from Walk London and TfL of £280,000.
- 9.3.3 Three key objectives were identified to improve access, bio-diversity and facilities throughout the walk and a series of works identified to achieve these. The table contained in Appendix One details an overview of the project. The main beneficial impacts from the project for the Welsh Harp is the eradication of invasive species and improvement of water quality through the selective reduction of vegetation along the corridor. The improvement of signage along the corridor identifies the Capital Ring walking route that passes through the Welsh Harp and the site itself as a location to visit.

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.

Legal –

CFO –