

**MEETING**

**WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**DATE AND TIME**

**WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH, 2019**

**AT 7.00 PM**

**VENUE**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 2, HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

**TO: MEMBERS OF WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)**

Chairman: Cllr John Hart

Vice Chairman: Cllr Roxanne Mashari

Councillor Jess Brayne

Councillor Saira Don

Councillor Nagus Narenthira

Councillor George Crane

Councillor Parvez Ahmed

Councillor Vincent Lo

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Member</b>
Brent River Catchment Partnership	Lucy Shuker
Canal and River Trust	Richard Bennett
Cleaner Earth UK	Peter and Renata Eros
Environment Agency	Samantha Ho
Friends of Welsh Harp	Daniella Levene
Hendon Rifle Club	Dale Langdale
Hendon Rifle Club	A Jefferson
Local Agenda 21	Julie Johnson
London Wildlife Trust	Clive Cohen
London Wildlife Trust	Dianne Murphy
London Wildlife Trust (West Hendon Project Officer)	Catherine Cullen
Natural England	Rebecca Hart
Pheonix Canoe Club	Phil Atkinson
Princes Park Youth Football Club	Christian Leite
Thames Water	Kimberley Rodwell
Thames Water	Stephen Barry
Thames 21	John Bryden
Thames 21	Chris Coode
Thames 21	Deb Frankiewicz
Thames 21	Billy Coburn

Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)	Edel Fingleton
Training Ship Broadsword	Colette Murphy
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	Roy Beddard
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	Andrew Haynes
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	John Shepherd (President)
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	David Rose (Chairman)
West Hendon Community Forum	Judy Shepherd
West Hendon Allotment Society	Liz Hall
West Hendon Residents' Association / Friends of York Park	Derrick Chung
Woolmead Residents' Association	Geoffrey Johnson

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Pakeezah Rahman Pakeezah.Rahman@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 6452

**You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.**

**Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance**

Governance Service contact: Pakeezah Rahman Pakeezah.Rahman@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 6452

Media Relations Contact: Gareth Greene 020 8359 7039

### **ASSURANCE GROUP**

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Minutes	5 - 10
2.	Absence of Members	
3.	Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests	
4.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (if any)	
5.	London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan	11 - 22
6.	London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management Plan	23 - 28
7.	Update on activities in the Welsh Harp	
8.	Any Other Business	
9.	Any Other Items that the Chairman Decides are Urgent	

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# Decisions of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

20 November 2018

## Members Present:-

## AGENDA ITEM 1

Councillor John Hart  
Councillor Saira Don

Councillor Roxanne Mashari  
Councillor Parvez Ahmed

## Also in attendance

Canal and River Trust: Richard Bennett  
London Wildlife Trust: Dianne Murphy and Clive Cohen  
Hendon Rifle Club: Dale Langdale  
Welsh Harp Sailing Association: David Rose  
West Hendon Allotment Society: Liz Hall  
Cleaner Earth UK: Peter and Renata Eros  
Thames Water: Stephen Barry and Kimberley Rodwell

## 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

### MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Tuesday 20 November 2018 at 7.00 pm

#### PRESENT:

Barnet Councillors John Hart and Saira Don,  
Brent Councillors Roxanne Mashari and Parvez Ahmed  
Canal and River Trust: Richard Bennett  
London Wildlife Trust: Dianne Murphy and Clive Cohen  
Hendon Rifle Club: Dale Langdale  
Welsh Harp Sailing Association: David Rose  
West Hendon Allotment Society: Liz Hall  
Cleaner Earth UK: Peter and Renata Eros  
Thames Water: Stephen Barry and Kimberley Rodwell

#### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The following items were noted:

Previous outstanding actions in relation to the waste drainage issue were resolved and the hose pipe installed.

The first paragraph of Item 7 the last sentence that stated, "the Friends of Welsh Harp website" should be amended to the Forestry Commission website.

Matthew Gunyon confirmed that he would take up the issue on repair of the bridge with the Community Safety Team to see if they could resolve some enforcement in relation to the activity of fly tipping. The issue with Woodside Park Car Park was being discussed with the Community Safety Team about the possible deployment of a CCTV camera. Contracts had been awarded for signs, bins and benches, focussing on sites where there was dangerous furniture dumping. Councillor Mashari had emailed the appropriate team about requested signage on littering but funds were very limited. Matthew Gunyon added that double size bins were present and he would take back the suggestion of emptying the bins with colleagues at Street Scene.

Richard Bennett from the Canal and River Trust said that following a site visit, the area had been made safe and dangerous wooden slabs removed with the help of volunteers.

Liz Hall from the West Hendon Allotment society pointed out that there were rough sleepers who broke into the allotment site which was a nature reserve. She also wanted to know if Greenspaces had any plans for the preservation of the area. There was a master plan that was currently being worked on which could include the local area.

Councillor Saira Don brought it to the Committee's attention that local residents were complaining about fishing in the Welsh Harp reservoir. Councillor Don had sent an email to request signage and was waiting to hear back.

Members of the Committee felt fishing had a major effect on wildlife. From the kind of litter witnessed in the area, it seemed that regular fishing was taking place throughout the site. There was a risk of fishing tackle getting lost in the reservoir and affecting ducks and even children.

Furthermore, following Councillor Mashari's request to ensure regular patrolling of the area, the Governance Officer advised that the Councillor could write a letter to the Safer Communities Partnership Board or speak directly to the Environment Director requesting signage around the Welsh harp.

Richard Bennett confirmed that fishing did take place but there was in fact a benefit to it at times. There was no element of policing and therefore a complicated issue, although fishing should not be taking place without a licence.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) A joint letter to be written by Chairman and Vice Chairman on behalf of the Committee to make a formal request to the Safer Communities Partnership Board with regards to signage around the Welsh harp.

**2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Nagus Narenthira, Councillor Jess Brayne, Councillor George Crane, Daniella Levene, Lucy Shuker, Derrick Chung, Catherine Cullen, Roy Beddard and Judy Shepherd.

**3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None.

**4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)**

None.

**5. TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE**

The updated Terms of reference (TOR) was presented and the committee asked to make any comments before adopting the new TOR.

The Committee noted that under the published Terms of Reference paragraph B(i), The British Waterways Board should read Canal and River Trust and the Princess Park Youth Football Club should read Princes Park Youth Football Club.

The Welsh Harp Sailing Association pointed out that Barratt London was an attendee not a member with “a vote”. The committee was advised that every organisation has one vote, including Barratt London, any change would require a vote of the committee. As such the London wildlife Trust moved a motion, duly seconded by the WH Sailing Association, to remove the current vote listed under Barratt London.

Councillor Mashari felt that the more integrated Barratt London was, the more beneficial it would be for the Welsh Harp as they have a lot of involvement in the area and therefore they would be more accountable. A member raised the question of Barratt London’s pecuniary advantage.

The Chairman put the motion to a vote and the committee voted as follows:

For - 6

Against - 4

Abstain – 2

As such the motion was passed.

**RESOLVED:**

- (I) The Governance Service write to Nathan Smith to inform him the decision made that Barratt London was welcome to attend all meetings but that they would not have a vote at the Committee.
- (II) That the Committee agree the changes made to the Terms of Reference, subject to the amendments agreed.

**6. LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Joint work was carried out by the Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA) with Canal and River Trust, Brent Council and Barnet Council. Brent Council management plan of the reservoir was included on its website. This assisted routine work.

An updated action plan was available and colour coded RAG as suggested at the last meeting.

Brent was undertaking consultation on Public Spaces and Protection Orders till the 16th of November which should make it easier to undertake enforcement for some actions covered under the by-laws to get a message across with regards to anti-social behaviour and to make it more pleasant for all users.

Mr Williams from Brent Council referred to the marshland areas in the Welsh Harp and Welsh Harp open spaces. There was woodland belt and scrub along with narrow margins alongside the reservoir, 20 m wide in places, and therefore losing flora and views. Brent was looking to undertake some reduction management of the woodland edge of the reservoir to open up views and improve flora and water sports.

The WHSA provided an update in relation to the dam end club facilities. The 2 oak trees that were causing the infestation of processionary moths had been removed. Security fencing to the clubs’ area had been put up and discussion with the local police was held regarding security in car parks.

The four constituent sailing clubs in the WHSA area had seen a positive outcome from working jointly, investing £10,000 to improve jetties and slip ways to increase capacity and make them safer. An additional £5000 next year would improve rotten jetties, keep sailing up to scratch and increase capacity. The WHSA was consulting with the Canal and River Trust to establish a lease for the former University Sailing Club building with

Regatta Safety Boat Base, who have been a tenant for the past four years. Their activities focus on safety boat skills and practice, on-water rescue water safety, on the Thames and reservoirs in the area.

Dianne Murphy from the London Wildlife Trust pointed out that the Forestry Commission had a system to mark a dot on trees that were checked and free of any infestation or a circle when infested. The tree on the edge of the football pitch on Cool Oak Lane had a dot on it indicating that the infested tree was still standing.

A question was put forward regarding the drop in water levels and when the operation was planned, and whether notice had been given to the public downstream for works carried out. Mr Bennett from the Canal and River Trust said the reduction of water levels was done gradually over 2 weeks.

Weather reports should be looked at before works were carried out but water levels could change within a space of an hour. It was advised that people located downstream be kept informed and should contact Mr Richard Bennett at the Canal and River Trust or colleagues in the water management team.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) The Committee noted the report.

**7. LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The encampments had been cleared and removed. Greenspaces were working closely with Street Scene Community Servicing, Police and Barratt London to remove excess waste.

The issues of littering had been looked at and operational services at Greenspace had been increased. Drainage encroachments had been removed and repaired. Cool Lane Oak Bridge from last report had now been repaired.

A member reported that there were bollards at both ends of the bridge to prevent bigger vehicles from entering but there was no width restriction signage. Mr Gunyon agreed to check that information with Highways.

The West Hendon Masterplan was presented and displayed for the Committee. The current engagement process would run until the end of November and the final draft master plan would then be presented to Environment Committee for a full public consultation. The aim of the discussion was to create better connections and to ensure that the West Hendon playing fields had a good relationship with its surrounding areas. Part of the master plan was to have a sustainable solution. The plan was to generate income therefore to have some commercial operations and not drain Council resources.

The members questioned the time of year when work would be carried out and how many trees would be destroyed in the process. If trees were to be removed, then the Council would look to mitigate the loss. The Council took a pro-active approach and was looking to plant 10,000 trees a year.

Councillor Mashari pointed out the ambitious plan before the Committee but felt there was not much being done about the preservation of wildlife and suggested that part of the section 106 funding could be used specifically for wildlife and conservation initiatives. Matthew Gunyon said there was a significant amount of money in section 106 but currently the contribution of funds was for the recreation facilities and sporting facilities.

Councillor Mashari requested a breakdown of CIL funding pots. Councillor Mashari felt it should be discussed at this Committee due to critical capital issues that needed to be addressed based on the Welsh Harp plan. The committee was reminded that it did not have any decision-making powers under their terms of reference and could only make



proposals to the relevant Officers. Matthew Gunyon assured the members that Barnet would work with partners to improve the playing fields.

Breeding season was noted to be from March till August so any development during this period would be a disturbance to breeding birds. With recent projects, work was carried out before the breeding season. Work would need to be managed appropriately and be tendered appropriately.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) The committee noted the report and the contents of the report.
- (ii) The Governance Officer would resend a link to the formal consultation to all Members to have the opportunity to respond before the end of consultations.

**8. THAMES WATER VERBAL UPDATE**

Stephen Barry from the Thames Water (TW) Environmental Protection Team and Miss Kimberley Rodwell who represented Thames Water in the Brent area provided a verbal update.

**Surface Water Outfall Programme, Outfall Safari and Misconnections**

Outfall Safari is a programme of works surveying surface water outfalls along stretches of London's rivers in a method devised and a scheme managed by ZSL.

The outfalls are surveyed by volunteers and local community groups trained to identify and record signs of pollution along the river which are then reported to TW who will take action where required.

ZSL along with volunteers carried out an outfall safari on the Dollis Brook catchment in 2017.

The volunteers photographed, located and assessed a total of 178 outfalls on the Dollis Brook, Folly Brook, Mutton Brook and Silk Stream and found 47 were significantly polluting.

High scoring outfalls are reported right away for immediate response, but sometimes pollution sources are numerous and widespread 3rd party misconnections to the surface water system.

A Thames Water team is tasked with investigating new polluted outfalls with an enhanced response to solve pollution quickly if possible. Usually issues they can resolve are 1 or 2 misconnections or defects. Widespread misconnections, if found within a catchment, would require a funded project via the Surface Water Outfall Programme (SWOP) pre-programmed and funded work in conjunction with the EA to tackle misconnections and polluted outfalls to watercourses

Any outfalls suffering from multiple, widespread, intermittent pollution discharges, would require a strategic, long-term investigation to identify the suspected third-party misconnections and specialist contractors required.

**Dollis Safari Update**

Of the 47 identified outfalls:

- 18 outfalls have been completed or closed
- 5 outfalls were not a Thames Water asset and were therefore reported to the EA
- 3 Outfalls were checked on multiple occasions and were no longer polluting
- 4 Outfalls had issues that were quickly resolved (fly-tipping, blockages etc.)
- 6 outfalls with misconnections have been resolved
- 7 outfalls were passed to SWOP and are on the waiting list
- 11 outfalls currently under live investigation

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) The committee agreed to note the presentation from Thames Water.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Clive Cohen pointed out that the presence of Signal Crayfish prevented spawning of frog, toad because they ate spawn. Mr Cohen queried whether it was possible for the CRT to carry out some form of management of Signal Crayfish as it was a big problem that had gone on for a long time and any plan to reduce their presence could only improve the health of the Welsh Harp. Mr Bennett said there was no practical solution of dealing with non-native crayfish species was a tricky problem due to having to remove other wild life which was a real challenge. Studies on the effectiveness of their removal had been proposed but it could make the problem worse as the population of the young ones were said to grow if the larger ones were removed. In addition, there were health and safety implications with traps being laid down at the reservoir. It was currently not considered to be a huge conservation issue and there was no clear way forward.

**10. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

None.

The meeting finished at 9.03 pm



**Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee**

06 March 2019

AGENDA ITEM 5

**Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment**

**WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	1
<b>Background Papers:</b>	▪
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Barham Park Project Officer, Regeneration & Environment, Brent Civic Centre. E: <a href="mailto:Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk">Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8937 5628

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2018/19 year to date. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust.

**2.0 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

**3.0 Detail**

3.1 The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan (dated 15 March 2016) is available on the Brent Council website at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks/park-finder/welsh-harp-reservoir/>

3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan which lists current year progress and actions that may require a longer time-frame and/or for the resources to be identified to undertake the action. For

this committee the Action Plan is updated as Appendix A. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress.

- 3.3 Brent Council has been contacted by the Welsh Harp Sailing Association and the Canal & River Trust who are organising a trial of the management of shoreline willow and other scrub growing in the marshland alongside the Welsh Harp Open Space. The trees are mainly on Canal & River Trust land but some trees, and some of the work is on the Welsh Harp Open Space. An initial project has been planned for February 2019 (to be completed by 28 February 2019). Larger trees and examples of a variety of different species and different structures (for example, trees, scrub) would be retained. The cut material will be stacked upslope, away from the water line, in reasonably neat stacks. Benefits of the work will include improving views by visitors across the reservoir, reduction of the wind shadow into the water and hence benefiting water sports, and reducing shade over the marshland to benefit marshland flora and wildlife. Consent for the work within the Site of Special Scientific Interest has been obtained from Natural England.

This is a trial before considering further work, in the autumn / winter and after the bird breeding season. In particular on the southern shoreline, alongside Neasden Recreation Ground scrub has in recent years grown to cover a high proportion of the shoreline. The Management Plan aim is to retain both areas of open marshland and areas of scrub and trees.

- 3.4 Public Spaces Protection Order. A Public Spaces Protection Order will become effective in all of Brent's parks, open spaces and cemeteries from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. At the Brent Reservoir this will include Neasden Recreation Ground, and the Welsh Harp Open Space. The Public Spaces Protection Order will prohibit a range of anti-social behaviour.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan provides recommendations for works to be undertaken. Works are only undertaken when approved by the service responsible for delivering the works within existing approved budgets.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp is a designated 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' ('SSSI'). Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ('CROW') and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) sets out the duties in relation to SSSIs. Land owners or occupiers, and also public bodies, are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England where they wish to carry out, or cause or permit to be carried out 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). Natural England will issue consent, which may have conditions or refuse consent. It is a criminal offence to carry out a listed operation without Natural England's consent or to ignore any conditions of a consent which may result in an unlimited fine and a restoration order. 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 a SSSI. When advice is obtained from Natural England prior to carrying out the works, an explanation of how the Council has taken into account any advice Natural England has given should be provided –

The Council must be able to show that it considered alternatives that could reduce the impact on the SSSI and the methods being used are those that cause as little damage as practicable to the land:-

The Council should demonstrate how it has assessed differing interests (including the special interests of the SSSI) before deciding to go ahead with the works.

- 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 all public authorities in England and Wales, when exercising their statutory functions, must have regard to the conservation of biodiversity, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.
- 5.4 Section 28Q of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires the owner of land included in a SSSI to inform Natural England within 28 days of any changes in ownership or occupation of the site, including leases, easements and rights.

## **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 Decision makers must have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. Consideration of the duties must precede the decision. It is important that regard is had to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material. The public sector equality duty is set out at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and is as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) Tackle prejudice, and
- (b) Promote understanding.

The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race,
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil partnership

6.2 No potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified at this stage. However, the equalities implications identified in the Equality Analysis will continue to be considered and assessed as further data / information is obtained or becomes available during the implementation process.

## **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 None specific.

## **8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

8.1 None specific.

<p><b>AMAR DAVE</b> Strategic Director of Regeneration &amp; Environment</p>
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## APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2018-2019

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 current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress: 2018-19 to 8 February 2019
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 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.
Litter. Clean up projects.	Brent Council. Barnet Council. Canal & River Trust. Thames 21. Environment Agency.	Landowners: Brent Council, Barnet Council, Canal & River Trust. Leaseholders. Also much volunteer involvement.	On-going.	Volunteers from the local community and the Welsh Harp Litterpickers cleared litter in 2018 along the reservoir edge at Neasden Recreation Ground; and elsewhere around the Reservoir. Brent Council cleaned up of parts of Neasden Recreation Ground earlier in 2018-19. Litter on the shoreline remains at locations.

River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going.  Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year.	Maintenance is on-going.  Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.  Note also the actions to contain and reduce run-off and pollution following a fire in early 2018 near to Staples Corner.
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.
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 for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. Recent problems with access to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	The WHCG organise winter projects around the hides.
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 (by reducing excess growth of trees).	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	<b>Willow growth is 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. Discussions by sailing clubs, Brent, C&amp;RT and other partners: autumn 2018.</b>  <b>The Welsh Harp Sailing Association in association with the Canal &amp; River Trust and Brent Council, have arranged for a trial project to manage willow on the north shore of the reservoir in February 2019.</b>
Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet.
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.	<b>Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.</b>

Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	<b>As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.</b>
South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	<b>The boardwalk is damaged.</b>
Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species	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.	<b>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. Project led by River Brent Catchment Partnership reduced Himalayan Balsam in July 2018. Considerable issues remain with invasive species.</b>
Wet woodland	C&RT, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing.

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 but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland). Grasslands: A new grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) in spring 2018. Includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value. Fine-tuning in 2019; and aiming for long-term improvements to biodiversity and amenity value.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Un-funded: 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.  Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.
Wood Lane traffic: 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.
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 2018/2019. 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.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/">http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/</a>
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**Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee**

6 March 2019

<b>Title</b>	Strategic Director - Environment
<b>Report of</b>	Strategic Director - Environment
<b>Wards</b>	West Hendon
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	None
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Matthew Gunyon, <a href="mailto:matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk">matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk</a> 0208 359 7403

### Summary

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

### Officers Recommendations

1. 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.

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee is comprised of Canals and Rivers Trust, 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  
The Greenspaces Team continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments;
- 1.4 Litter
- 1.4.1 Litter and bin schedules will continue to be reviewed by the operational service within Street Scene to ensure the service delivered meets the needs of the area.
- 1.4.2 Bin replacement and additions are being planned and programmed for the new financial year for the whole borough's parks and open spaces portfolio.
- 1.4.3 The reported fly tipping over the side of the Cool Oak Lane Bridge has been reported to Barnet Community Safety Team [BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk). They have allocated it to an enforcement officer who will investigate and enforce any incidents of fly tipping.
- 1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court
- 1.5.1 The Draft Master Plan has been revised and following feedback from the engagement work completed by SLC on behalf of the Council and will be presented to the Environment Committee 14 March 2019. The Committee will be asked to agree to taking the master plan out to a full public consultation, the results of which will be reported to a future Environment Committee for adoption.
- 1.5.2 The council is moving ahead with the creation of a temporary Ball Court on one of the Tennis Courts in West Hendon Playing Fields. These works will start early in 2019.
- 1.5.3 Below is a breakdown of the S106

Scheme Ref	Site	Status	Purpose of Contribution	Amount
886	Hendon Football Club, Claremont Road, London NW2 1AE	Received	West Hendon Playing Fields Contribution means the sum of £185,000 (one hundred and eighty five thousand pounds) Index Linked towards the cost of improvement to the sports pitches and changing facilities at West Hendon Playing Fields.	£185,000
834	West Hendon Estate	Received	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 107 residential units in Phase 3a	£350,000.00



834	West Hendon Estate	Received	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 659 residential units in Phase 3c	£50,000.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Due March 2020	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 928 residential units in Phase 4	£231,600.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Due March 2022	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 1341 residential units in Phase 5	£127,380.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Due March 2022	Leisure and recreation contribution Upon occupancy of 1742 residential units in Phase 6	£220,020.00
834	West Hendon Estate	Received in £50,000 instalments	SSSI Mitigation Contribution" means the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS (£500,000.00) of which up to 60% is to be used by the Council towards funding of the SSSI Warden and the balance towards improvements and mitigation works to the SSSI required as a consequence of the direct impact of the Development.	£500,000 (£50,000 spent 2015, £50,000 committed in 2019)
				<b>£1,664,000</b>

#### 1.6 Wider Area Improvements

The council commissioned the London Wildlife Trust to undertake some clearance works to the area directly next to the A5 between the BP Garage and Halfords. The works included;

- Small trees with a diameter less than 8cm were felled and stacked on site
- Bramble and scrub clearance
- Identification and marking of Invasive Species
- Collection and clearance of rubbish and fly tipped waste

The aim of the works was to increase visibility into the area which has been a target for rough sleeping and antisocial behaviour. A new gate will be installed across the gap in the fence and the area will be inspected periodically by a member of the greenspaces team

#### 1.7 Cool Oak Lane Bridge

The Highways Team will investigate if any signage is required for this location.

## **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 Greenspaces 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 as a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:  
“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 8.1 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 Corporate Parenting Principles

5.7.1 N/A

## 5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises the land owners, legislative bodies, and third sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

## 5.9 Insight

5.9.1 None

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: [www.brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) in the biodiversity section.