



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

17 July 2019

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Title | Strategic Director - Environment |
| Report of | Strategic Director - Environment |
| Wards | West Hendon |
| Status | Public |
| Urgent | No |
| Key | None |
| Enclosures | None |
| Officer Contact Details | Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 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;

1.3.1 The encampment discussed at the previous meeting located in York Park was cleared in partnership with Barratts, Canals and Rivers Trust and the Council. A team attended site after the event and undertook a cleansing of the area in question

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 The reported fly tipping in and around Cool Oak Lane Bridge was reported to the BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk and allocated to an officer to arrange enforcement patrols and to investigate if a camera should be deployed along this area.

1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court

1.5.1 The Draft Master Plan approved to go to full public consultation by the Environment Committee 14 March 2019. The Draft Master Plan is currently out to consultation (3 June – 28 July 2019). Representations can be made through the council's online engagement portal here;

<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/draft-masterplan-west-hendon-3>

Local residents were sent flyers, posters were erected in the park, social media is being used to inform people of the consultation and, several public drop in sessions have been arranged as part of the consultation;

| Date | Time | Location |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Friday 28 th June | 2pm – 5pm | West Hendon Community Hub |
| Saturday 29 th June | 10am – 1pm | By the playground at West Hendon Playing Fields |
| Wednesday 10 th July | 8.30am – 12pm | Parkside View Nursery, West Hendon Pavilion |
| Wednesday 17 th July | 3pm – 6pm | West Hendon Community Hub |
| Friday 26 th July | 2pm – 5pm | By the playground at West Hendon Playing Fields |

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 in the biodiversity section.

REPORT CLEARANCE CHECKLIST

(Removed prior to publication and retained by Governance Service)

Note: All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Committee Chairman, Chief Officer, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. Report authors should also engage with subject matter experts from other service areas where this is required (e.g. procurement, equalities, risk, etc.). The name and date that the chairman or officer has cleared the report must be included in the table below or the report will not be accepted.

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 and your report is likely to be withdrawn from the agenda and deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

AUTHOR TO COMPLETE TABLE BELOW:

| Who | Clearance Date | Name |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Committee Chairman | | |
| Chief Officer | 4 Jul. 19 | Jamie Blake |
| HB Public Law | | |
| Finance | | |
| Governance | | |
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