

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9 December 2003

REPORT NO : /2003 FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

FOR INFORMATION

NAME OF WARD: ALL

WELSH HARP RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 This report presents progress on the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan and related issues. The Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan is a joint Management Plan between the three main land-holding and land-managing organisations in the vicinity: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to agree:

- 2.1 [That the report be noted.](#)

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None specific, but some of the priorities identified in the Management Plan will require additional resources if they are to be implemented in the future. For Brent Council Parks Service, the Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Brent Parks Service Parks Strategy, and Operational Plan. Thus implementation is partially dependent upon revenue and capital budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management. The Parks Service actively pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available.

4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None specific.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan co-ordinates current environmental works in the Reservoir area, and highlights works that are a future priority.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: and other legislation has implications for the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the role of the Welsh Harp Management Plan. Under the Act (and previous legislation), the land owners / managers are required to obtain consent from English Nature before undertaking management or other works on the Site of Special Scientific Interest. The CROW Act 2000 increases the responsibility on the land owners to improve the management of SSSIs. The Act also encourages land owners to produce management plans for the SSSI, which when approved by English Nature, provide consent for the management works specified in the Management Plan. This can reduce the administrative problems inherent in having to obtain consent for each individual management work.
- 6.2 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: This Act is relevant to the designation of the proposed Local Nature Reserve at the Reservoir.

7.0 DETAIL

Welsh Harp Management Plan

- 7.1 As previously reported to this Committee, the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is kept under review by officers of the land owning and land managing organisations. An annual review is undertaken in approximately July each year, and then reported to Committee for the Committee's recommendations. Since 2001, when the CROW Act came into force, officers have included in the Management Plan process the additional responsibilities detailed in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The current version of the Management Plan as that signed by English Nature on 15 May 2003, and for which the footer of Part A of the Plan is dated 16 December 2003, and 12 June 2001 for Part B.
- 7.2 The current version of the Management Plan is on the internet at www.Brent.gov.uk/parks (from there go to the 'Brent Biodiversity Action Plan homepage and then navigate to the Brent Reservoir Action Plan). The draft versions on the Management Plan will also be provided on the Internet. The electronic version of the 'zones' map is also live on the internet. This enables users to locate the zones referred to in the Management Plan.
- 7.3 Revisions to the Plan in 2003 are relatively minor:
- 7.4 An introductory title page has been inserted to Part A to explain the Management Plan process and to provide contact information.
- 7.5 Part A: Minor changes have been made to update management recommendations in Part A and to reflect recent and current works. Some of these are detailed below (points 7.7 to 7.10).

- 7.6 Part B: Minor changes have been made to update Part B.
- 7.7 Emergency Contacts and other contacts: At the last meeting of this Committee, members raised a range of anti-social behaviour issues, including litter, the hitting of golf-balls, and litter and fly-tipping in the vicinity of the Braemar Avenue entrance to Neasden Recreation Ground. These matters have been brought to the attention of the Brent Parks Service Area Manager, and attempts are being made to address the issues raised. In addition, members requested that a combined leaflet be produced with contact 'phone numbers to allow members of the public to report problems. A list of emergency and other contact numbers has been produced and attached to Part B of the Management Plan. The sheet can be printed-off and reproduced in any other media. It is intended that it will also comprise a stand-alone document on the Management Plan web-pages for quick reference. The list is also reproduced as an attachment to this Committee Report.
- 7.8 Zone 7A: Recommendation 4: Brent: Change to cutting 'at least once every two years'. Reason: this will increase flexibility, for example if grassland contains coarse or invasive vegetation and does require cutting annually.
- 7.9 Zone 7E: Recommendation 1: Brent: Change to 'Cut the wildlife grassland at least once every two years, in the early autumn'. Reason: this will increase flexibility, for example if grassland does not require cutting annually.
- 7.10 Zone 8 (A and B): Recommendations: All and Zone Descriptions: British Waterways have provided draft revised text to update the Management Plan sections of this Zone to reflect the proposed management following their proposed works to the dam wall.
- 7.11 Zone 11: The Management Plan refers the user to Zone 7E. The change above (Zone 7E) will therefore apply.
- 7.12 Management of the marshland: Management of tree growth in the marshland on the southern edge of the Reservoir at Neasden Recreation Ground was undertaken by Brent Council Parks Service and the Welsh Harp Sailing Association in the late winter. Work during the winter of 2003/2004 will primarily be on the northern shore of the Welsh Harp Open Space (zone 6D/Brent).
- 7.13 Reedbed: The vegetation is now establishing in the new reedbed (zone 7D) that takes polluted water from the Dollis Hill area and from the North Circular Road. Following the request for information at the last meeting of this Committee, as to whether the reedbed inlet was now taking polluted water as intended, British Waterways, who are now managing this project, will be able to provide a verbal update.
- 7.14 Heritage Lottery Award: Council officers will provide a verbal update.

- 7.15 Fly-tipping and pollution: Officers from Brent Council, British Waterways, the Environment Agency, and English Nature are continuing to investigate fly-tipping and pollution incidents on the south-east shore of the Brent Reservoir.

Neasden Pavilion

- 7.16 Brent Council Parks Service is considering finding a new use for the derelict pavilion building in Neasden Recreation Ground. As previously reported to this committee, any use will need to be compatible with the function of Neasden Recreation Ground as a public open space; and with the Council's Unitary Development Plan. The Council is currently waiting for the applicant to provide a business plan with relevant information, before the proposal can be considered further.

Local Nature Reserve

- 7.17 Barnet Council will be updating the Committee on the progress of the Local Nature Reserve designation for that part of the Local Nature Reserve that falls within the London Borough of Barnet.

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 7.12 Current information on the Biodiversity Action Plans relating to the Brent Reservoir and Welsh Harp area can be accessed via the Brent Council Parks website at www.Brent.gov.uk/parks or via www.Brent.gov.uk
- 7.13 Urban Green Spaces Strategy: Brent Council Parks Service are continuing to produce an Urban Green Spaces Strategy for the Borough which will consider the whole spectrum of green spaces functions and issues. The Strategy will include the Brent Reservoir and the Welsh Harp area.

8.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Details of Documents:

- 8.1 Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Mr Leslie Williams, Environmental Policy Officer, Brent Parks Service, 660 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HB. Tel.: 020 8937 5628. E-mail: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk

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