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Extension : 937 5628

Version Drafted	Date Drafted	Notes (Please update the version number in the footer)
1	28.07.2003	
2	08.08.2003	
3	11.08.2003	
4	14.08.2003	

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee :

Above / Below
Confidential Line

2 September 2003

Report Title : WELSH HARP RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN

Consultation : Please note that TEN Working Days should normally be allowed for both internal department and external consultation. If no comments are received by that time, it will be assumed that the report is agreed.

Draft sent to	Date	Agreed by	Date	Notes
Environmental Services Directorate	28.07.2003			
Sue Harper	08.08.2003	11.08.2003		Pavilion issue is not yet in a report for September's Executive: unlikely to make deadline. WHJCC report assumes Members have some prior detail of knowledge. OK if that is the case; otherwise elaborate.
Jill Connolly	28.07.2003			
Shaun Faulkner	28.07.2003	Shaun Faulkner	29.07.2003	Great.
Andy Atkins	28.07.2003			
Delle Odeleye	28.07.2003			
Peter Massini, English Nature	28.07.2003			
Mike Manuel, British Waterways	28.07.2003			
Roy Beddard,	28.07.2003			

WHCG				
Brian Hague, Finance	28.07.2003	Brian Hague	29.07.2003	See his e-mail.
Legal Services Ian Chisnell	28.07.2003			
Jim Rea, Barnet	28.07.2003			
Louis Eden	28.07.2003			

List of attachments

File Names	Version / Date Drafted	Notes
Not electronic	N/A	The 'zones' map should be attached to the report to facilitate member understanding of the report. Vilash Patel, Brent Committee Services, has this, 18.12.2001. Sent to Barnet Committee Services, 8.7.2002

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

2 September 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.

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.

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. During the past one-two years, officers have included in the Management Plan process the additional responsibilities detailed in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It is anticipated that any changes required for 2003 will be minor. It is hoped to report on any proposed changes at the next meeting of the WHJCC following that in September. Currently, officers are recommending that no changes be made other than an updating of the works schedule.
- 7.2 The current version of the Management Plan has been placed 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). This replaces the earlier and consultation versions.
- 7.3 The electronic version of the 'zones' map is also live on the internet. This will allow users to locate the zones referred to in the Management Plan.

- 7.4 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. The results of this and the previous work undertaken during recent years are now evident from the band of marshland habitat that has been restored. Work during the winter of 2003/2004 will primarily be on the northern shore of the Welsh Harp Open Space (zone 6D/Brent).
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 Heritage Lottery Award: officers will provide a verbal update.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 Control of fly-tipping: Barrier at Birchen Grove. At the previous meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (17 June 2003), the Committee discussed the barrier that had been installed at Birchen Grove to deter fly-tipping and waste dumping at the end of the road adjacent to the Welsh Harp Open Space. The Committee sought information on whether the positioning of the barrier would hinder emergency access and whether residents were consulted. The barrier was installed by the StreetCare service of Brent Environmental Services. StreetCare report that the barrier can be accessed by the emergency services; and that some consultation was undertaken with local residents. StreetCare report that the barrier has been successful in reducing and preventing fly-tipping. This has led to amenity and environmental benefits. Financially, the cost of removing the waste prior to the installation of the barrier was averaging approximately £250 a week; whereas the barrier was installed at a cost of just under £2,000.
- 7.9 Capital Ring: The Capital Ring is a circular walk around London and through many green spaces. The route of the Capital Ring in the vicinity of the Brent Reservoir, and including part of the route through both Barnet and Brent has recently been surveyed by an officer of Transport for London. As part of that survey, a comparison was made between the current route and an earlier version of the route. The investigation compared the 'green factor' of the routes and also the number of busy road crossings etc. Although the current route has a lower 'green factor' (40% versus 65%), the 'blue factor' is greater (17% as compared with 0%). The accessibility of the current route was rated as 77%, as compared with 46% for the original route. The Orbital's Working Party of the London Walking Forum was therefore advised, that it is not at present worth recommending any diversion of the existing route.

Neasden Pavilion

- 7.10 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. A Report to consider possible leasing arrangements of the pavilion building has been drafted and is due to be considered by Brent Council's Executive in the autumn.

Local Nature Reserve

- 7.11 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.
- 7.11 Brent Council has applied of the New Opportunities Fund: Wildspace! Grant scheme for a grant to assist the designation and improvement of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Brent. The LNRs include the proposed LNR at the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp, (in both Brent and Barnet). The grant application has been placed on the approved reserve list for possible future funding by English Nature as managers of the grant scheme.

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 producing 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

Richard Saunders
Director of Environment