

AGENDA ITEM: 6 Page nos. 6

Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC)
Date	20 July 2004
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport
Summary	This report presents progress on the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan and related issues.

Officer Contributors	Steve Presland Head of Environmental and Neighbourhood Services
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	West Hendon
Enclosures	<u>Appendix A</u> Welsh Harp Tree Management Area 4b
For decision by	N/A
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

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1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Members note the progress on implementation of the Management Plan and forthcoming scheduled works.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None.

3 CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan 2004/5 – 2007/8 include as a priority 'Improving usage and standards of greenspaces'. The ongoing management of the Welsh Harp contributes towards to this objective.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 The council has obligations under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to appropriately manage its Site of Special Scientific Interest

5 FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Tree work will be funded by existing budgets.
- 5.2 Local Nature Reserve declaration will incur legal fees and publicity costs of which LB Barnet will meet its own share, all costs to be contained within existing budgets for such purposes.

6 COMMENTS, IF ANY, OF THE COUNCIL'S STATUTORY OFFICERS (Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer)

- 6.1 None.

7 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Management Plan

- 7.1 The management plan for 2002-07 is the agreed tool for management of this wildlife resource. The Welsh Harp (Brent) Reservoir is divided into management compartments. Separate prescriptions are written for management works for these compartments and the Management Plan is updated every five years in the light of comments from English Nature and other participatory organisations. The following issues from the plan should be noted:

Area 4b: Tree and marginal land management options

- 7.2 Further to tree works consented by English Nature on 12 January 2004, re-pollarding was carried out to Trees 4 and 5 (see appendix A)
- 7.3 The remaining tree works planned for year 1 and year 2 have been costed and will take place in the autumn (detail is highlighted in Appendix A).

7.4 Members are asked to note the progress of the tree management scheme.

Area 6D: Western Marsh

7.5 Further to a question raised by the Welsh Harp Sailing Group at the previous meeting, a site visit was arranged between sailors, the Welsh Harp conservation group and the Greenspaces Officer.

7.6 Barnet have agreed to fund pollarding of a limited number of willows in winter 2004. Details will be agreed at a site visit immediately before work starts. The Welsh Harp sailing group will kindly supply volunteer labour to assist.

Heritage Lottery Fund Project

7.7 The new footpath, accessible viewing platform and bird hide have been successfully completed. This completes the Heritage Lottery Project.

Local Nature Reserve

7.8 The proposal to create a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is contained in Barnet's draft Unitary Development Plan. Formal LNR declaration will be considered by members in the immediate future. The proposed boundary covers the marginal land of the reservoir, parts of West Hendon Playing Fields, disused allotments and parts of Woodfield Park and its extension (and areas in LB Brent).

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 All Local Nature Reserve and Heritage Lottery Fund details and papers are held in the Greenspaces Section of the Environmental and Neighbourhood Services.

8.2 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: www.brent.gov.uk/parks find the plan in the biodiversity section.

MO: PJ

BT: SH

Appendix A

Welsh Harp Tree Management Area 4b

Survey 17/9/03

Location	Species	DBH	Stems	Cond	Priority	Recommendations/Works
T1	Common Oak	37	1	Good		None, left for biodiversity
T2	Willow (multi stem)	49	6	Fair	1	Works to T2-T5 have been consented by English Nature 12/1/04: Re-pollard T2 and T3. High Pollard T4 and T5 to about 3 metres. Coppice trunks overhanging water line and footpath.
T3	Willow (multi stem)	45	3	Fair	1	
T4	Willow (multi stem)	33	8	Fair	1	
T5	Willow (multi stem)	31	8	Fair	1	
T6	Willow (multi stem)	32	3	Fair	2	
T7	Willow (multi stem)	69	4	Fair	2	
T 8 (group of 6 stools)	Willow (multi stem)	27	22	Poor	3&5	Mixture of the following: Coppice willows near water margin to 1m, to provide ground level regrowth. Pollard to 3 metre, to give low level regrowth, providing screen and bird nesting. Allow views at house level. Agree proportion to be cut prior to cutting season. No works to alder, elder or hawthorn (except H+S where necessary)
	Willow (multi stem)	27	11	Poor	3&5	
	Willow (multi stem)	23	2	Poor	3&5	
	Willow (multi stem)	23	6	Poor	3&5	
	Willow (multi stem)	27	7	Poor	3&5	
	Willow (multi stem)	15	14	Poor	3&5	
	Silver birch	19	1	Fair		None, left for biodiversity
T 9 (group of 2 stools)	Willow (multi stem)	23	16	Fair	4	Pollard to 1 metre, to give low level regrowth, providing screen and bird nesting. Allow views at house level – retain screen to bird hide
	Willow (multi stem)	43	5	Fair	4	
T10	Sycamore	31	1	Fair		None, left for biodiversity
T11	Willow (multi stem)	63	3	Fair	4	Pollard to 1 metre, to give low level regrowth, providing screen and bird nesting. Allow views at house level
T12	Ash	28	1	Fair		None, left for biodiversity
T 13 (group of 11 stools)	Willow (multi stem)	38	6	Fair	5	Trees overhanging gardens and path (health and safety and fire break requirements), reduce back from fence line x 4 m by coppicing to 1m. If deemed necessary, agreement of work to individual trees, roughly: 50% high canopy retention, 25% high pollarding at 4m 25% high canopy thinning
	Willow (multi stem)	63	1	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	48	12	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	48	14	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	64	3	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	14	10	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	31	14	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	28	4	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	27	4	Fair	5	
	Willow (multi stem)	30	1	Fair	5	
Willow (multi stem)	23	4	Fair	5		
General	Control seedling trees regeneration, control sycamore regeneration, maximise species and diversity, control alien and garden escapes (leave existing mature specimens). Japanese knotweed must be controlled especially where canopy thinning may lead to more vigorous growth.					

Welsh Harp Tree Management Area 4b

