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Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC)
Date	28 October 2004
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment and 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	None
For decision by	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

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1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the progress be noted.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

2.1

3 CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The ongoing management of the Welsh Harp contributes towards a Cleaner, Greener Borough.

3.2 The work also helps deliver the Corporate Plan priority: 'Improving usage and standards of greenspaces'.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 The council has obligations under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to appropriately manage this 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 London Borough of 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 update will be reported by London Borough of Brent. The following further issues from the plan should be noted:

Area 4b: Tree and marginal land management options

7.2 The next stage of the tree works at the rear of Dehar Crescent is due to take place this November.

Area 6D: Western Marsh

7.3 Willow pollarding will take place in winter 2004. Details will be agreed between interested parties at a site visit before work starts. The Welsh Harp sailing group will

kindly supply volunteer labour to assist.

Heritage Lottery Fund Project

- 7.4 The final claim has been made. There are some minor snags at the new bird hide that will be attended to by the Landscape Architects.

Local Nature Reserve

- 7.5 The proposal to create a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is contained in Barnet's draft Unitary Development Plan. 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 London Borough of Brent). A report is being prepared to this effect.

Update on Byelaws

- 7.6 Barnet's Legal Service recently reviewed the status of byelaws in relation to prosecution of those making a disturbance.

- 7.7 Summary of Advice:

Barnet has the power to create new byelaws or alter the existing byelaws relating to Pleasure Grounds (1987) and Good Rule and Government and the Prevention of Nuisances (1971) to allow for the prosecution of people causing a "disturbance" in the Welsh Harp Area (WHA).

However, this power is subject to the breadth of the definition of what is a 'disturbance.' Also, prosecution is limited to summary offences and removal of the individual from the area.

When creating such byelaws, consideration should be given to the role and approval of English Nature in relation to land declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Consideration should also be given to the position of British Water concerning land leased from this agency.

If all or part of the WHA is declared a Local Natural Reserve, Barnet has the authority to create regulatory byelaws in relation to such a nature reserve. The draft byelaws in this regard have already been commenced.

- 7.8 Any new byelaws made will have to be confirmed by the Secretary of State.
- 7.9 Members are asked to note the progress of the work towards the management plan.

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: PA