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Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC)
Date	20 January 2005
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Management</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Summary	Position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) declaration, site management, Heritage Lottery Fund project and Woodfield Pavilion

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Officer Contributors	Head of Environmental and Neighbourhood Service
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	West Hendon
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Joint Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

Contact for further information: Mark Evison, Greenspaces Officer, 020 8359 7826

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That Joint Committee note the position relating to the LNR designation and ask Barnet's Officers to report on progress to the next meeting.
- 1.2 That the Joint Committee note the position with regard to the Management Plan, Heritage Lottery Project and Woodfield Park.

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Barnet Council 21/4/98

## **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 already has an obligation under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to appropriately manage this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for nature conservation. Therefore, the designation will create no additional burden on the Council. .

## **5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 6.1 None

## **7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 7.1 The terms of reference of the Joint Committee, as set out in its Constitution, include :  
"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 and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.

## **8 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Local Nature Reserve (LNR)**

- 8.1 Barnet Council had previously considered the issue of declaring the Welsh Harp as a LNR, and instructed officers to submit the required byelaws to the relevant Committee.
- 8.2 Required endorsement of draft byelaws has been a complex undertaking due to there being a variety of landholdings, land uses and interested parties.
- 8.3 A summary status report will be submitted to future meeting of Barnet's Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee.

### **Management Plan**

- 8.3 Management work was carried out on the meadows in compartment 6 in November. The grass was cut and removed from site, care was taken around the ant hills. The seedling oaks were grubbed out to prevent loss of the area to secondary woodland.
- 8.4 The willow trees on the shoreline of compartment 6 were coppiced to improve wind for the sailors on the reservoir. The Welsh Harp Sailing Club provided volunteers to help in this operation and we are grateful for their help.

### **Heritage Lottery Project**

- 8.5 The Heritage Lottery Fund have invited an application to claim the underspend outstanding across the now completed access and conservation project. This will be for extra works related to the original projects objectives. It is intended to reclaim for the repair and improvement to the original work if acceptable.

### **Woodfield Park**

- 8.6 The contract to rebuild Woodfield Park Pavilion has now been let and it is anticipated that work on site will start on 24 January 2005, with completion expected in August. This project has been made possible due to the collaboration of the London Borough of Barnet, the Football Foundation and Princes Park Youth Football Club.

## **9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 All Local Nature Reserve and Heritage Lottery Fund details and papers are held in the Greenspaces Section of the Environmental and Neighbourhood Services.
- 9.2 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: [www.brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) find the plan in the biodiversity section.

BS: PJ  
BT: PA