

DECISIONS OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

20 January 2005

*Councillor Matthew Offord (Barnet) (Chairman)
Councillor Richard Harrod (Vice-Chair) (Brent)

Councillors:

Arun Ghosh (Barnet)
*Ansuya Sodha (Barnet)
Terry Burton (Barnet)
*Jim O'Sullivan (Brent)
Mary Farrell (Brent)
Cllr Christopher Harris (Barnet)

Organisation

Barnet Council for Sport & Recreation
Birchen Grove Residents' Association
British Waterways
English Nature
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
West Hendon Community Forum
West Hendon Youth Club
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre Action Group
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Welsh Harp Youth Sailing Base
Woolmead Residents' Association

Representative

* Frank Hewlett
Dorothy Jakes
Mike Manuel
Paul Losse
* Julie Johnson
Clive Cohen
* Judy Shepherd
Rebecca Goh
Leo Batten
* Roy Beddard (for Harry Mackie)
* Malcolm Scott
* Brian Turgoose
Haydn Matthews
* Jean Stedall

*denotes Member present

Also in attendance were

Mark Evison (Barnet Leisure & Youth Services),
Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Service),
Philomena Jemide, (Barnet Principal Solicitor) and
Nick Musgrove (Barnet Democratic Services)

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 October 2004 be approved as a true and accurate record. However, it was noted that some members felt that the previous minutes had not done justice to the strength of concern they had expressed in regard to some of the environmental problems raised at the meeting.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Arun Ghosh (Barnet);
- Councillor Christopher Harris (Barnet);
- Councillor Richard Harrod (Brent);
- Dorothy Jakes (Birchen Grove Residents' Association);
- Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre);
- Leo Batten (Welsh Harp Conservation Group).

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Malcolm Scott of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre Action Group declared a personal interest in the items under consideration because he was a shareholder (director) of the Greenhouse Garden Centre in Brent of Brent, and the Woodfield Nursery in Barnet

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS

No members of the public had asked to address the Committee.

5. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT (BARNET) (Item 6)

The Committee received a progress report from the Chairman, as Barnet's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, updating the Committee on the Local Nature Reserve declaration, site management, the Heritage Lottery funding and the Woodfield Park Pavilion.

In noting the position the Committee expressed concern at a report from Julie Johnson of LA 21 that heavy plant accessing the pavilion site had made use of the Cool Oak Lane Bridge. Barnet's representative, Mark Evison, undertook to enquire into the position regarding weight restrictions on the bridge and whether the contract terms made any provision to control site access.

The Committee asked Barnet's officers to report to the next meeting on the position regarding the Local Nature Reserve declaration.

6. WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRENT) (Item 7)

Leslie Williams presented a report from Brent's Director of Environment detailing progress on the Management Plan, with particular regard to the residual Heritage Lottery expenditure and the use of Neasden Pavilion.

He also gave a verbal update on the installation by Transport for London of signs for the London ring.

The Committee noted that officers would now be completing work on the Local Nature Reserve declaration.

Discussing the Neasden Pavilion, the Committee noted that efforts to find alternative users had been fruitless. Given the pavilion's poor location, internal layout, and physical condition as well as the evident lack of interest from potential users, the consensus of opinion was that demolition was the appropriate course of action.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on 14 April (rather than 13 April as mooted on the agenda).

8. OTHER BUSINESS: WATER QUALITY

Julie Johnson of LA21 raised the need for vigilance against water pollution, particularly when arising from improper disposal of cooking oil.

The Committee noted the action taken by Barnet officers in educating and informing local food retailers, and by Brent in relation to enforcement action taken in response to a past incident.

At the suggestion of the Chairman the Committee agreed that the Environment Agency be asked to reinstate the previous practice of submitting regular reports on water quality. Hopefully it would be possible to submit the first such report to the next meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS: SECURITY

Judy Shepherd of the West Hendon Community Forum enquired about progress in action to address anti-social behaviour in the area; and the Committee were informed of arrangements for increased patrolling and installation of signs.

10. WEST HENDON REGENERATION (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

After the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the West Hendon regeneration from Yvonne Harrison of the Metropolitan Housing Trust. This matter would be placed as an item of formal business on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm