

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

14 April 2005

Report from the Director of Environment

For information

Wards affected:
Welsh Harp, Dollis Hill, Fryent, All

Report Title: Welsh Harp Management Plan

Forward Plan ref:

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan and related issues. The Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan is a joint Management Plan between the three main land-holding and land-managing organisations in the vicinity: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 [Members are asked to note the report and that officers will be completing the remaining stages of the Local Nature Reserve declaration.](#)

3.0 Detail

Welsh Harp Management Plan

- 3.1 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is administered 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. Since 2001, officers have included in the Management Plan process the additional responsibilities of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce Management Plans for SSSIs.

- 3.2 The Management Plan was signed by English Nature on 15 May 2003. Subsequent amendments have been reported to this Committee. English Nature have indicated that for minor changes to the Management Plan, there is no need to seek their formal consent.
- 3.3 The current version of the Management Plan has been placed on the internet via Brent Council's website at www.Brent.gov.uk/parks (from there go to the 'Brent Biodiversity Action Plan homepage and then navigate via the Brent Reservoir Action Plan). A map of the zones is also provided on the internet; and a copy of the map is also attached to this report.

Heritage Lottery Award

- 3.4 The Heritage Lottery Fund agreed the extension request on 20 January 2005. A list of these project enhancements were reported verbally to the previous meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.
- 3.5 The expenditure broadly relates to the priorities and projects of the original Heritage Lottery Fund award for the Brent Reservoir. Expenditure is divided approximately equally on the basis of the geographic areas of the two Boroughs at the Reservoir, but taking into account various technical issues, the involvement of British Waterways as a landowner, and some expenditure that relates to the whole area. The extension grant funding is of £42,563, which together with partnership matched funding of £17,835 gives an overall budget of £60,398. Note that the matched funding includes contributions from the London Borough of Barnet, Brent Council, British Waterways and volunteer time from the Welsh Harp Conservation Group and Welsh Harp Sailing Association. Thus the matched funding and overall budget figures above include non-financial contributions within the totals which are stated in financial terms.
- 3.6 Work on all 23 items within the extension project are proceeding. Some projects were due for completion by the end of the 2004/2005 financial year on 31 March 2005, while the whole grant project is due for completion on 30 June 2005.
- 3.7 Maintenance of the Heritage Lottery award projects is on-going.
- 3.8 Fly-tipping and pollution: British Waterways will provide an update for the Committee.

Neasden Pavilion

- 3.9 [Brent Council Parks Service has been seeking a new use for the derelict pavilion building in Neasden Recreation Ground \(Zone 7E\). The Head of Parks Service will endeavour to make arrangements to improve and/or to find a new use for, or to demolish the building. 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.](#)

Local Nature Reserve

- 3.10 At a previous meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 24 February 2004, a report detailed the actions that have been taken by the two local authorities at the Brent Reservoir, in consultation with English Nature, to complete the declaration of the Local Nature Reserve. This included the formal consultation with English Nature, the preparation of the Management Plan and the involvement of British Waterways as a landowner.
- 3.11 A report to declare that part of the Local Nature Reserve that falls within the London Borough of Barnet was agreed by Barnet on 15 March 2005. Brent Council have been in a position to proceed with the declaration over land within the London Borough of Brent, for some time. English Nature have indicated that the Declaration will need to be undertaken jointly with Barnet Council. Officers from Barnet and Brent will now arrange for the completion of the declaration process.

Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day

- 3.12 In 2005 the event is due to take place on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday 30 May. The event is primarily organised and managed by volunteers of the community groups involved. There is some minor administrative and other support provided by Brent Council Parks Service as part of its role in managing the Welsh Harp Open Space and working with the community.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 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. For Brent Council Parks Service, the Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Brent Parks Service Parks Strategy, and Operational Plan. Thus implementation is partially dependent upon revenue and capital budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management. The Parks Service pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available.
- 4.2 Local Nature Reserve: The Brent Council costs associated with the preparation of the Declaration and the publication of the Public Notices had been provided for in the Brent Parks Service 2004/2005 revenue budget. As noted above it is now probable that the declaration will need to be in the 2005/2006 year, and it is assumed that the declaration costs can be met from within the Brent Parks Service 2005/2006 revenue budget. Once the Local Nature Reserve has been declared, it is not expected that the Local Nature Reserve will require any additional finance over and above the current financial arrangements. However, the declaration may provide opportunities for grant applications.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the land owners / managers are required to consult with English Nature for any operation in the list of 'Potentially damaging operations'; and English Nature will issue a consent for the works unless the operation is likely to have a significant impact on any of the notified features of interest on the site. CROW (and section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) places a duty on all public bodies to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation of the site. CROW also encourages land owners to produce Management Plans for the SSSI, which when approved by English Nature, enable the carrying out of the management works specified in the Management Plan. This can reduce the administrative problems inherent in having to obtain consent for each individual item of management work.

5.2 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949: This Act enabled the declaration of the proposed Local Nature Reserve at the Reservoir.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no diversity implications.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

7.1 None specific.

8.0 Environmental Implications

8.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan co-ordinates current environmental works in the Reservoir area, and highlights works that are a future priority.

8.2 The declaration of the Local Nature Reserve will help to protect the wildlife of the Reservoir area and the interpretation of the biodiversity interest.

Background Papers

Dated correspondence and other documents referred to in the Report including:

Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan.

Report from the Director of Environment to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee: Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan: 24 February 2004.

Equality Impact Assessment Completion Form: Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee: Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan: 20 January 2005. Form dated 06b.01.2005.

Contact Officers

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