

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

15 June 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.
- 3.4 Litter bins. Following comments at previous meetings on the WHJCC, Brent Council Parks Service have installed, and will service, a litter bin at the Welsh Harp Open Space near to the Brent / Barnet boundary.
- 3.5 Following the concerns raised about access to Woodfield Nursery at the previous meeting of the WHJCC (14 April 2005), the appropriate officers in Barnet's Highways and Design team and in Brent's Streets and Transportation services will liaise to consider the issues. Officers are starting from the premise of the need to facilitate access to Woodfield Nursery whilst deterring heavy or large vehicles from accessing Cool Oak Lane bridge. Officers will initially investigate this as a signage issue.
- 3.6 Following the comments made about enforcement of bye-laws at the previous meeting of the WHJCC, officers have checked the emergency contact numbers available for circulation to officers of British Waterways, Barnet Council and Brent; and to the public. One of the contact numbers has been revised and the updated list is attached to this report. The corresponding page has also been updated in the Management Plan and on the internet; and the new list has been issued to Brent's Park Wardens and Mobile Patrols.

Heritage Lottery Award

- 3.7 The Heritage Lottery Fund agreed the extension request on 20 January 2005. A list of these project enhancements was circulated at the previous meeting of this Committee (14 April 2005). Officers of Barnet, British Waterways, other partners and Brent are now implementing the projects. Completion is required by the end of July 2005, which means that practical completion is required by the end of June 2005.

- 3.8 The projects include the creation of scrapes (shallow water areas) in the marshland adjacent to the Reservoir, further work to conserve and extend the marshland of the Reservoir by managing willows and other trees, the control of Giant Hogweed, further work to thicken the hedgerow alongside the North Circular Road, improvements to the area adjacent to the industrial units alongside the southern marshland, improvements to the boardwalk at the promontory and adjacent areas on the southern side of the Reservoir, new noticeboards, new litter bins, new benches, improvements to the Capital Ring, and assistance for conservation management works.
- 3.9 In relation to the 'tadpole farm' (WHJCC minutes, 14.04.2005) which is taken to refer to the pond adjacent to the Reservoir near to the Brent boundary with Barnet, Brent will be investigating whether the Crack Willow tree overhanging the pond can be reduced in 2005/2006. In addition, the scrapes mentioned above, will be located in the vicinity of the pond, alongside the edge of the Reservoir and should help to conserve amphibian populations. In effect an increased number of ponds and scrapes should help local meta-populations.
- 3.10 Maintenance of the Heritage Lottery award projects is on-going.

Neasden Pavilion

- 3.11 There is no change since the previous meeting. 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

- 3.12 Officers of both Barnet and Brent are proceeding with the Declaration of the Local Nature Reserve at the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp. Brent has now received Legal advice that the Council will need to make an unequivocal Declaration, as it is not clear that the previous intentions of the Council can be taken as the Declaration. A report has been prepared for the Council's Executive meeting on 20 June 2005.

Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day

- 3.13 The Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day was held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 30 May 2005. The event was primarily organised and managed by volunteers of the community groups involved. There was 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 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

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Mr Leslie Williams, Environmental Policy Officer, Brent Parks Service, 660 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HB. Tel.: 020 8937 5628. E-mail: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk

Richard Saunders
Director of Environment

(Optional)
Name
Title
Unit

BRENT RESERVOIR EMERGENCY AND OTHER CONTACTS

The Brent Reservoir (or Welsh Harp) area is managed by three main organisations:
British Waterways, Brent Council (or London Borough of Brent); and London Borough of Barnet.

If there is an emergency requiring the emergency services:

Police	Telephone	999
Ambulance	Telephone	999
Fire Services	Telephone	999

For other emergency or general enquiries please contact:

British Waterways

British Waterways are responsible for the Reservoir (the water body), the dam wall and some marginal land. Contact:

Emergencies (other than the 999 calls)	0800 47 999 47
General enquiries (during office hours)	020 7286 6101
Enquiries about the maintenance of the dam, the reservoir and marginal land for which British Waterways is responsible:-	020 8571 8900

Brent Council

Brent Council Parks Service are responsible for some of the open spaces and parks around the Brent Reservoir. For urgent matters contact:

Emergencies:

During office hours	Telephone	020 8937 5619
Outside of office hours	Telephone	020 8937 1234 and ask for 'Parks Standby'

For non-urgent information or to make an enquiry please contact:

Brent Council Parks Service

660 Harrow Road

Wembley

Middlesex HA0 2HB

Tel: 020 8937 5619

Fax: 020 8903 3799

E-mail: parks.service@brent.gov.uk

Web: For information about the Reservoir including the Brent Reservoir Management Plan: www.Brent.gov.uk/parks

For all other enquiries to Brent Council, please 'phone: 020 8937 1234

London Borough of Barnet

The London Borough of Barnet are responsible for some of the open spaces and parks around the Brent Reservoir. Contact:

Barnet Emergency Service:

During office hours	Telephone	020 8359 7826
Outside of office hours	Telephone	020 8359 2000

The outside of office hours number is available from 6.00pm (1800 hours) to 9.00 am (2100 hours) the following morning.

The Street Enforcement Service who have some responsibility for patrolling the Welsh Harp can be contacted through the same number, as they work seven days a week, on a shift rota system.