

**MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

PRESENT: Councillor Harrod (Chair, London Borough of Brent), Councillor Sodha (Vice Chair, London Borough of Barnet) and Councillors Ghosh and Offord (London Borough of Barnet), John Colmans (London Wildlife Trust), Dorothy Jakes (Birchen Grove Residents' Association), Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents' Association), Julie Johnson (Local Agenda 21), Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre), Mary Norden (British Waterways) and Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum)

Alex Chown (Environment Agency) and Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) were also present.

The following Officers were also in attendance:

Mark Evison (Barnet Environmental Services) and Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Service).

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of: Mike Manuel (British Waterways), Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group) and Haydn Matthews (Welsh Harp Youth Sailing Base)

**1. Election of Chair**

Nominations were invited for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the municipal year. Following votes, Councillor Harrod was elected Chair and Councillor Sodha was elected Vice-Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee for the municipal year 2005/6.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2003 be approved as a true and accurate record subject that Councillor Harrod's apologies for absence be recorded.

**4. Matters Arising**

Following the minutes from the last meeting it was suggested that an Officer contact the 'Art of Living Foundation' regarding possible joint projects at the Welsh Harp reservoir.

**5. Public Speaking Arrangements**

There had been no public speaking requests.

## 6. **Environment Agency Presentation**

Alex Chown from the Environment Agency introduced a presentation on water quality at the Welsh Harp reservoir. He explained that the Environment Agency were responsible for testing the quality of the water in the streams that feed the reservoir as well as Welsh Harp itself.

He reported that over the period of January 2003 to May 2005 there were 403 incidents recorded in the River Brent catchment area. 70 of these were noted as serious and most of these involved the release of sewage. It was further reported that the general tested quality of the Silk Stream and Dollis Brook, tributaries to the River Brent, were of a passable quality of the sort expected on urban water courses. Various types of pollution were discussed including oil, sewage, paint and cooking oil and a number of different sources were identified of which a major one was misconnected waste pipes at residential properties.

During discussion a number of points were raised including questions regarding highways run-off, enforcement ability and the potential role of councils. Answers given explained that run-off from roads and pavements was always a potential pollution problem but that newer highways and pavements could have pollution control measures built in. Also, although funding was always an issue for Agencies such as the Environment Agency, one of the largest issues regarding enforcement was encouraging the public to inform the agency when there was a problem so that action could be taken. It was emphasised that the emergency incident reporting number was, at the time of this meeting, 0800 80 70 60 and that local authorities also had powers under the Clean Neighbourhood Act to enforce environmental standards.

It was also explained that the Environment Agency work closely with the Fire Service who has 'first aid' pollution control kits at all their fire stations.

## 7. **Welsh Harp Management Plan (Brent)**

Leslie Williams presented an update to the Welsh Harp Management Plan (Brent) reporting on progress to the plan over recent months.

Items highlighted to the meeting included a note that more litter bins had been provided or were on order, that the emergency contact numbers had been updated and that the warden service had been active discouraging the lighting of BBQs on the site. Other projects noted included the Local Nature Reserve declaration, plans for the Neasden Pavilion site and the reservoir open day.

It was also reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund had agreed to an extension request and that therefore works funded by the Lottery, previously announced to the Committee now had a new deadline for completion of the end of July 2005, with an effective practical completion date of the end of June 2005.

During discussion it was noted that there still appeared to be issues regarding BBQs, litter and other issues particularly with regard to the border between the two Councils. It was recommended that the warden team be contacted to find out their response to these issues. It was also noted that as it was possible that Neasden Pavilion was going to be demolished it was requested that the Council agree to undertake a bat survey first.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report be noted
- (ii) that it be noted that Officers would be completing the remaining stages of the Local Nature Reserve declaration.

#### **8. Welsh Harp Management Plan (Barnet)**

Mark Evison presented an update to the Welsh Harp Management Plan (Barnet). He reported that the Local Nature Reserve declaration was due to be signed within the next week having been approved by the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

The draft set of byelaws was also presented at the meeting and the Committee was asked to approve them so that they could be referred back to Council and subsequent to that an application would be put to the Minster for the Environment to sanction them.

During discussion it was reported that the Street Enforcement Service team were to be invited to a future meeting to discuss issues regarding litter, BBQs, vandalism and the like, it was also noted that new information boards had been ordered to replace those previously damaged. During brief discussion of the proposed byelaws it was noted that there was no specific ban on the possession of protected species within the byelaws and it was requested that Officers investigate the usefulness of such additional byelaws.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report be noted
- (ii) that the Committee agree the proposed byelaws and refer them to the Hendon Area Environment Sub Committee for approval, with the request that that Committee recommend the Council to approve them, subject to a request that Officers examine the

suggestion to include specific bans on the possession of protected species within the byelaws.

- (iii) that the situation relating to other site management issues be noted.

9. **Planning Issues (if any)**

There were none.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED:

that it be noted that the next meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee has been scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at Brent Town Hall.

The meeting ended at 9:05pm.

Cllr Harrod  
Chair