

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 6th September 2005 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Harrod (Chair, London Borough of Brent), Councillor Sodha (Vice Chair, London Borough of Barnet) and Councillor Fox (London Borough of Brent) and Councillor Offord (London Borough of Barnet), Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), Frank Hewlett (Barnet Council for Sport and Recreation), Dorothy Jakes (Birchen Grove Residents' Association) and Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gosh and McGovern, Leo Batten, Julie Johnson, Paul Lossey, Mike Manuel, Hayden Mathews, Mary Norden and Malcolm Scott.

Also in attendance were Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Service) and Mark Evison (Barnet Parks Service).

1. Declarations of Interests

There were none.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 15th June 2005

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th June 2005 be received and approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of Malcolm Scott in the list of attendees and the alteration of an incorrect date.

3. Announcements

The Chair reported that there had recently been a presentation at the Greater London Authority by the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) on the subject of a possible Eco Park at the Welsh Harp Reservoir.

It was suggested that CAT be invited to the next WHJCC meeting to make the same presentation to ensure that all interested parties had the opportunity to view it should they wish. Councillor Sodha noted that several Councillors had not been invited to the previous presentation and expressed concerns that this should not happen in the future. It was also suggested that the feasibility study should be distributed to all Members of the Committee.

4 Matters Arising

Barnet Street Enforcement

It was reported that it had not yet been possible to arrange for the Barnet Street Enforcement team to attend to provide a presentation on their work, although it was hoped that this could happen at a future meeting.

They had though, sent a brief summary of their current work:

“Officers from the Street Enforcement Service are carrying out patrols between the hours of 1pm and 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

They are there in the company of either police officers or Police community support officers to prevent anti social behaviour, ensure that persons are using the designated barbeque areas.

They are liaising with local residents to inform of their visits. As well as the above patrols the officers are visiting the site during the week to carry out patrols, work allowing.”

Art of Living Foundation

Officers reported that, following a request at the previous meeting, they had attempted to contact the Art of Living Foundation. Officers established that the original enquiry appeared to refer to the Barnet or UK branch of an American organisation. Both sides felt there were no specific current issues where they could co-ordinate but, having now made contact, if anything arose in the future then joint working could be considered.

4. Public Speaking Arrangements

There were no requests to speak.

5. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent)

Leslie Williams introduced the item updating the Committee on the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent).

Amongst items noted from the report, it was announced that Brent Council's Executive Committee had agreed the Declaration of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Local Nature Reserve on 20 June 2005, the Declaration was made on 21 July 2005; and the notice was published on 1 September 2005. Copies of the notice were available from the Parks Service office.

It was reported that in the last couple of months officers have been investigating how other local authorities deal with BBQs. The responses indicated that most banned BBQs altogether but that some did provide specific BBQ facilities that could be used by the public.

Other items referred to included an item noting that the Heritage Lottery Fund extension had been completed, with aftercare works continuing, a report that there had been problems with a rave in August and a report that British Waterways had contacted Brent Council to investigate the feasibility of demolishing Neasden Pavilion during the existing works project on the dam. It was noted that a Bat survey could be necessary before demolition.

In discussion it was noted that the rave that occurred was a repeat event from the previous year and Members suggested that Officers should be prepared for a possible attempt at the same time next year which was always the weekend before the August bank holiday. It was also noted that a member of the public had provided Officers with the number plate of the van used and it was requested that Officers report back to the Committee on any progress made in finding the van.

Members also congratulated Officers from both Councils on completing the Local Nature Reserve declaration.

RESOLVED:-

that the report and the completion of the Declaration of the Welsh Harp/Brent Reservoir Local Nature Reserve be noted.

6. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Barnet)

The Consultative Committee received a report from Mark Evison updating them on progress on the Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan and related issues.

It was noted that Barnet's Officers had also completed work in relation to the Local Nature Reserve declaration.

It was reported that a number of residents on Woolmead Avenue had previously extended their gardens onto the open space but that Officers had successfully encouraged the removal of the extensions. It was also reported that Asda at Colindale had offered a staff volunteer day to clean up rubbish and cut back vegetation along the rear of Woolmead Avenue and that this would take place in the Autumn.

It was noted that the Street Enforcement Service and Police were continuing their joint patrols of the open space between 1:30pm and 6:00pm and were continuing to request the removal of any BBQs they discovered.

It was also reported that the West Hendon Regeneration had received outline planning permission from Barnet Council and it was recommended that the Committee monitored the scheme to ensure it didn't adversely affect the Welsh Harp open space.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that officers would be completing the final stages of the Local Nature Reserve designation be noted.

7. Planning Issues

There were no planning issues.

8. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the next meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee has been scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 7th December 2005.

9. Any Other Urgent Business

It was noted that Brent Council's e-alerts system from the website was available for those who wished to receive early copies of the minutes of Welsh Harp meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.22 pm

R HARROD
Chair

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