

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Page nos.

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Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC)
Date	6 September 2005
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Management</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Summary	Position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) declaration, site management, Heritage Lottery Fund project and Woodfield Pavilion

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Officer Contributors	Interim Head of Environmental Services
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	West Hendon
Enclosures	English Nature's Views About Management
For decision by	Joint Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

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## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Joint Committee note the report and that the final stages of the Local Nature Reserve Declaration will be completed.

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 9 March 1998, Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee, resolved to recommend to Council that LNRs be declared at the Welsh Harp, Big Wood and Totteridge Fields Nature Reserves. However, the Chief Executive's supplementary report to Council on 21 April 1998 stated amongst others that the Council should not approve the draft byelaws for the Welsh Harp LNR, and that they must be amended as necessary and resubmitted to Committee.
- 2.2 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 9 December 2003 - approved the proposed boundary of the LNR.
- 2.3 Hendon Area Environmental Sub-Committee on 15 March 2005 agreed the designation of a Local Nature Reserve on the Welsh Harp.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The ongoing management of the Welsh Harp contributes towards a Cleaner, Greener Borough.
- 3.2 The work also helps deliver the Corporate Plan priority: 'Improving usage and standards of greenspaces'.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 Failure to prevent encroachment would result in a loss of Council property. The Council would also be in breach of its obligation to protect the Welsh Harp Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- 4.2 Failure to conduct enforcement patrols may lead to an increase in anti social behaviour.

## **5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications in the context of this report

## **6. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 6.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to safeguard, protect and enhance sites of special scientific interest. The Local Authority has the power under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. However, English Nature must be consulted by the Authority in the use of the powers given by section 21. The 1949 Act states that a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) must be managed in such a way that uses to which people put the site to do not damage the natural features.

## **7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 7.1 The terms of reference of the Joint Committee, as set out in its Constitution, include :  
“to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation/leisure/maintenance/nature conservation and statutory requirements of the British Waterways Board and the Environment Agency at the Welsh Harp; with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.”

## **8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Local Nature Reserve and Bye-laws**

- 8.1 Declaration of the Welsh Harp Local Nature Reserve was signed and dated on 21 July 2005. The Public Notice was published on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005. The final stage of the declaration is a letter to inform English Nature.
- 8.2 The draft byelaws 2005 are due to go before the Hendon Area Environmental Sub-Committee on 27 September for referral to the Council in order that application may be made to the Minister for the Environment to sanction them.

### **Rear of Woolmead Avenue**

- 8.3 Some householders recently extended their gardens onto the open space. The culprits have now reinstated the original boundary.
- 8.4 Asda Colindale have offered a staff volunteer day to clean up the rubbish and cut back vegetation along the rear of Woolmead Avenue. This will take place in the Autumn.

### **Summer Patrols**

- 8.5 The Street Enforcement Service and Police are continuing their joint patrols until the end of September. The patrols take place between 1.30pm and 6.00pm. All requests to barbequing groups to move along have been obeyed. There has been a decline in numbers over recent weekends.

### **English Nature Views about Management**

- 8.6 Under Schedule 11 (paragraph 6) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, English Nature must notify owners of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of their views about management. The statement is enclosed as Appendix A. The statement does not replace the existing management plan.

## **9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: [www.brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) find the plan in the biodiversity section.

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BT: