

	<p style="text-align: center;">Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee Tuesday, 11 July 2006</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Environment and Culture</p>
For Information	Wards Affected: ALL
<p>Report Title: Welsh Harp Management Plan</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues. The 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.

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 most recent re-drafting of the Management Plan was completed earlier in 2006, and that version will serve for 2006 and until the next review in 2007. The current version of the Management Plan has been placed on the internet 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 Dam wall works. Brent Council Parks Service continues to work with British Waterways following the completion of their dam wall works. Some re-instatement work is still in progress, including for the area that caps the site of the demolished Neasden sports pavilion.

Cross-boundary working and enforcement

- 3.5 Cross-boundary working and enforcement: Wardens of Brent Parks Service were called to a rave party at the Welsh Harp during the night of 10-11 June 2006. Brent's Wardens established that the event was situated in Barnet. At the time of the incident, Brent's Wardens 'phoned Barnet to seek the attendance of a Warden / officer. Brent's Wardens were unable to get through on Barnet's out-of-hours telephone number and, it would appear, that no officers from Barnet attended the incident. Without the presence of a Barnet officer, Brent's Wardens were unable to take action in Barnet nor did they have jurisdiction to advise Police to take action.
- 3.6 Subsequently, Brent officers have checked telephone numbers and procedures with Barnet's 24-hour emergency / out-of-office hours team. A key issue is whether Barnet's Wardens / officers could be called out to a future incident and this is the subject of current discussions.
- 3.7 Vehicle access: Despite checks of all of the obvious potential access, points, it would appear that the rave organisers' vehicles are still accessing the site. Officers of both Boroughs are checking the boundaries of the open spaces.
- 3.8 Identification of event organisers: Following investigation by Brent Council Parks Service, publicity information concerning previous rave events at the Welsh Harp has been located. Officers of Barnet and Brent Council are taking appropriate action to contact the rave organisers to request that they cease all unauthorised activities.

Heritage Lottery Award

- 3.9 Maintenance of the Heritage Lottery Fund award project continues.

Local Nature Reserve

- 3.10 The launch of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Local Nature Reserve was performed jointly by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan and the Mayor of Brent, Councillor Bertha Joseph during the Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Open Day on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29 May 2006. Representatives of some of the organisations represented on the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee were present, together with members of the public and the local Police.

Kingsbury and Welsh Harp Reservoir Open Day

- 3.11 The event was held on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29 May 2006. The Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre was open throughout the day and there were a number of participants in pond dipping and other activities.

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 Service 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. The Welsh Harp Project Group will discuss the financial implications of projects within the remit of that group.

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), 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 works specified in the Management Plan. This can reduce the administrative work inherent in obtaining consent for individual items of management work.

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.

Background Papers

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

Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan.

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

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