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Meeting Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date 13 November 2007
Subject **Welsh Harp Management Plan**
Report of Cabinet Member for Environment and
 Transport
Summary To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
 and on-going site management

Officer Contributors Director of Environment and Transport
Status (public or exempt) Public
Wards affected West Hendon
Enclosures None
For decision by Joint Committee
Function of Executive
Reason for urgency /
exemption from call-in (if
appropriate) N/A

Contact for further information: Roger Jones, Chief Environmental Services Officer, 020 8359 7523

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Joint Committee notes the report.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 9 December 2003 – approved the proposed boundary of the LNR.
- 2.2 Barnet's Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 15 March 2005 agreed the designation of a Local Nature Reserve on the Welsh Harp.
- 2.3 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 agreed draft byelaws.
- 2.4 Barnet's Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 5 September 2006 and Cabinet on 16 October 2006 endorsed the draft byelaws for formal approval by full Council on 7 November 2006.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The ongoing management of the Welsh Harp contributes towards a Clean, Green and Safe borough, as described in Barnet's Corporate Plan 2007/08 – 2010/11.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 Parks and Open Spaces benefit all sectors of the community by improving the local environment. Maintenance is carried out according to the management plan and takes into account requests from residents, users and Members. Improvements are made, where possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

6. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 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 to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

8.1 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.”

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1 As reported at the last meeting, the Barnet Management Plan is the process of being updated by officers. The Chief Environmental Service Manager will provide a verbal update on any other management issues associated with the Barnet management of the Welsh Harp.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: www.brent.gov.uk/parks in the biodiversity section.