



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Wednesday, 24 March 2010 at 7.30 pm
Council Chamber, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane,
Wembley, HA9 9HD

Membership:

Members Councillors:	Representing	first alternates Councillors:	Second alternates Councillors:
Farrell (Chair)	LB Brent	Ahmed	Singh
Motley	LB Brent	Castle	Corcoran
O'Sullivan	LB Brent	Kansagra	Van Colle
Wharton	LB Brent	Gupta	Hirani
Davey	LB Barnet		
Hart (Vice-Chair)	LB Barnet		
Johnson	LB Barnet		
Rayner	LB Barnet		

For further information contact: Joe Kwateng, Democratic Services Officer, 020 8937 1354, joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk

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www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Membership continued:

Member

David Carter
Leela O'Dea
Martin Everett
Neale Hider
Neil Winter
Peter Castle
A Jefferson
Klaus Schuricht
Molly Savage
Clive Cohen
John Colmans
Kate Mitchell
John Thompson
Jon Bell
Commander G F Beck MBE
Dr Leo Batten
Roy Beddard
Harry Mackie

Brian Turgoose
Judy Shepherd
Geoffrey Johnson
Jon Guest
Brain Turner

Organisation

Brent Sports Council
British Waterways
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
Hendon Rifle Club
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
Old St Andrew's Residents' Association
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Environmental Education
Centre
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
West Hendon Community Forum
Woolmead Residents' Association
British Waterways
Training Ship Broadsword

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
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1	Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests	
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Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.

2	Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 6
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3	Matters arising (if any)	
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4	Welsh Harp Management Plan (Brent)	7 - 12
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This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main local land-holding organisations: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

5	Welsh Harp management Plan (Barnet)	
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6	Planning Issues (if any)	
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7	175th Anniversary of the Welsh harp	
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8	Date of Next Meeting	
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The next scheduled meeting of the Welsh Harp will be confirmed at the Annual Council meeting in May 2010.

9	Any Other Urgent Business	
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Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.



Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
- Toilets are available on the second floor.
- Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near the Grand Hall.
- A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Tuesday, 12 January 2010 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Farrell (LB Brent) (Chair), Councillor Hart (LB Barnet) (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Motley (LB Brent), Johnson (LB Barnet) and Rayner (LB Barnet) and Jon Guest (British Waterways), John Colmans (London Wildlife Trust), Brian Turner (Training Ship Broadsword), Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association), John Shephard (Welsh Harp Sailing Association), Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum), Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents' Association) and Farzana Yousaf (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre)

Apologies were received from: Councillors O'Sullivan (LB Brent), Wharton (LB Brent) and Davey (LB Barnet) and Neale Hider (Environment Agency), Molly Savage (Local Agenda 21), Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust), Kate Mitchell (Natural England) and Harry Mackie (Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre)

Also in attendance: Jenny Warren (LB Barnet) and Leslie Williams (LB Brent)

1. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

There were none declared.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 11 November 2009 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the following being noted:

Clause 4 – Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent), paragraph 1:

It was the Welsh Harp Sailing Association that was leading on finding possible solutions for weed growth in the water, not British Waterways as stated.

3. **Matters arising (if any)**

Bird hide

Following a request for an update on the construction of the bird hide, Jenny Warren (Barnet Parks Services) explained that she met with the contractor early in December 2009 to agree specifications, which the contractor then went away to draw up. Following a request for regular updates regarding the construction of the bird hide, Jenny Warren stated that it should be constructed in time for the next meeting of this committee in March 2010.

Planning applications 09/3220 (Brent) and 03560/09 (Barnet)

The Chair informed the committee that both the planning application for the Greenhouse Garden Centre site at Birchen Grove and the planning application for

the Woodfield Nursery site on Cool Oak Lane were refused. It was noted that at this stage, as far as the committee were aware, no appeals had been made.

4. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Brent)

Leslie Williams (Brent Parks Services) introduced his report which provided an update on the progress of the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan and related issues. He informed the committee that following the annual review, a revised draft version of the Management Plan was now available. He explained that the revised draft Management Plan could now be found on Brent Council's website and was undergoing consultation. He invited members of the committee to take part in the consultation process. He added that whilst the website currently stated that consultation would close on the 12 January 2010, this would be extended to the next committee meeting in March 2010. He explained that the revised Management Plan could be found on Brent Council's website by taking the following steps:

- Go to the Council's Home Page
- Click 'A-Z' Council Services
- Click on the letter 'C'
- Click on 'consultation tracker'
- Click on 'current consultations'
- Click on 'Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan'

Leslie Williams explained that as well as revising the Management Plan, the working group had also decided to create an action plan. He stated that Jenny Warren (Barnet Parks Services) would be updating the committee on the progress of the action plan.

Leslie Williams concluded his presentation by informing the committee that the coppicing of willow trees in the Welsh Harp Open Space by Brent's Park Services would take place at the end of February 2010.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted

5. Welsh Harp Reservoir Management Plan (Barnet)

Jenny Warren (Barnet Parks Services) introduced a report which informed the committee of the Welsh Harp working group's proposals to develop an action plan for the Welsh Harp. She reminded the committee that at the working group's meeting on the 4 November 2009, it was agreed that, in addition to revisions to the Welsh Harp Management Plan, a supplementary action plan identifying specific targets and actions with timelines and allocated lead officers or groups would be created that would enable the key stakeholders to manage the site more effectively and address 'real' issues at the site. She added that the group met again on the 8 December 2009 to determine a format for the action plan and agreed that the format of BARS (Bio-diversity Action Reporting System) would be an appropriate tool to compliment the Management Plan. She drew the committee's attention to the draft action plan on page two of the report and explained that this would, over the next couple of months, be filled in with more specific targets and actions. It was

noted that a series of sub-groups were due to meet in January and February 2010 to agree these specific targets and actions, with the view to implementing the action plan for April 2010.

In the discussion which followed, it was asked whether targets would be created which related to the recreational use of the Welsh Harp. In response, Jenny Warren explained that there would be targets that related to the recreational use of the Welsh Harp. As an example, she drew the committee's attention to the action plan on page two of the report and the target coded 'WH4' which related to the promotion of the Welsh Harp as a recreational resource. It was also asked whether the recommendations from the London Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Action Plan had been looked at. In response, Jenny Warren explained that any relevant recommendations would be covered within the action plan. Following an enquiry regarding the definition of eutrophic standing water, it was noted that eutrophic standing water was water that was rich in mineral and organic nutrients which promoted a proliferation of plant life, especially algae.

A concern regarding the lack of dog waste bins on the edge of West Hendon Playing Field was raised and a suggestion made that this needed to be investigated. In response, Jenny Warren stated that she would look into this issue.

RESOLVED:-

that the report be noted

6. Planning Issues (if any)

None.

7. 175th Anniversary of the Welsh Harp Reservoir

Following on from the discussion which was held at the last meeting of this committee, the committee further considered how to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Welsh Harp Reservoir. The Chair explained that she had received an email from Sue Harper, Assistant Director for Leisure & Registration (Brent Council), stating that there were a number of areas of work, which the Council carried out around the Welsh Harp, that could be linked to the celebrations. She added that it was difficult to be specific as to how Brent Council could be involved with the celebrations until they knew when an event might take place. The Chair notified the committee that Sue Harper had informed her that Brent Council had recently produced a new Brent Sports Physical Activity Strategy which had identified water sports as a new priority sport for the Borough and that Brent Council was keen to increase their joint working with the sports clubs based at the Welsh Harp and that this could possibly be linked to the celebrations. The Chair stated that she would pass this information onto the Welsh Harp Sailing Association.

The committee discussed options for the celebrations. The Chair informed the committee that it was very unlikely that any funding for the celebrations would be available. It was noted that at the previous meeting, the committee discussed the possibility of linking the celebrations with the Kingsbury Open Day. Following a discussion, the committee agreed that as long as the organisers of the Kingsbury

Open Day agreed, tying in the celebrations with the Kingsbury Open Day would be the best option. Discussion with the organisers would need to take place as to how this would best work. The Chair informed the committee that she would write to the organisers seeking their permission to tie in the celebrations with the Kingsbury Open Day. It was agreed that the Chair and Councillor Motley would contact the Brent Magazine to investigate whether the Magazine could advertise the celebrations. It was suggested that a procession of boats on the reservoir could also be a good way to celebrate the anniversary. The Chair suggested that the Welsh Harp Sailing Association could look into the practicalities of doing this. A suggestion was also made to hold a regatta, similar to what used to be held many years ago. However concerns were raised over the practicality of holding a regatta and the dangers this would pose to the environment and wildlife.

The importance of using the exhibition on the history of the Welsh Harp, co-ordinated by Hugh Petrie (Heritage Officer, Barnet Council), as part of the celebrations was noted. With regards to the exhibition it was requested that information about the exhibition be sent to all schools in Brent via the school circular. This had already been done for the schools in Barnet. The Chair drew the committee's attention to the invites, which had been sent to members of the committee with the papers for this meeting, to attend a private viewing of the exhibition celebrating 175 Years of the Brent Reservoir at the Church Farmhouse Museum on Sunday 17 January 2010. It was agreed that this invite should be sent to all Barnet and Brent Councillors.

The Committee unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Hart (Barnet Council) to lead the co-ordination of the celebrations.

RESOLVED:-

- i. Councillor Hart to lead the co-ordination of the celebrations;
- ii. that the celebrations be tied in with the Kingsbury Open Day subject to the agreement of the organisers of the Kingsbury Open Day;
- iii. that the following actions be undertaken;
 - a. the Chair to write to the organisers of the Kingsbury Open Day;
 - b. the Chair and Councillor Motley to contact the Brent Magazine to investigate whether the magazine could advertise the celebrations;
 - c. that information regarding the exhibition on the history of the Welsh Harp Reservoir be sent to all schools in Brent via the school circular;
 - d. that all councillors be invited to the private viewing of the exhibition being held in Church Farmhouse Museum on Sunday 17 January 2010.

8. Any Other Urgent Business

The Chair agreed to discuss the issue of the request by the Open Water Swimming Association to have access to swim in the Welsh Harp Reservoir as other urgent business. Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) explained that he had been asked by the Open Water Swimming Association if they could use the reservoir to swim early in the morning between 7.30-9.30am. He added that they had also requested the use of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association's facilities. He explained that whilst casual swimming was not allowed, as the Open Water Swimming Association was a properly constituted body and as open water swimming was an Olympic sport, the Welsh Harp Sailing Association had agreed to this request subject to the approval of the other relevant agencies and on the understanding that the Open Water Swimming Association would meet all the safety requirements.

Jon Guest from British Waterways stated that British Waterways had major reservations in allowing the Open Water Swimming Association to use the reservoir. He stated that not only could it encourage casual swimming but that there were also safety and health risks which needed to be considered, such as the presence of a large amount of weed and algae. These concerns were also raised by other members of the committee. Taking into consideration these concerns, Brian Turgoose (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) stated that he would write to the Open Water Swimming Association to inform them that they would not be able to accommodate their request. Jon Guest from British Waterways explained that he would also write, informing the Open Water Swimming Association of other waters that would be more accessible to their needs such as areas of the Docklands.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee was scheduled for Wednesday 24 March 2010.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

M FARRELL
Chair

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Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 24 March 2010

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Welsh Harp Management Plan

Forward Plan Ref:

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main local land-holding organisations: Brent Council, British Waterways, and the London Borough of Barnet.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.
- 2.2 Members are asked to approve the revised Management Plan.

3.0 Detail

Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan

- 3.1 As part of the annual review of the Management Plan, officers of the three main land-owning / managing organisations met to review the Management Plan. To view the draft of the revised Management Plan go to the following link on the Brent Council website:
http://www.bmgresearch.co.uk/brent/KMS/dmart.aspx?NoIP=1&strTab=PublicDMart&filter_Status=1
or on the homepage of the Brent Council website go to 'Find a Service' then the letter 'C' and then to 'Consultation Tracker'. The Welsh Harp Management Plan is located under 'Current Consultations'.

To view the current Management Plan (with zones map), approved by the WHJCC on 10 November 2008, go to www.Brent.gov.uk/parks

- 3.2 An Action Plan of objectives, actions and targets of priorities from the draft Management Plan will be presented to the Committee, in a separate report from Barnet Council. This includes input from discussions that focused on the water-sports priorities and those of habitat improvements. Though the Management Plan, and the Action Plan have an emphasis on land management, both seek to highlight solutions for both recreation and the environment.

Management works

- 3.3 Management works: Coppicing to control the growth of young willows in the marshland at the edge of the Welsh Harp Open Space was undertaken during February 2010.
- 3.4 Weed issues: Organisations affected by the growth of weed in the water, have met to plan management of the issue. The most feasible solution appears to be weed cutting in the water, starting during early stages of the seasonal growth. If early control is delayed or weed growth becomes prolific, both cutting and harvesting may be required which would also involve landing the cut material at selected locations on the edge of the reservoir.
- 3.5 There is recognition that the work during 2010 will require a high level of resources, particularly by the Welsh Harp Sailing Association. Discussions emphasised concern about the on-going need for resources if management of weed needs to be repeated annually in the medium-term.
- 3.6 For the long-term there is recognition that the underlying causes of the weed growth need to be controlled. Whilst the reasons are not fully understood it is possible, given the known ecology of this type of vegetation growth, that the cause is eutrophication (nutrient enrichment). Reducing the nutrient pollution in the water entering the Reservoir could help in this respect. The related problem of alluvial deposition has reduced the depth and the area of water available for water-sports. Removal of effective quantities of alluvium would be a major and expensive operation but which may be required in the long-term.

British Waterways

- 3.7 Clean-up on the southern side of the Reservoir: British Waterways are continuing to lead on this three-year programme. A Community Clean-up is being organised by British Waterways and Thames21 on 13 March 2010.

Environment Agency

- 3.8 The Environment Agency have provided advice on the issue of the management of the weed in the reservoir.

Heritage Lottery Award

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

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.10 Refer to the Management Plan and the draft Action Plan including focus on the priority habitats that are common to more than one of the 'zones' of the Management Plan. Information will also be presented on BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System) which is the online system for national reporting of Biodiversity Action Plans. For information that is currently on BARS (listed as appropriate under Barnet or Brent) see <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

Events / Other

- 3.11 Brent Council Sports Service and Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre: The Healthy Walks Programme continues to March 2011. Walks meet at the Welsh Harp Open Space car park, Birchen Grove, every Thursday (except on Bank / Public Holidays) from 10am-11am. The walks are 'low to moderate' in pace. For details contact Brent Council Sports Service, tel: 020 8937 3707, [www. Brent.gov.uk/sports](http://www.Brent.gov.uk/sports)
- 3.12 Capital Ring: Stocks of the leaflets are available from the Parks Service.
- 3.13 Kingsbury Open Day: Spring Bank Holiday Monday 31 May 2010, 10.30am to 4.pm. The main organisation is currently by St. Andrew's Church. They will also be organising a concert in the Church at 5pm.
- 3.14 "175 Years of Brent Reservoir": Barnet Council's exhibition will be displayed at the London Canal Museum, 12/13 New Wharf Road, London N1 9RT (near to King's Cross and Camley Street), tel: 020 7713 0836 from 14 April to 5 September 2010. Later in the year the exhibition will be shown at the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre and at the Brent Museum.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None specific, but some of the priorities identified in the Management Plan will require additional resources and decisions by, as appropriate, Brent Council, Barnet Council or British Waterways, 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 Plan; both of which derive from the Council's Corporate Strategy. 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.

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 or occupiers are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England for any operation in an area of land that is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features (this requirement applies to operations within a SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest); and Natural England will issue consent, issue consent with conditions or refuse consent. 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 and enhancement of the site.
- 5.2 It is good practice for land owners or occupiers to produce Management Plans for the SSSI, which when approved by Natural England, 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.
- 5.3 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires that from 1 October 2006 all public authorities in England and Wales have a general duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

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 environmental works in the Reservoir area.

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

Richard Saunders
Director of Environment and
Culture

Name
Title
Unit

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