



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Wednesday 24 July 2013 at 7.00 pm

Boardroom - Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Membership:

Members Councillors:	representing	first alternates Councillors:	second alternates Councillors:
Hart	LB Barnet		
Johnson	LB Barnet		
Khatri	LB Barnet		
Rayner	LB Barnet		
Allie	LB Brent	R Moher	Hirani
Hopkins	LB Brent	Ashraf	Hashmi
Kataria	LB Brent	J Moher	Crane
Mashari	LB Brent	Kabir	John

For further information contact: Bryony Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer
020 8937 1355, bryony.gibbs@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
Jon Guest
Neale Hider
Neil Winter
Peter Castle
A Jefferson
Klaus Schuricht
Molly Savage
Clive Cohen
Kate Mitchell
Jon Bell
Commander G F Beck MBE
Dr Leo Batten
Roy Beddard
Harry Mackie

Julia Touloumbadjian
Judy Shepherd
Geoffrey Johnson
Robert Timms
Martin Hall
Derrick Chung

Organisation

Brent Sports Council
British Waterways
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Hendon Rifle Club
Hendon Rifle Club
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
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
Training Ship Broadsword
West Hendon Allotment Society
West Hendon Residents' Association /
Friends of York Park

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
1 Declarations of interests	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.	
2 Deputations (if any)	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 4
4 Matters arising	
5 Management Plan (Barnet)	5 - 8
This report provides an update on the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management.	
6 Management Plan (Brent)	9 - 16
This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways).	
7 Environment Agency - verbal report (if any)	
8 Planning Issues (if any)	
9 Date of next meeting	
The next scheduled meeting of the Welsh Harp is on 14 November 2013.	
10 Any other urgent business	
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 Paul Daisley Hall.
- A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

Decisions of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

14 March 2013

*Cllr John Hart (Chairman) (Barnet)

*Cllr Alison Hopkins (Vice-Chairman)(Vice-Chairman)

* Julie Johnson

* Sury Khatri

* Dhiraj Kataria

* Hugh Rayner

* denotes Member Present

Also in attendance were:

Leslie Williams – (Brent Parks Service)

Paul Frost – Barnet (Governance Service)

Tom Wyld (Barnet Planning)

Tracey Sawyer (Barnet Greenspaces)

Matthew Cox (Allies and Morrison Architect)

Sian Mitchell (BSG Ecology)

Ben Lee (Hard Hat)

Hedrick Heyns (Allies and Morkkision)

Arthur Celling (Hyland Edgar Driver)

Mathew Cox (Allies and Morrison)

Duncan Matthew (Barrat Metropolitan LLP)

Tom Brosnan (Barrat Metropolitan LLP)

Paul Restall (Halcrow)

Philip Earnshaw (CBRE)

Martin Hall (West Hendon Allotment Society)

Organisation	Representative
Brent Sports Council	
Canal & River Trust	
Environment Agency	Neil Hider
Hendon Rifle Club	Peter Castle
Local Agenda 21	
London Wildlife Trust	Michael Worms
Natural England	
Princes Park Youth Football Club	
Training Ship Broadsword	Brian Turner
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Harry Mackie
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	Julia Touloumbadjian
West Hendon Community Forum	Judy Shepherd
West Hendon Residents Association	Derrick Chung
Woolmead Residents' Association	Councillor Geoffrey Johnson

1. MINUTES (Agenda Item 1):

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee held on 15 November 2013 were approved as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harbhajan Singh, Councillor Roxanne Mashari, Mr Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust, Barnet Group), Mr Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group) and Ms Molly Savage (Agenda 21).

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3):

None receive

4. PRESENTATION BY BARRATT METROPOLITAN LLP - NEW REGENERATION APPLICATION, WEST HENDON (Agenda Item 4):

Ben Lee from Barratt Metropolitan LLP thanked the Chairman and the Committee for the opportunity to present the proposed planning application within the West Hendon regeneration scheme to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.

The Committee therefore received an overview of the proposals which will be determined by the London Borough of Barnet Planning and Environment Committee.

The Committee heard of Barratt Metropolitan LLP's intention to promote the Welsh Harp Reservoir site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Committee learned of Barratt Metropolitan LLP's objective to present a planning application which establishes a framework of solid proposals which will outline:

- Retention and encouragement of wildlife
- Appropriate landscaping which will benefit the urban design
- Planting of 300 trees
- Materials to be considered that will enhance the character of the site whilst enabling a sound habitat for wildlife, including bats
- To create a consistent infrastructure that promotes the street scene
- To promote pedestrian and road safety
- That the proposed development can offer a good and health living environment

The Chairman thanked Barratt Metropolitan LLP for providing the presentation. During the discussion of the item the Committee raised some concerns which included:

- That the site did not offer enough amenity given the number of residential properties
- That residents are not keen on the regeneration of the site
- That a Health centre should be considered to within the application to provide services for the population growth
- That parking will become problematic

- That a Highways assessment be thoroughly conducted and an investigation be made to establish the status of Hendon over ground station.
- That the proposal should not have a detrimental impact to the wildlife and species within the site and the materials should be carefully considered in order to have a beneficial effect to the environment.

Following the discussion and consideration of this item the Committee:

Resolved:

That the Committee note the contents of the presentation provide by Barratt Metropolitan LLP

5. LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (Agenda Item 5):

Leslie Williams, the London Borough of Brent's Council Strategy and Service Development Officer presented the London Borough of Brent's Welsh Harp Management Plan. During his presentation he noted that there was a programme of Health Walks and offered the details of this.

The Committee considered the officer's report and appendix A of the report which outlined the Action Plan for 2012/13. The Strategy and Service Development Officer noted that the Norfolk weed lead to a good environment and provided a haven for wildlife.

Resolved:

That the Committee note the contents of the report.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 6):

Committee Member Councillor Julie Johnson informed the Committee that the owner of the water had conducted a shooting exercise, which lead to a cull of the Ruddy duck within the location.

The London Borough of Barnet's Greenspaces officer noted that the cull of the Ruddy duck is supported by Government Legislation. However, the London Borough of Barnet nor any other Member of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee were informed that this was to take place.

Committee Members were saddened by this action and expressed concerns of the detrimental impact this lack of communication had coupled with the unsightly attendance of people carrying guns on the Welsh Harp Reservoir.

Committee Member Councillor Julie Johnson also noted that tents have been seen erected. It was noted that London Borough of Barnet's Priority Intervention Team and the Police were aware of this and therefore are addressing the issue.

Councillor Geoffrey Johnson, Woolmead Residents Association noted that access to the nursery is poor due to lorries distributing mud across the road. The London Borough of Barnet's Greenspaces officer noted that the Borough's enforcement officers are aware of the situation and investigating.

7. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 7):

There were no urgent items.

The meeting finished at 21:10

Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	24 July 2013
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Director of StreetScene
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management.

Officer Contributors	Tracy Sawyer, Parks and Open Spaces Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	West Hendon
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	None
Contact for Further Information:	Jenny Warren, Head of Parks, Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance, 020 8359 7803.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

2.1 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 23 March 2011 – approved the proposed boundary of the Local Nature Reserve.

2.2 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 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.

2.5 Council formally endorsed the draft byelaws on 7 November 2007.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2013 – 2016 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities the need to maintain a well-designed, attractive and accessible place, with sustainable infrastructure across the borough. We will continue to maintain and improve the borough's parks and green spaces for residents to enjoy. But we are determined to do more than this. Encouraging residents to use parks and green spaces as a place for physical activity, entertainment, play and to enjoy nature will help them to improve their health, well-being and encourage a sense of community.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 There are no risk management issues associated with 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, wherever possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within existing StreetScene budgets.

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 (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 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 Current ongoing management issues

- 9.1.1 We have been working with the riffle club to stop the ongoing fly tipping which occurs at the access road. Wooden Bollards have been installed around the green and a drop ATG bollard has been installed to the entrance of the access road.

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.

DECISION TAKER’S STATEMENT

I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report’s content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations.

Signed
Designation

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 <p>Brent</p>	<p>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 24 July 2013</p> <p>Report from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services</p>
<p>Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>Welsh Harp Management Plan</p>	

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 land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 DETAILS

- 3.1 A copy of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan is available on the Brent Council website at <http://www.brent.gov.uk/media/3207383/Brent-Reservoir-Management-Plan.pdf>
- 3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan for the current year; and for this report, this is detached from the Management Plan and updated as Appendix 1. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress.
- 3.3 The construction of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Neasden Recreation Ground has been completed and is available for use by the local community. The contractor will return to carry out landscaping improvements including re-seeding of grass areas disturbed by the construction works. A hedgerow of *Rosa rugosa* will be planted in the autumn to compliment the existing plantings. Planning details are at: <https://forms.brent.gov.uk/servlet/ep.ext?extId=101150&reference=109324&st=PL>
- 3.4 Brent Council Sports and Parks Service organises weekly leader-led Healthy Walks. The

meeting point is 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

- 3.5 Capital Ring: The Capital Ring is a round-London recreational walking route of about 70 miles and a section passes through the Welsh Harp. The walk can be walked in sections and stocks of the leaflets are available from Barnet, and Brent Councils. Information is also available at <http://www.walklondon.org.uk/route.asp>
- 3.6 Green Flag application. The Welsh Harp Open Space was inspected in June 2013 for the re-application for the award of a Green Flag. The results are expected to be announced on or after 26 July.
- 3.7 The Council continues to work with partners of the Catchment Partnership to improve the management of the river.

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 the Canal & River Trust, if they are to be implemented in the future.
- 4.2 For Brent Council Sports and Parks Service, the Welsh Harp Management Plan is implemented and improvements programmed via the Council's Corporate Strategy and service strategies. Thus implementation is dependent upon revenue budgets for grounds maintenance and for parks management and capital budgets for specific project work. The Sports and Parks Service pursues other sources of finance and opportunities for partnership working that may become available.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, land owners or occupiers are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England where they wish to carry out, or cause or permit to be carried out 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. Failing to follow this process is a criminal offence which may result in a fine and a restoration order. 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 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 (IF APPROPRIATE)

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 include:
Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan.

CONTACT OFFICERS

Leslie Williams, Strategy and Service Development Officer, Sports and Parks Service, Cultural Services, Environment and Neighbourhood Services Brent House, 349-357 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ. Tel: 020 8937 5628, Reception: 020 8937 5619, Fax: 020 8937 5715. From 22 July 2013 the address is: Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ. Tel: 020 8937 5628, Reception: 020 8937 1234. Mobile telephone number: 07867 184456.

Sue Harper
Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services

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**APPENDIX 1. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN:
ACTION PLAN FOR 2013-2014**

The Management Plan outlines the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir. These are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable in the short term. This Action Plan tracks progress of current year priorities and projects.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress to July 2013
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal & River Trust (C&RT)	C&RT	Maintain. On-Going	Dam wall maintained.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	WHSA cleared weed; summer 2012
Sailing and sports development	WHSA	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	Continuing
Clean up projects: including some control of invasive plants.	Thames 21 Environment Agency	Provided by Thames 21. Work on site by volunteers.	Projects: Two projects in 2012.	Further project planned for early August 2013.
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.	Upstream of the Priestly Way screen an oversized willow has been removed which had partially fallen into the river.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	On-going.

service areas.				
Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 rafts.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts. .	On-going. Autumn / winter.	WHCG programme as winter work 2012-2013.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	WHCG programme as winter work 2012-13.
Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but refer to the need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	Some evidence of long-term increase.
Marshland: maintain extent	Brent Council.	Estimated at £700 per year.	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space	Willow managed on shores of Welsh Harp Open Space, Feb. 2013. Neasden Recreation Ground: Feb. 2013.
Marshland: increase	Brent, Barnet, Canal & River Trust,		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	Refer to West Hendon Planning Applications for information.
Marshland: increase		Brent has £10,000 of section 106 for works to increase the capacity to hold flood waters /	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir.	Hold. Awaiting detail.

		marshland works.		
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	
South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work possibly averages £500 / year.	As required.	Condition assessed by C&RT
Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed	C&RT, Barnet Council, Brent Council	No budget: works undertaken as part of other works; or with grant funding. Barnet: three-year programme. Brent: grant funding used in 2011-13, c. £1,500	Complete the control within the SSSI at Neasden Recreation Ground. Barnet:	Control at SSSI at Neasden RG 2011 and 2012. Slight regrowth in summer 2012: treated. Follow-up treatment undertaken 2013.
Wet woodland	C&RT, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing.
Grasslands, paths cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded. Path cutting estimated at £5,000/ year.	Spring to autumn.	Cutting of mown paths undertaken. Loss of acid grassland is a concern.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Un-funded: management of woodland to increase	Planting of disease-resistant Elms, winters 2011/12 and	Disease resistant Elms planted. Other woodland largely stable. Some areas

		diversity, but potential for creative use of material.	2012/13.	could benefit from more active management.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Brent	Brent Council and external funding. Details: TBC.	On-going.	Centre is maintained. Bookings maintained.
Allotments	Brent, West Hendon Allotment Society	Brent: refer to Allotments and Food Growing Strategy. Barnet: West Hendon Allotments are self-managed by the holders.	Allotments are maintained.	West Hendon: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove and Dors Close included in service improvements.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, litter and dog bins,	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent grounds maintenance budgets: TBA.	On-going.	Maintained; and well-used.
Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	TBC.	New: 18.07.2012	Barnet are investigating.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Continuing.
Signage	TBC	TBC	TBC	Inspected: 2012
Infrastructure	TBC	TBC	TBC	Inspected: 2012
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency		2011 -	Draft plan and catchment partnership in preparation, mid-2013.
Green Flag	Brent		Achieved 2012.	2013 application in preparation.