



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Tuesday 29 November 2016 at 7.00 pm
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG

Membership:

Members	Representing
Councillors:	
Khatri (Chair)	LB Barnet
Agha (Vice-Chair)	LB Brent
Hart	LB Barnet
Kay	LB Barnet
Langleben	LB Barnet
Dixon	LB Brent
Crane	LB Brent
Mashari	LB Brent

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The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Membership Continued:

Organisation

Canal and River Trust
West Hendon Community Forum
Environment Agency
Local Agenda 21
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Woolmead Residents' Association
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Phoenix Canoe Club
Training Ship Broadsword
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Natural England
Brent Sports Council
West Hendon Allotment Society
Hendon Rifle Club
London Wildlife Trust
West Hendon Residents' Association

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

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This is the agenda for the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee meeting on 29 November 2016.



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MEETING

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 2016

AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG

TO: MEMBERS OF WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor Sury Khatri
Vice Chairman: Councillor Amer Agha

Councillor John Hart	Councillor Adam Langleben	Councillor George Crane
Councillor Devra Kay	Councillor Liz Dixon	Councillor Roxanne Mashari

Organisation

Canal and River Trust	West Hendon Community Forum
Environment Agency	Local Agenda 21
Welsh Harp Sailing Association	Woolmead Residents' Association
Welsh Harp Conservation Group	Phoenix Canoe Club
Training Ship Broadsword	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre
Princes Park Youth Football Club	Natural England
Brent Sports Council	West Hendon Allotment Society
Hendon Rifle Club	London Wildlife Trust
West Hendon Residents' Association/ Friends of York Park	

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Service contact: Iphigenia Christophoridou 020 8359 3822
Iphigenia.Christophoridou@Barnet.gov.uk

Media Relations contact: Sue Cocker 020 8359 7039

ASSURANCE GROUP

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Minutes -	3-8
2.	Absence of Members	
3.	Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests	
4.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (if any)	
5.	London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management Plan	9-14
6.	London Borough of Brent-Welsh Harp Management Plan	15-24
7.	Any Other Business	
8.	Any Other Items that the Chairman Decides are Urgent	

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Decisions of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

19 July 2016

Members Present:-
Chairman: Councillor Sury Khatri
Vice Chair: Councillor Amer Agha
Councillor John Hart

AGENDA ITEM 1

Also in attendance

Roy Beddard-Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Clive Cohen-London Wildlife Trust
Diane Murphy-London Wildlife Trust
Catherine Cullen-London Wildlife Trust
Nathan Smith-Barratt London
Derrick Chung-West Hendon Residents' Association/Friends of
York Park
John Shepherd-Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Phil Atkison-Phoenix Canoe Club
Dale Langdale-Hendon Rifle Club

1. MINUTES

The governance officer from the London Borough of Barnet welcomed all attendees to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee. She updated the Committee on the membership of the Committee. The London Borough of Barnet agreed in the last Annual Council on 24 May the membership of Barnet Councillors which remained the same as the previous municipal year. Members are Councillor Hart, Councillor Khatri, Councillor Langleben, Councillor Kay. The London Borough of Brent agreed in the last Council meeting on 18 May the new membership of the Welsh Harp. The new membership is Councillor Agha, Councillor Dixon, Councillor Crane and Councillor Mashari.

The governance officer then progressed to seek nominations for the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Hart nominated Cllr Khatri to be Chairman and Councillor Agha seconded.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Khatri will be the Chairman of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee for the 2016-2017 municipal year.

Councillor Hart nominated Councillor Agha to be Vice Chairman and Councillor Khatri seconded.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Agha will be the Vice-Chairman of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee for the 2016-2017 municipal year.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 be approved subject to the following amendments:

- John Shepherd to be added as an attendee

- Include apologies from Roy Beddard

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor George Crane (London Borough of Brent)
Councillor Liz Dixon (London Borough of Brent)
Councillor Langleben (London Borough of Barnet)
Councillor Mashari (London Borough of Brent)
Councillor Kay (London Borough of Barnet)
Geoff Johnson – Woolmead Residents' Association
Julie Johnson -Local Agenda 21
Judy Shepherd-West Hendon Community forum

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None

5. LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET-WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee discussed matters arising before progressing to the Barnet Management Plan.

On item 7 in the minutes of the last meeting there was a follow up action for Councillor Khatri but due to the fact that the minutes were published quite late he agreed to report on this action in the next Committee.

Mr Cohen asked in relation to item 4 in the minutes whether there is a report that addressed the suitability of attenuating tanks and whether this measure has been effective and adequate. Councillor Khatri agreed to follow up on this point.

The Chairman welcomed Nathan Smith from Barratt London. Nathan stated that the tanks have been installed however, data is not available but can be collated. If data covered a 3-4 month period that would be more valuable for the next Committee.

Mr Cohen asked whether there have been any control measures around the red claw crayfish. Historically, there has been a belief that measures were not necessary. Leslie Williams clarified that there were no control measures currently in place. There is budget available currently to introduce a Kingfisher bank.

Mr Beddard mentioned that kingfishers are breeding in the reservoir and that he has seen people fishing there. Their evidence from regular bird watching led him to the conclusion that they are breeding successfully. He is not certain if this is territorial, they seem to be fairly well spread-out.

Councillor Khatri requested from Ms Williams to follow up on this point and report back to the Committee whether there is a need for these banks.

Mr Beddard questioned the need for a kingfish bank since there is currently breeding. An application for a grant needs to be well-thought before submission.

Councillor Khatri suggested considering this item at a future meeting and requested that the Welsh Harp Conservation and London Wildlife Trust make their own observations and report in the next few months.

Mr Beddard agreed to circulate in writing his observations regarding breeding.

Mr Williams also agreed to prepare a report with the advantages and disadvantages of having a kingfish bank and bring it to the next Committee. Mr Cohen also mentioned that crayfish is a prolific species and that is decimating other species and should not be ignored.

Ms Murphy mentioned that there is no effective control and the Canal and River Trust were going to look at that. Councillor Khatri agreed to follow up on this.

Mr Shepherd mentioned that when you observe on a hot day, there are thousands if not millions of crayfish.

Following discussion of matters arising the Chairman moved to Barnet Management Plan.

Ms Sawyer introduced the report which related to the Barnet Management Plan. She first referred to illegal encampments. They have identified 13 individuals during May and they have all opted to go back home. May was the last time they observed rough sleeping.

Mr Cohen requested whether the lead officer during these walks can report back any wrongdoing.

Ms Sawyer noted that they work with the police and monitor the park and nothing has been noted in the Welsh Harp.

She also mentioned that knotweed and hogweed have been treated. Mr Langdale asked whether there was going to be new fencing.

Ms Sawyer also noted that there have been new litter bins placed in the park.

Mr Beddard questioned whether they found those responsible for tree felling. Ms Sawyer responded that they tried to find out but this was not possible. The Chairman suggested that any concerns should be reported to Ms Sawyer who would then escalate. Ms Sawyer provided the generic email address (parks@barnet.gov.uk) for any enquiries, rough sleepers or anything suspicious and someone in the team would pick it up.

Councillor Agha asked how littering was reported in Barnet and mentioned that Brent Council had an app. Ms Sawyer said that littering can be reported via call or email. The Environment Committee has also employed an agency for flytipping, litter that could also enforce fines if necessary.

Mr Shepherd requested that following tree works carried out that the council should pick up both trees and all chunks because these cause damage to their boats. Alternatively that the logs and branches are secured as well as possible. However, this has an implication of increased costs if logs were to be removed from the site given the limited access at the Reservoir open spaces. Decaying wood is also a valuable habitat for

invertebrates, so adds value to the Welsh Harp. Securing the wood as best as possible, rather than removing could help reduce the risks of damage to boats etc.

Mr Beddard asked whether anything has happened regarding mending the bridge. There are parts of the bridge missing, it looked like something had hit it quite hard. Ms Sawyer mentioned that this is a highways responsibility. Councillor Agha said that he has noticed some work signage so that there might be works for maintenance. Mr Smith agreed to check whether there is any work to assess the damage and would report back.

Mr Shepherd said that he made a note of the registration number of a very large truck which went to the nursery that barely went through and asked where this can be reported. He was advised that in the future he should note and to provide details (e.g. Company markings) and the registration number to Ms Sawyer.

6. LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Williams introduced the report which related to the Brent Welsh Harp Management plan and said that the updated action plan was attached to the report. This includes control of the invasive species (knotweed and hogweed) which has been a long-term project to control the spread.

Brent Council has not been aware of many rough sleeper reports since the last meeting. As soon as there is an incident this is reported.

There has been a draft physical activity strategy and action plan on Brent Council's website which is being implemented.

Mr Williams informed the Committee that Thames 21 is holding a Friends of Welsh Harp event on Saturday 23 July between 10am-2pm.

Mr Williams informed the Committee that Brent had received reports on rats infestation and if Brent received any enquiries he could arrange for the enquiry to be passed onto the relevant service. It is possible that waste food is one of the causes. Previously there have been problems at the Cool Oak Lane bridge, as people have fed the birds and inevitably discarded food is available for rats to feed on. The birds probably don't need feeding.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman welcomed an update from Mr Nathan Smith from Barratt's.

Mr Smith stated that they are delivering 300 new homes between 2016-mid 2018.

They are in the process of submitting a planning application for the pedestrian and cycling bridge which is envisaged to be built in 12-18 months from now.

Ms Murphy asked when the consultation for the bridge would take place.

Mr Smith responded that this would take place in autumn time since the planning application has not been submitted yet. The Chairman added that if it was a wider consultation then that would probably take place during November-December.

Mr Smith explained that they were having further discussions with the environment agency regarding the bridge design that was previously presented as it would not meet the 100 year requirement.

Also their ecologist is preparing a report and will be submitted to the Committee. There is no evidence that works or the demolition would have any consequences on the species.

The ecologist has noted that dog walking has been a disturbance which has been recorded.

Mr Cohen asked whether Barratt's intended to design a bridge that would be sound proofed and whether they were advising the residents who are going to be living in these flats on activities (e.g. fireworks etc.) which would cause disturbance to the wild life in that area. Mr Smith stated that the new bridge would create much less noise than the current one. They envisage informing existing and new residents of any issues.

It was agreed that Mr Smith or Mr Eric Holroyd will be attending from Barratt's to the next meeting.

Mr Cohen mentioned that in a previous meeting there was a suggestion that a report could be provided informing the committee of unusual species sighted at the Welsh Harp.

He also asked whether there is an ongoing rat control and if it exists in what form does it exist in because rats cause considering problems. Chairman agreed to follow up on those points and report back to the next Committee.

Mr Chung mentioned that residents in Ramsey Close have asked for help regarding rough sleepers who can be heard closer to their homes and is causing anxiety among the residents. Ms Sawyer agreed to inform Sergeant Tuffing regarding this so they can include this area during their operations. Mr Chung agreed to email the incidents he has noticed to Ms Sawyer. Mr Chung also mentioned that there has been littering in the stream flowing from the sailing base under the A5 Edgware Road bridge behind Sainsbury's. He mentioned of a stench that could be from items thrown in the water blocking the flow. Ms Sawyer agreed to get in contact with the environment agency and inform Mr Chung.

Chairman agreed to check whether the 2015 report from the Welsh Harp Conservation Group has been circulated to Committee members.

Mr Langdale asked what the amount of dogs allowed in one group was. Ms Sawyer said it was six. Mr Langdale responded that he observed ten dogs in the Barnet area of the Welsh Harp and sometimes with two walkers.

Ms Sawyer noted that she would inform the local SNTs. She also stated that they will update the signage in the Welsh Harp but in the meantime she will contact local SNTs.

Mr Langdale mentioned that he has observed dog walkers on a Thursday, he also added that he has seen someone fishing and that there were no 'no fishing' signs.

Ms Sawyer confirmed that there are signs in place across the Welsh Harp for no swimming and no fishing and that signs will be replaced with new ones in a few months.

Mr Cohen asked what was the procedure of tackling illegal fishing and Ms Sawyer responded that the police assist them in tackling both rough sleepers and illegal fishing.

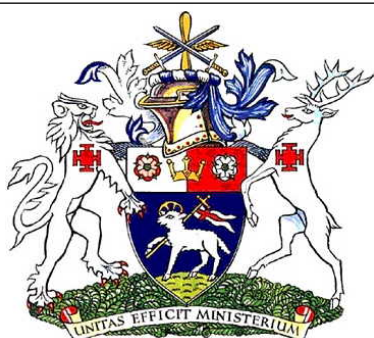
The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting would take place on 29 November and invites would be sent out early.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None

The meeting finished at 20.45

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Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

29 November 2016

Title	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Street Scene Director
Wards	West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Tracy Sawyer, Tracy.sawyer@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7824

Summary

To update the committee regarding the on-going site management issues and report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Recommendations

That the committee consider and note the contents of this report and to invite the committee to make comments on the contents of the report.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee comprises of British Waterways, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee only and meets on a quarterly basis.

1.2 The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter as follows:

1.3 Illegal encampments

The borough continues to be experiencing illegal encampments, especially with a particular location in the Welsh Harp. This area is located behind the Allotment off Cool Oak Lane. The area has been subjected to repeated incursions. Details of all the encampments to date have been stated in the table below.

Name of Park	Month	Number of individuals
Welsh Harp	January 2016	0
Welsh Harp	February 2016	0
Welsh Harp	March 2016	0
Welsh Harp	April 2016	0
Welsh Harp	May 2016	13
Welsh Harp	June 2016	0
Welsh Harp	July 2016	0
Welsh Harp	August 2016	0
Welsh Harp	September 2016	0
Welsh Harp	October 2016	8
Total to date		21

The Council continues to work closely with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team to move on illegal encampments which also includes wider authorities such as the UK Border Agency. The area is monitored regularly with swift action taken to remove the encampments. No further encampments have been found.

Possible options to prevent the number of encampments that are both costly to the Council and damaging to the local environment have been discussed at previous committees. It was decided that no further action was required.

1.4 Japanese Knotweed / Hogweed Control Programme.

A new two year contract commenced in early July 2016, this is to follow on from the previous three year programme that has seen a significant reduction in the presence of knotweed throughout the site.

A full survey of the site was carried out and treatment of the knotweed has been completed via stem injection.

1.5 Litter

In the low season (winter) the area is litter picked and the bins are emptied twice a week, and in the high season (summer) the frequency increases to four times a week. There are occasional action days on the site which includes litter picking by local volunteers in the accessible areas. A survey of the number and condition of the litter bins has been carried out, this identified existing bins which need replacing and areas where newly installed bins are required. A new contract is being written to supply and install litter bins within Barnet parks and open spaces, once the contract is awarded this will allow new litter bins to be installed within all Barnet parks including the Welsh Harp.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee include that it considers and co-ordinates all the interests of recreation, leisure, maintenance and nature conservation with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

The committee note the actions being implemented as set out under section one.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities that Barnet's parks and open spaces will be amongst the best in London. The need to develop more innovative ways of maintaining its parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within the existing Street Scene budget.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 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.

5.3.2 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 Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation”.

5.3.3 Barnet’s Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.01a) that the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these Local Authorities.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 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.

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to **have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into

day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises of the land owners, legislative bodies, and third sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee AGENDA ITEM 6
29 November 2016

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment

For Action

Wards Affected: ALL

Report Title: Welsh Harp Management Plan

Forward Plan Ref: Not applicable.

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2016/17 year to date. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal and River Trust.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 DETAILS

- 3.1 The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan (dated 15 March 2016) is available on the Brent Council website at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16404048/brent-reservoir-welsh-harp-management-plan-15-03-2016.pdf>
- 3.2. The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan for the current year; which for this committee report is updated as Appendix 1. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress.
- 3.3 Byelaws. Brent Council have received new advice/guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on what supporting evidence would be needed to support an application under the new DCLG process.
- 3.4 Rough sleepers: There was one encampment on the southern / Neasden Recreation Ground side of the reservoir in October 2016. Brent Council has investigated.

- 3.5 The weekly walks programme at the Welsh Harp continues. Walks generally attract 15-25 people and are led by a walk leader. These take place on Thursdays from 10-11am meeting at Birchen Grove Car Park, Kingsbury NW9. The walks are free of charge. A review of the walks programme is being undertaken and this has included public consultation via the Brent Council website on Healthy Walks and Outdoor Gyms.
- 3.6 Removal of timber toe-boarding. Committee asked, at the last meeting for information on a proposed project to remove redundant timber toe-boarding from some banks of the River Brent. The Brent Catchment Partnership are currently working on some of the details.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan is a long-term document and not all works are feasible in the short-term. Works listed in the management plan include the programmed operational works and longer-term works to maintain, restore and enhance the Welsh Harp area. Works are undertaken only where the budgets or resources are available. Programmed operational works are undertaken only within the existing budgets.
- 4.2 A significant amount of work is undertaken, or in kind, by the voluntary sector, and by the volunteers of the sailing clubs, conservation groups and other community organisations. In addition, the Council and partners, endeavour where feasible, to seek additional funding from grants and other sources.

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, and also public bodies, 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 site of special scientific interest ('SSSI'), and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest); and Natural England will 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. When advice is obtained from Natural England prior to carrying out the works an explanation of how the Council has taken into account any advice Natural England has given should be provided –

The Council must be able to show that it considered alternatives that could reduce the impact on the SSSI –

The Council should demonstrate how the Council has assessed differing interests (including the special interests of the SSSI) in deciding to go ahead with the works.

- 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.
- 5.4 The owner of land included in a SSSI has a legal duty to inform Natural England within 28 days of any changes in ownership or occupation of the site, including leases, easements and rights.

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 (version 15 March 2016).

CONTACT OFFICERS

Leslie Williams, Strategy and Service Development Officer, Brent Council, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. Tel: 020 8937 5628. Reception: 020 8937 1234.

Strategic Director

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**APPENDIX 1. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN:
ACTION PLAN FOR 2016-2017**

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: 2016-17 to 17 November 2016
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (C&RT)	C&RT	Maintain. On-Going	Dam wall and mechanism maintained as required to operational and statutory standards.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing and sports development	WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	Led by the sailing and water sports clubs.
Clean up projects: including some control of invasive plants.	Thames 21 Environment Agency	Provided by Thames 21. Work on site by volunteers.	On-going.	Thames 21 clean-up projects on Brent and tributaries.
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.	Maintenance is on-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.

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 have a programme in 2016-17 for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	The WHCG are expecting to organize up to three projects around the hides during the winter of 2016/17.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	Led by the WHCG. Autumn / winter works.
Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.
Marshland: maintain	Brent Council, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Canal and River Trust.	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports (where trees are reduced).	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	Willow growth appears to be exceeding management work on the shoreline. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) has reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland.
Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet.

Marshland: increase	Brent, Barnet, Brent Catchment Partnership	Investigate sources of finance for long-term restoration of river catchment; and for flood alleviation.	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports.	Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	As for Marshland, above. Most species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (unshaded) situations.
South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work possibly averages £500 / year.	As required.	
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 have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge.	Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Brent have reduced Japanese Knotweed at Neasden Recreation Ground.	The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment. Operational knowledge is also shared via the River Brent Catchment Partnership.
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. Current path cutting estimated at £5,000/ year.	Spring to autumn.	Paths maintained.

Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Un-funded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, (Brent)	Thames 21 are managing the Centre following a Community Asset Transfer from Brent Council.	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre re-opened from January 2016.	Thames 21 have managed the Centre from January 2016.
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. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close, commenced in 2013.	West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, and other parks furniture. Litter collection.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	Maintained; and well-used. Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.
Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	.See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.	See the proposals for the bridge.	See proposals related to West Hendon development.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2016. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).
Signage	Brent / Barnet.			Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.

River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 -	Action Plan published at: http://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/brent_river_corridor_improvement_plan_final_2014.pdf
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