



# Brent

## Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

**Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 7.00 pm**

Boardrooms 7&8 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,  
Wembley HA9 0FJ

### Membership:

#### Members

Councillors:

Mashari (Chair)

Ahmed

Crane

Lo

Hart

Brayne

Don

Narenthira

#### Representing

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

LB Barnet

LB Barnet

LB Barnet

LB Barnet

#### Substitute Members (Brent Council)

Councillors:

Agha, Dixon, Farah and Tatler

**For further information contact:** Bryony Gibbs, Governance Officer

0208 937 1354, [joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk](mailto:joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk)

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**[democracy.brent.gov.uk](http://democracy.brent.gov.uk)**

**The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting**

**Membership continued:****Member**

Lucy Shuker  
Richard Bennett  
Peter and Renata Eros  
Maria Bailey  
David Johnson  
Daniella Levene  
A Jefferson  
Dale Langdale  
Julie Johnson  
Catherine Cullen  
Clive Cohen  
Dianne Murphy  
Rebecca Hart  
Phil Atkinson  
Christian Leite  
Edel Fingleton  
Commander G F Beck MBE  
Colette Murphy  
Andrew Haynes  
Roy Beddard  
John Shepherd  
Liz Hall  
Judy Shepherd  
Derrick Chung  
  
Geoffrey Johnson

**Organisation**

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

## **Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:**

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest\*\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

### **\*Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

### **\*\*Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:

- To which you are appointed by the council;
- which exercises functions of a public nature;
- which is directed is to charitable purposes;
- whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party of trade union).

- (b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above.

# Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
<b>1    Declarations of pecuniary interests</b>	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.	
<b>2    Deputations (if any)</b>	
By prior arrangement with the Chair, persons who are not members of the Committee may attend to address the Committee on a particular issue or item. Any members of the public wishing to address the committee should submit their request seven days before the meeting to the contact officer named on the agenda. The request will then be passed to the Chair for consideration.	
<b>3    Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	1 - 4
<b>4    Matters arising</b>	
<b>5    Management Plan (Barnet)</b>	5 - 8
The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee comprises British Waterways, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee and meets on a quarterly basis. The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter.	
<b>6    Management Plan (Brent)</b>	9 - 24
This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee. 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.	
<b>7    Environment Agency - Verbal Report</b>	
Representatives of the Environment Agency are invited to provide a verbal update to the committee on matters affecting the Welsh Harp.	

## 8 Planning Issues (if any)

The committee is asked to consider and discuss any planning issues affecting the Welsh Harp.

## 9 Update on activities in the Welsh Harp

## 10 Any other urgent business

No business other than that appearing on the agenda shall be transacted at the meeting unless the Chair decides that it is urgent. Any member of the committee wishing to raise an item of urgent business should provide sufficient notice to permit consideration by the Chair.



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.

## **MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** **Thursday 16 January 2020 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Hart (LB Barnet, Vice Chair in the Chair), Councillor Ahmed (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Crane (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Agha (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Clarke (London Borough of Barnet), Councillor Don (LB Barnet) and Councillor Brayne (LB Barnet) and Ms Shuker (Brent River Catchment Partnership), Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust), Dianne Murphy (London Wildlife Trust), John Shepherd (Welsh Harp Sailing Association), Hall (West Hendon Allotment Society) and Derrick Chung (West Hendon Residents' Association / Friends of York Park)

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Mashari (London Borough of Brent), Mr Roy Beddard and Mrs J Shepherd.

1. **Declarations of pecuniary interests**

None.

2. **Deputations**

None.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters arising**

None.

5. **Management Plan (Barnet)**

Mr Matthew Gunyon (Greenspaces Service Manager, Barnet) introduced the report and provided updates on matters relating to the on-going site management issues during this quarter as follows:

The Greenspaces Team continued to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove illegal encampments. The encampment discussed at the previous meeting located in York Park was cleared in partnership with Barratts, Canals and Rivers Trust and Barnet Council. A team attended site after the event and undertook a cleansing of the area in question.

The Greenspaces Team, Community Safety and Councillor John Hart undertook a site visit during which evidence of two small fly tips was noted in addition to litter in

and around the area. The Community Safety Officer agreed to arrange to have the area litter picked by the Community Payback Team. Mr Gunyon urged members to take pictures of incidents of fly tipping and report them to the [BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk)

In the ensuing discussions, members complained about illegal parking on grass verges particularly during event days. They expressed a view that the introduction of mobile CCTV would assist in deterring fly tipping and parking on grass verges. Mr Gunyon advised that mobile CCTV would not be as effective as it required consistent wifi connectivity.

Mr Gunyon updated the Committee that the Council's contractors were currently reviewing the results of the consultation and looking at options to address concerns raised in the consultation relating to West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan. This will be reported to a future date of the Environment Committee in either March or June 2020 for approval and adoption. Once adopted the Council would look to develop a business case to help inform the next stage of the Master Plan. He continued that one of the tennis courts in West Hendon Playing Fields was being converted into a Basketball Court with posts erected. The Council was currently seeking quotations to complete an overlay of the playing surface along with new lines.

Members sought further details about the Master Plan designs and also expressed concerns raised about environmental impact of the plastic pitches including the astro turf. They also enquired about planned consultations for the Master Plan.

Mr Gunyon advised that the Council had made every effort to mitigate all concerns previously raised, adding that the Master Plan would not impact on SSSI areas. He added that the Council had consulted all statutory agencies on the Master Plan which at this stage was a spatial plan and once agreed, would lead to proper designs. He informed the Committee that the Master Plan would be published to Barnet's community engagement on-line portal and members of this Committee would be engaged in future consultations.

RESOLVED:

That the report Management Plan (Barnet) be noted.

## **6. Management Plan (Brent)**

Mr Leslie Williams (Brent) gave the following updates since the last meeting, drawing Members' attention to The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan, appended to the report, which included an Action Plan. The Action Plan listed current year progress and actions that may require a longer time- frame and/or for the resources to be identified to undertake the action. He highlighted the following:

Marshland work: Officers of the Canal & River Trust, Brent Council, and members of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association had met to discuss continuation of the work commenced last winter. In some areas of the Welsh Harp Open Space and at Neasden Recreation Ground tree growth during recent years in the marshland and nearby areas had shaded marshland, reduced views of the Reservoir and increased wind-shadows into the reservoir which affected water wind sports.



While tree growth in many locations should be encouraged, there were also areas where more of a balance is necessary, for example, where scarce habitat such as marshland is at risk. As previously, the aim of work would be to seek to re-open some areas of marshland, acid grassland and rough grassland, while retaining clumps of trees and individual trees along the edge of the reservoir. Consent has been sought from Natural England to progress that.

Public Spaces Protection Order. Brent Council's Cabinet considered a report detailing the Public Spaces Protection Order on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The report and Cabinet decisions including future implementation were available on the Brent Council website and at:

<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=455&MId=5357&Ver=4>

Meadow areas had been enhanced at Neasden Recreation Ground. The increase in longer-grass habitat in the selected areas at Neasden Recreation Ground appears to have been a success. The annual cutting should have taken place by the time of the Committee meeting. Where strips were additionally seeded, some areas that were missed will be re-seeded in 2020.

Healthy Walks programme:

See:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/sports-and-wellbeing/sport-activity-finder/healthy-walks-in-brent-welsh-harp-nature-walk/>

Welsh Harp / Birchen Grove Car Park. In response to concerns raised by residents and car park users about the use of the car park for off-road car driving at speed, the Council had arranged for the installation of speed reduction ramps in the car park as a measure to reduce this issue. The measures would enable the use of the car park for car parking and also enable pedestrian access to the Welsh Harp. The work involved was now scheduled between 13<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 which may affect the use of the car park during those times.

Members expressed concerns about lorries which were parking on pavements in Birchen Grove, causing damage to the paving stones and to the detriment of residential amenity. In response, Mr Williams undertook to inform the Council's Enforcement Team so that officers could take speedy and appropriate measures to address the problem.

RESOLVED:

That the report Management Plan (Brent) be noted.

## **7. Environment Agency - Verbal Report**

None.

## **8. Planning Issues**

Mr Matthew Gunyon Greenspaces Manager undertook to report back to the next meeting following the meeting of Regeneration Committee.

9. **Update on activities in the Welsh Harp**

None.

10. **Any other urgent business**

*GLA Funding Support for Brent Catchment Partnership*

Ms Lucy Shuker (Development Manager, Thames 21) informed the Committee about funding support from the GLA for a Brent Catchment Partnership proposal for a scoping study at the Welsh Harp. Canal and Rivers Trust and LB Brent in partnership with LB Barnet would lead on the scoping study which would provide a long term vision for improving the Welsh Harp site

This project which will be carried out this financial year will involve inviting input from all stakeholder groups with a view to gathering information on all of the issues and opportunities to benefit the Welsh Harp site for wildlife and surrounding communities in the years ahead.

*List of Flora and Fauna*

Mr Clive Cohen suggested that the list of flora and fauna be compiled and circulated to all members of the Committee. The Chair requested officers of both boroughs to look into it.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

COUNCILLOR J HART  
Vice Chair in the Chair



## Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

18 March 2020

<b>Title</b>	London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update
<b>Report of</b>	Executive Director - Environment
<b>Wards</b>	West Hendon
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	None
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager <a href="mailto:matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk">matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk</a> 0208 359 7403

### Summary

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

### Officers Recommendations

1. 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 is comprised of Canals and Rivers Trust, 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 Greenspaces Team continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments;
- 1.4 Litter and Flytipping
  - 1.4.1 A request has been put to the Barnet Community Safety Team to consider the need for CCTV along Cool Oak Lane.
  - 1.4.2 Fly Tipping should be reported to the [BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk)
- 1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court
  - 1.5.1 A report on the Sports Hubs Master Planning was presented to the meeting of the Environment Committee on 12 March 2020, with a recommendation that the final master plan for West Hendon Playing Fields is approved.
  - 1.5.2 The report has been published on [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) and can be found <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=9910&Ver=4> Item 7. A verbal update on the outcome of this paper will be provided at the meeting
  - 1.5.3 The supporting information, including the consultation report from the public consultation carried out in 2019 can be found on Barnet's Open Data Portal, the link is <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/24596/west-hendon-playing-fields-addendum-report-consultation-report-and-draft-final-master-plan>

## 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**

4.1 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 Greenspaces 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.

5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:  
“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”.

- 5.4.3 Barnet's Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.1 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 Corporate Parenting Principles

- 5.7.1 N/A

## 5.8 Consultation and Engagement


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

## 5.9 Insight

- 5.9.1 None

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: [www.brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) in the biodiversity section.

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</b> 18 March 2020
	<b>Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>
<b>WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	1
<b>Background Papers:</b>	▪
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Environmental Services, Brent Civic Centre. E: <a href="mailto:Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk">Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8937 5628

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2019/20 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 & River Trust.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

## 3.0 Detail

- 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/services-for-residents/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks/park-finder/welsh-harp-reservoir/>
- 3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan that lists current year progress and actions that may require a longer time-frame and/or for the resources to be identified to undertake the action. For this committee the Action Plan is updated as Appendix A. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress. In particular note the following:

- 3.3 Marshland work: Volunteers of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association held projects during January and February 2020 to reduce the regrowth of trees in the marshland edge alongside the Welsh Harp Open Space. The planning of this work has involved also the Canal & River Trust as much of the marshland is on their land at the margin of the reservoir, and Brent Council. Three reasons for the work are:
- The marshland and the marshland flora are valuable for wildlife. As the marshland is only a few metres wide, the marshland habitat is important at this location. The growth of the trees shades the ground flora. The aim is to reduce the cover of the trees in the marshland while retaining some of the marshland trees.
  - The growth of the trees can reduce the view of the reservoir and the views across the reservoir.
  - Trees on the edge of the reservoir create a wind shadow that can stretch into the reservoir and which reduces the wind for water sports.
- 3.4 Note that as part of this work:
- The view towards the reservoir has been re-opened from the interpretative panels.
  - Scrub encroaching on the lower, grassland path, between the marshland and the slope of the Open Space has been reduced to improve conditions for walking.
  - Two, small ponds have been re-opened along the shore.
  - Litter has been collected from the marshland.
  - As in early 2019, windrows of cut material have been left to provide habitat.
- 3.5 The affect of this work on the marshland will be reviewed during the summer.
- 3.6 Public Spaces Protection Order. Parks. Following the report to Brent Council's Cabinet of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019, officers are considering the implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order in parks.  
<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=455&MId=5357&Ver=4>
- 3.7 Meadow areas: The meadow areas, amongst the amenity grassland of Neasden Recreation Ground, cut for the year in the autumn of 2019, will continue to be reviewed into 2020.
- 3.8 Healthy Walks programme:  
See:  
<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/sports-and-wellbeing/sport-activity-finder/healthy-walks-in-brent-welsh-harp-nature-walk/>
- 3.9 Welsh Harp / Birchen Grove Car Park. Small ramps to deter off-road car racing, which had become a problem at this car park, were installed in January 2020.
- 3.10 Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: The car park at Silver Jubilee Park and adjacent to the West Hendon Playing Fields was resurfaced and line-marked in January 2020.



## **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan provides recommendations for works to be undertaken. Works are only undertaken when approved by the service responsible for delivering the works within existing approved budgets.
- 4.2 The Action Plan 2019/20 (Appendix A) actions are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable within existing budgets in the short term. More details of works are included in Appendix A.”

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp is a designated ‘Site of Special Scientific Interest (‘SSSI’). Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (‘CROW’) and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) sets out the duties in relation to SSSIs. 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 SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest). Natural England will issue consent, which may have conditions or refuse consent. It is a criminal offence to carry out a listed operation without Natural England’s consent or to ignore any conditions of a consent which may result in an unlimited 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 a SSSI. 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 and the methods being used are those that cause as little damage as practicable to the land:-

The Council should demonstrate how it has assessed differing interests (including the special interests of the SSSI) before 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, when exercising their statutory functions, must have regard to the conservation of biodiversity, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

- 5.4 Section 28Q of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires the owner of land included in a SSSI to inform Natural England within 28 days of any changes in ownership or occupation of the site, including leases, easements and rights.

## **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 Decision makers must have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The public sector equality duty is set out at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and is as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

In terms of advancing equality of opportunity, this means to:

- (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- (iii) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

In terms of

- (a) Tackling prejudice, and
- (b) Promoting understanding,

The relevant protected characteristics are:

- ☐ Age
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Gender reassignment
- ☐ Pregnancy and maternity
- ☐ Race,
- ☐ Religion or belief
- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Sexual orientation
- ☐ Marriage and Civil partnership

- 6.2 At this stage, no potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified. However, the equalities implications identified in the Equality Analysis will continue to be considered and assessed as further data / information is obtained or becomes available during the implementation process.

## **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 7.1 None specific.

## **8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

- 8.1 None specific.

**AMAR DAVE**

Strategic Director of Regeneration &  
Environment

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## APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2019-2020

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 current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	RAG status (text column provided for use if plain printing)	Progress: 2019-20 to 24th February 2020
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (Canal and River Trust)	Canal and River Trust	Maintain. On-Going	GREEN	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	GREEN	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the Canal and River Trust; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	GREEN	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.  See also proposals by Phoenix Canoe Club.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	GREEN	The WHCG organise winter projects around the hides.

Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	GREEN	Refer to Barnet.
Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	GREEN	Largely self-managing.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, (Brent)	Thames 21 are managing the Centre.	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre re-opened from January 2016.	GREEN	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. There are some areas for biodiversity within the Dors Close Allotments.	GREEN	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.	GREEN	Maintained; and well-used.  The signage on 'section 10' of the Capital Ring including the Welsh Harp, is due for checking by the volunteer Capital Ring Rangers in late February 2020.

Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	GREEN	<p>See the most recent (2018) report on wildlife produced by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group, available on their website and via the following link (try Ctrl and double click if it does not open immediately):</p> <p><a href="https://brentres.wordpress.com/publications/">https://brentres.wordpress.com/publications/</a></p> <p>Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2019/2020. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).</p>
Signage	Brent / Barnet.			GREEN	Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			GREEN	<p>Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.</p> <p>Birchen Grove Car Park: Installation of mini-humps to deter excessive speeding and other anti-social behavior in car park: January 2020.</p> <p>Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: resurfaced and line-marked: January 2020.</p>

Grasslands and cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded. Current path cutting estimated at £5,000 / year.	Spring to autumn.	GREEN	Grasslands: A new grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) in spring 2018. Includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value of amenity grassland. Sown areas of bee-friendly plants were added in 2019. See the following link for areas for areas of spring and summer grassland at Neasden Recreation Ground: <a href="https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16413216/neasden-recreation-ground.jpg">https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16413216/neasden-recreation-ground.jpg</a>
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.	AMBER	<p>Paths maintained but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland) and at the Welsh Harp Open Space.</p> <p>Work in early 2020 aimed to improve the lower grassland path along the marshland edge of the Welsh Harp Open Space. Work aimed at reducing encroaching scrub, to improve the available width on, to spread wear and to improve conditions for grass growth. Partners: Canal &amp; River Trust, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Brent Council.</p>
Sailing and sports development	WHSa: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	AMBER	Led by the sailing and water sports clubs. Phoenix Canoe Club are developing their proposals for improvements to their club facilities for water sports, particularly for educational use; and for a café accessible from the Welsh Harp / Capital Ring path.



Litter. Clean up projects.	Brent Council. Barnet Council. Canal & River Trust. Thames 21. Environment Agency.	Landowners: Brent Council, Barnet Council, Canal & River Trust. Leaseholders. Also much volunteer involvement.	On-going.	AMBER	Litter clear in marshland edge to Welsh Harp Open Space (organized by Welsh Harp Sailing Association: early 2020).  Neasden Recreation Ground: As reported to WHJCC.  Spring 2019; and winter 2019/2020: Litter clean-up downstream at Quainton Street Open Space organized by Thames 21.  There are some areas within the Welsh Harp with both accumulated and on-going littering.
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On- going.	AMBER	Maintenance is on-going.  Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.
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.	AMBER	WHCG have a programme for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. Recent problems with access to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	AMBER	Led by the WHCG.

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.	AMBER	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, Canal and River Trust	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		AMBER	Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 - ongoing	AMBER	Action Plan published at: <a href="http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/">http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/</a>

Cool Oak Lane bridge. Cool Oak Lane bridge and Wood Lane traffic.	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.	Works in progress: early 2020. Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017.	AMBER	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development. Works in progress: early 2020.
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 (by reducing excess growth of trees).	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	RED	<p><b>Willow and scrub growth is 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.</b></p> <p><b>Discussions by sailing clubs, Brent Council, Canal and River Trust and other partners: autumn 2018; and continuing into autumn 2019 following works in February 2019 for works in autumn / winter 2020.</b></p> <p><b>Welsh Harp Open Space: trial marshland works by Welsh Harp Sailing Association, February 2019.</b></p> <p><b>January and February 2020: Continuation of work in marshland edge by Welsh Harp Sailing Association on north shore (Welsh Harp Open Space).</b></p>

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.	RED	<b>Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.</b>
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	RED	<b>As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.</b>
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	RED	<b>The boardwalk is damaged.</b>

Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council	Brent parks have been dealing with Japanese Knotweed at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Thames 21 are investigating possible systems for mapping of invasive species; possibly by linking to existing work by other recording partners.	Control of these species requires continuing attention: timely short-term control; control at the time of other works; and as part of longer term management.	RED	<b>On-going by Brent Council and Barnet Council. 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.</b>
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