



Brent

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Thursday 16 January 2020 at 7.00 pm

Boardrooms 5&6 - 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: Joe Kwateng, Governance Officer

0208 937 1354 joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

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
1 Declarations of pecuniary 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)	
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.	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 6
4 Matters arising	
5 Management Plan (Barnet)	7 - 12
This report seeks to update the Committee regarding the on-going site management issues and the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The Committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter. The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee comprises British Waterways, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The Consultative Committee meets on a quarterly basis.	
6 Management Plan (Brent)	13 - 26
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. I have attached an appendix to the report which tracks current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.	

7 Environment Agency - Verbal Report

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 Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Mashari and Councillor Ahmed	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Hart and Councillor Don	London Borough of Barnet
Lucy Shuker	Brent River Catchment Partnership
Richard Bennett	Canal and River Trust
Dale Langdale	Hendon Rifle Club
Clive Cohen	London Wildlife Trust
Dianne Murphy	London Wildlife Trust
David Rose	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Liz Hall	West Hendon Allotment Society
Geoffrey Johnson	Woolmead Residents' Association

Apologies for absence were received from: Maria Bailey (Environment Agency), Daniella Levene (Friends of Welsh Harp), Catherine Cullen (London Wildlife Trust), Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), John Shepherd (Welsh Harp Sailing Association) and Judy Shepherd (West Hendon Community Forum)

1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair 2019-2020**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mashari be elected Chair for the municipal year 2019-20.

That Councillor Hart be elected Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2019-20.

2. **Declarations of pecuniary interests**

None

3. **Deputations**

None.

4. **Brent Reservoir Big Splash Event**

Mr Richard Bennett informed the meeting that The Canal & River Trust, in partnership with the Phoenix Canoe Club, will be organising The Brent Reservoir Big Splash Event as Part of London's National Park City festival on 27 and 28 July 2019. The event is a GLA backed initiative aimed at encouraging people to make the most of London's parks and waterways and will be the largest free celebration of London's outdoor spaces.

One element of the festival is the "Big Splash", which looks to put on a variety of water based activities across London so that Londoners can get out on to the water for free. The Trust is keen to promote Brent Reservoir as a part of the festival so as to highlight the importance of the reservoir as a water resource, leisure facility and

Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Phoenix Canoe Club will be running Paddleboard, Canoe and kayak taster session and the Trust will have a gazebo set up outside the canoe club with some information about our work across London's waterways.

Mr Bennett advised that the booking for the "taster sessions" with the Phoenix Club be made via the link below which he asked the Governance Officer to circulate to all members so as to encourage maximum attendance.

https://volunteerbooking.london.gov.uk/vk/volunteers/provider_profile.htm?name=TeamLondonMajorEvents&pid=34150

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March 2019 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matters arising

None.

7. Management Plan (Barnet)

Mr Matthew Gunyon (Open Spaces Manager, Barnet Council) introduced the report. He updated members that the Greenspaces Team continued to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments. He continued that the York Park encampment, discussed at the previous meeting, was cleared in partnership with Barratts, Canal and Rivers Trust and the Council. A team attended the site after the event and undertook a cleansing of the area. Members heard that litter and bin schedules would continue to be reviewed by the operational service within Street Scene to ensure the service delivery meets the needs of the area.

Members heard that fly tipping in and around Cool Oak Lane Bridge was reported to the BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk and allocated to an officer to arrange enforcement patrols and to investigate the feasibility of a CCTV camera along this area. In the discussion that followed, the general expression was that fly tipping was still relentless and ongoing. In order to address that, the Chair suggested that a site visit be undertaken to the known hotspots.

Mr Gunyon then presented the West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court approved by the Environment Committee to go to full public consultation between 3 June – 28 July 2019. He outlined the consultation process which included flyers to local residents, posters erected in the park and the use of social media to inform people. He added that representations can also be made through the council's online engagement portal; <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/draft-masterplan-west-hendon-3>

A note of thanks was expressed to the officers for the way they handled the complex and challenging problems in and around the West Hendon Playing Fields

area. In view of the complexity of the problems, it was agreed that Matthew Gunyon should organise a meeting to be held at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BG on 1st August between 15.00-18.00. Mr Gunyon added that the meeting will have a longer session in order to allow some residents who may not be able to attend or to drop in at a time which best suits them.

Members then raised concerns about water quality to which the representatives of the Environment Agency responded. There then followed a brief discussion after which it was agreed that the assessment of the site and a report be a standing agenda item for the next and future meetings.

8. Management Plan (Brent)

Mr Leslie Williams (Project Manager, Brent) presented this report which updated Members on 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. He drew attention to the appendix to the report that outlined the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir under the Management Plan. The Action Plan tracked current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe. Mr Williams highlighted the significant areas of work.

Marshland work: Following the work on the marshland reported to the Committee meeting in March, officers will arrange discussions with interested organisations to review the earlier work, priorities and the best approach for work during the autumn and winter of 2019/2020. The aims of the work were to improve the reservoir for wind-water sports, conservation of the marshland habitat and to re-open views of the landscape.

Public Spaces Protection Order. A Public Spaces Protection Order became effective in all of Brent's parks, open spaces and cemeteries from 3rd April 2019. At the Brent Reservoir this included Neasden Recreation Ground, and the Welsh Harp Open Space. The Public Spaces Protection Order will prohibit a range of anti-social behaviour in all Brent parks. He added that although education rather than enforcement was the initial focus, Brent Council would be looking at how enforcement can be best achieved.

Although the Meadow areas have been enhanced at Neasden Recreation Ground, officers will re-visit to review the schemes.

Mr Williams informed the Committee that following monitoring, the Forestry Commission had reported the presence of oak processionary moth at the Welsh Harp this year. The purpose of the monitoring was to control and prevent further spread, wherever possible. Oak trees that have been inspected may have a colour code near to the base. For 2019 the colour code for oak processionary moth is blue and are as follows;

A blue dot indicates a tree that has been assessed as currently clear;
A blue coloured ring indicates a tree that is infested;

A blue horizontal line indicates an old nest.

He also updated members that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was undertaking control measures to minimise and limit the chances of transfer of American Crayfish nationally. Members then noted the need for signage and although Mr Williams emphasised that this was not within the remit of Brent Council, he was requested to look into its replacement. It was also added that a letter previously sent to Metropolitan Police about illegal fishing in the Welsh Harp area be chased up to ensure regular enforcement.

9. **Environment Agency - Verbal Report**

None.

10. **Planning Issues**

None.

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

Sailing.

It was noted that weed growth had been contained and that the regular activity plan had kept the water fresh, enabling its free flow.

Marshland

Longer term plan was required for the marshland. As discussed within the management plan, willow growth was exceeding management work on the shoreline and due to scrub encroachment the area of marshland had reduced by 0.3 ha.

Events.

Members were encouraged to send any updates on issues pertaining to Welsh Harp to the Chair or the Governance Services Officer (Joe Kwateng) so that they can be highlighted in Brent Magazine.

12. **Any other urgent business**

Petition against the proposed car park/coach drop off

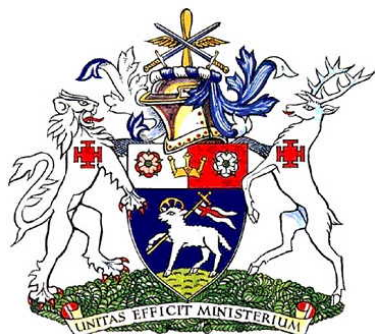
Ms Dianne Mitchell presented a petition against the proposed car park/coach drop off as part of the proposed West Hendon Playing Fields and Associated Facilities Draft Master Plan. Under the proposals, Barnet Council would form a 99 vehicle car park and coach drop off in the field adjacent to and accessed via Cool Oak Lane, behind Kinloch Drive. On behalf of the residents of and around Kinloch Drive area, Ms Mitchell emphasised that any size car park/coach drop off at this location would be opposed because it would create the following problems; pollution, noise nuisance, widespread dumping and environmental issues affecting wildlife. She added that the proposed car/coach car park via Cool Oak Lane would be inappropriate due to the narrowness and winding nature of that stretch of road.

Mr Matthew Gunyon assured Members that at this stage the Master Plan was a spatial planning document which was being consulted upon for ideas and concepts. It was agreed that the petition be presented to a meeting to be organised by Mr Gunyon and Councillor Hart at Hendon Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

COUNCILLOR R MASHARI
Chair

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Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

16 January 2020

Title	London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update
Report of	Executive Director - Environment
Wards	West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	None
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 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;
 - 1.3.1 The encampment discussed at the previous meeting located in York Park was cleared in partnership with Barratts, Canals and Rivers Trust and the Council. A team attended site after the event and undertook a cleansing of the area in question
- 1.4 Litter and Flytipping
 - 1.4.1 A site visit was completed by Greenspaces, Community Safety and Councillor John Hart, during the visit there was evidence of two small fly tips noted but there was litter in and around the area. The Community Safety Officer agreed to arrange to have the area litter picked by the Community Payback Team.
 - 1.4.2 Fly Tipping should be reported to the BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk
- 1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court
 - 1.5.1 The Council's contractors are currently reviewing the results of the consultation and looking at options to address concerns raised in the consultation. This will be reported to a future date of the Environment Committee to approve and adopt. Once adopted the council will look to develop a business case which will help to inform the next stage.
 - 1.5.2 One of the tennis courts in West Hendon Playing Fields is being converted into a Basketball Court. Posts have been erected and we are seeking quotations to complete an overlay of the playing surface along with new lines.

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 as 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 in the biodiversity section.

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	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 16 January 2020
	Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment
WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	1
Background Papers:	▪
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Environmental Services, Brent Civic Centre. E: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk 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: Officers of the Canal & River Trust, Brent Council, and members of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association have 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 has shaded marshland, reduced views of the Reservoir and increased wind-shadows into the reservoir which affects water wind sports.
- 3.4 While tree growth in many locations should be encouraged, there are 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.
- 3.5 Public Spaces Protection Order. Brent Council's Cabinet considered a report detailing the Public Spaces Protection Order on 9th September 2019. The report and Cabinet decisions including future implementation are available on the Brent Council website and at:
<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=455&MId=5357&Ver=4>
- 3.6 Meadow areas have 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.
- 3.7 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/>
- 3.8 Welsh Harp / Birchen Grove Car Park. Residents and car park users have raised concerns about the use of the car park for off-road car driving at speed. To reduce this issue the Council has arranged for the installation of speed reduction ramps in the car park. These will continue to enable the use of the car park for car parking and to enable pedestrian access to the Welsh Harp. This will entail that contractors will need to undertake works, now scheduled between 13th - 24th January 2020. While the main works may take less than the two weeks, the car park will not be available for car parking between those dates.

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.

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. Consideration of the duties must precede the decision. It is important that regard is had to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material. 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.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (b) 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;
- (c) 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.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) Tackle prejudice, and
- (b) Promote 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 No potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified at this stage. 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 22 October 2019
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		Plans submitted for 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 following a Community Asset Transfer from Brent Council.	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. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close, commenced in 2013.	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. Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	GREEN	Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2019/2020. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).

Signage	Brent / Barnet.			GREEN	Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			GREEN	Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.
Grasslands and cutting (The two actions of Grasslands; and Grassland paths have been sub-divided for this October 2019 update to reflect differing approaches).	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. Fine-tuning in 2019; and aiming for long-term improvements to biodiversity and amenity value. See the following link for areas for areas of spring and summer grassland at Neasden Recreation Ground: https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16413216/neasden-recreation-ground.jpg
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	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.
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	Spring 2019: Litter clean-up downstream at Quainton Street Open Space organized by Thames 21.
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. Un-funded: 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: http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/

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>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.</p> <p>Discussions by sailing clubs, Brent, 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.</p> <p>Welsh Harp Open Space: trial marshland works by Welsh Harp Sailing Association, February 2019.</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	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.	RED	As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.

South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	RED	The boardwalk is damaged.
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	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.

Wood Lane traffic: 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.	Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017.	Status to be advised	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development.
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