



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.00 pm

This will be held as an online meeting via MS Teams

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Vincent Lo (Chair)

Anne Clarke (Vice-Chair)

George Crane

Saira Don

John Hart

Parvez Ahmed

Roxanne Mashari

Nagus Narenthira

Representing

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Barnet

Substitute Members (Brent Council)

Councillors:

Amer Agha, Liz Dixon, Harbi Farah and Shama Tatler

Substitute Members (Barnet Council)

Councillors:

Alex Prager and Helene Richman

Membership continued:

Organisations

Brent River Catchment Partnership
Canal and River Trust
Cleaner Earth UK
Environment Agency
Friends of Welsh Harp
Hendon Rifle Club
Local Agenda 21
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
Phoenix Canoe Club
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)
Training Ship Broadsword
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
Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association

For further information contact: Andrew Phillips, Governance Officer
0208 937 4219, Andrew.Phillips@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 as an online virtual meeting. The link to attend and view the meeting is available [HERE](#)

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 or 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.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for absence and clarification of any alternative members	
2 Declarations of Interest	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.	
3 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 at least 3 days in advance of the meeting to the contact officer named on the agenda. The request will then be passed to the Chair for consideration.	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 – 8
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 17 November 2021 as a correct record.	
5 Matters arising	9 – 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barratt's Challenge- construction of Silk Stream Bridge	
6 Management Plan (Barnet)	17 – 22
The report details the update provided by Barnet Council on the site management issues identified during this quarter.	
7 Management Plan (Brent)	23 – 33
This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2020/21 year to date.	
The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: the London Borough of Brent, the London Borough of	

Barnet and the Canal & River Trust.

8 Welsh Harp Vision- Verbal Report

To receive a verbal update on progress with the Welsh Harp 'Vision' project.

9 Dates of Future Meetings

To note the provisional dates identified for future meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee during 2022/23 (Please note: These dates are subject to final confirmation by each respective authority as part of the approval of their 2022/23 calendar of meetings):

- Wednesday 27 July 2022 at 7pm – to be held online hosted by London Borough of Barnet.
- Thursday 24 November 2022 at 7pm - to be held online hosted by London Borough of Barnet.
- Thursday 16 March 2023 at 7pm - to be held online hosted by London Borough of Barnet.

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.

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MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Held as an online meeting on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7.00 pm

Members Present (in remote attendance):

Councillor Vincent Lo (Chair)	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Parvez Ahmed	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Anne Clarke	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Saira Don	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Nagus Narenthira	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Helene Richman	London Borough of Barnet
Peter Eros	Cleaner Earth UK
Lucy Shuker	Brent River Catchment Partnership
Thomas Oliver	Canal and River Trust
Neil Earnshaw	Canal and River Trust
Dianne Murphy	London Wildlife Trust
John Shepherd	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Manfred Starkl	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Judy Shepherd	West Hendon Community Forum
Andrew Haynes	Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Leo Batten	Welsh Harp Conversation Group
Freda Raingold	Silver Jubilee Park Residents Association
Derek Chung	West Hendon Residents Association

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of any alternate members

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Crane (London Borough of Brent) and Councillor John Hart (London Borough of Barnet with Councillor Helene Richman attending as a substitute member).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

3. Deputations (if any)

None.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

AGREED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 28 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

The following issues were raised under Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

Min 12. Any Other Business – Welsh Harp Management Plan trash screen clearance and repairs

The Committee noted the response provided by Rebecca Pow MP (as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) regarding repair and maintenance of the two trash screens situated at the entrance to the Reservoir.

Whilst Members queried reference within the response to the screens being cleared of debris on a weekly basis, it was noted that more regular clearance was now being undertaken which was welcomed by the Committee.

6. Management Plan (Barnet)

Matthew Gunyon (Greenspaces Manager, Barnet Council) introduced the report providing an update relating to on-going site management issues affecting Welsh Harp Reservoir.

The Committee noted the updates provided in relation to the following issues:

- The continued work being undertaken with Barnet Community Safety Team, the Police and other local partners to identify and remove illegal encampments.
- The work being undertaken to address concerns relating to illegal fishing, on which further detail was due to be provided as part of the update from Brent. This had involved the installation of additional signage as well as use of ParkGuard to undertake patrols, engage with anglers to provide advice and, where required, report any incidents of illegal fishing to the Environment Agency.
- The parks patrol pilot, which ParkGuard had been commissioned to provide during summer 2021 at key hotspot locations, including Welsh Harp. Although the pilot had ended Barnet were now undertaking a review to consider the options available to provide a similar service in future, subject to funding being available.
- The ongoing work being undertaken to develop the West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan, following the outline business case and capital funding having been approved. This work involved the formation of a Programme Board and Project Team in order to develop the design and submit a planning application, on which progress updates would continue to be provided for the Committee.

Questions and comments were then invited on the update, with the following issues raised:

- In response to a request for further clarification, confirmation was provided that the parks patrol pilot which ParkGuard had been commissioned to provide had now ended. The pilot had been operational over the summer months and was felt to have been a success with Barnet Council therefore reviewing the outcomes and considering options (subject to the necessary funding being available) to commission a similar service in the future.
- The need was identified to amend reference within future reports to the Committee from British Waterways to the Canal and River Trust and to ensure the membership list was kept updated.
- Whilst noting the concerns which had been expressed in relation to illegal

fishing on the reservoir support was highlighted for fishing, although it was recognised this would need to be subject to tight control given the concerns, raised by other members of the Committee in relation to the damage being caused and behaviour of those fishing illegally, particularly towards other users of the Reservoir. The Committee recognised this would not apply to those fishing responsibly and within the rules relating to permits but felt action was required to address the nuisance and harm being caused by those who continued to fish illegally.

As no further issues were raised it was **AGREED** to note the Management Update from Barnet.

7. Management Plan (Brent)

Leslie Williams (Project Officer, Brent Council) presented a report outlining progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2020/21 year to date. The Management Plan was jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust.

The Committee noted the current progress in relation to the Management Action Plan, as had been detailed within Appendix A of the report, with further updates provided in relation to the following items:

- Marshland conservation work had recommenced in late September 21 (after the bird breeding season) focussed on the southern Neasden Recreation Ground side of the reservoir. This had been on Canal and River Trust land at the marshland edge of the reservoir and Brent Council land within the Recreation Ground. The work had been conducted by volunteers of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association with consent from Natural England and had involved the reduction of shade from scrub and from coppiced trees but with less frequent species retained. Works had, however, now been temporarily suspended in view of concerns expressed by users of the Recreation Ground regarding the potential impact on biodiversity in the area with further discussions underway in order to clarify the objectives of the work being undertaken. These had been aimed at improving the balance of habitats within the area, reducing the wind shadow across the reservoir for water sports and enhancing the landscape and amenity in terms of views across the Reservoir.
- In relation to litter removal, the Committee were updated that work was ongoing around the Welsh Harp to combat littering and fly tipping, which had been aided by volunteers and the Canal and River Trust. This had included clearance of a large number of fly tipped tyres.
- In terms of illegal fishing, the Committee noted the update regarding the current restrictions, measure available, risks and actions being taken to address the concerns expressed, particularly in relation to illegal night time fishing. It was noted that as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) fishing was identified by Natural England as an activity that could potentially damage the special interest of the site and as such this was an operation requiring Natural England's consent to take place at the reservoir. In this respect fishing was taken to mean 'freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing

and angling'. Natural England had not therefore consented to fishing at the SSSI with the Canal & River Trust, as landowners, also not permitting it on the reservoir. In terms of enforcement action and powers, the Committee noted that it was the Canal & River Trust, as landowners, who had primary responsibility for the management of the reservoir with them having confirmed their support for any action taken to address the issue working with their Fisheries Team. Where fishing was taking place from Council land (not necessarily on the boundary with the water), Brent and Barnet would be able to consider other enforcement options with powers also available to the Environment Agency. Given the SSSI status of the Reservoir, members were advised this included a duty to enforce the statutory close season for coarse fishing from 15th March to 15th June inclusive. Outside of that time period the Environment Agency would check anglers present for rod licence compliance, although having no legislative power to enforce unauthorised angling by rod and line.

The Committee noted that as a result of concerns raised, the Environment Agency had visited Welsh Harp on the Spring Public Holiday at the end of May 2021 where they had encountered fishing on the reservoir, in both the geographic areas of Barnet; and Brent. Those fishing had been issued with offence tickets which would usually result in either a formal warning or in more serious cases prosecution. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officers included the Brent Reservoir in their normal routine patrols, with the most recent visit in November 21, although the challenges in preventing such activity were highlighted given the location of the reservoir and population of fish, including carp. The Committee were advised of the Environment Agency national hotline for reporting of environmental incidents, including illegal fishing - 0800 80 70 60. In terms of the powers available to each Council, whilst not possible to issue offence notices for fishing, the use of site notices had been reviewed and updated with ParkGuard having also undertaken patrols during the parks pilot in summer 21 in order to engage and where necessary report issues to the Environment Agency.

- The progress on the ongoing discussions regarding the future of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre, on which the Committee would continue to be kept updated.

Questions and comments were then invited on the update, with the following issues raised:

- All those involved in the removal and clearance of the fly tipped tyres from the Reservoir were thanked for their efforts with further details sought on any investigations being undertaken to identify those responsible. In response Neil Earnshaw thanked all volunteers who had been involved in the clearance work for their assistance which had been undertaken in partnership with Brent Council and the Environment Agency. Whilst highlighting the difficulties in being able to identify the perpetrators, members were advised of the ongoing investigations being undertaken by the Environment Agency on which the Committee would be kept updated. In addition the Committee were advised that the damaged fence had now been replaced with Brent Council also having identified the area for further preventative work in order to discourage any further instances of fly –tipping.

- Support was expressed for the ongoing discussions being undertaken aimed at securing the future provision of the Welsh Harp Environmental Centre. Whilst noting that it would not be possible to provide any further updates at this stage members remained hopeful of a positive outcome given the value and support expressed for the Centre and requested that updates continued to be provided on any further developments as discussion progressed.
- Whilst noting the temporary pause in the works being undertaken to maintain and enhance biodiversity around the marshland, support was expressed for the activity and efforts of the volunteers involved. Although these works involved the removal of shrubs and some coppiced trees it was noted this had been designed to enable the marshland flora to regenerate and to maintain a diversity of trees within the marshland. Those trees being removed were mainly young willow and oak trees with other less frequent species being retained including Alder, Silver Birch, Apples, clumps of Osier and regenerating Elms and large Willows. In order to assist volunteers undertaking the works it was recommended that clear guidance and procedures were introduced on the works to be undertaken and trees marked for removal, which the Committee agreed and felt also needed to be included within the management plan.
- In view of the concerns raised by some users of the Reservoir at the marshland and other work being undertaken around the Reservoir, members felt there was a need to ensure that the Canal and River Trust worked to ensure those groups and users not formally engaged in the activity around the Reservoir were made aware of the works in order to prevent any future difficulties, with members advised of the work already being undertaken to ensure the necessary liaison & communication mechanisms were in place. The Committee recognised the need to ensure the information provided focussed on the nature of the work being undertaken as part of a planned and consistent approach towards management of the Reservoir and surrounding habitat with an emphasis on the necessary consents having been obtained. As an example reference was made to funding received from the Peoples Postcode Lottery to support the works on the eastern side of the Reservoir, which had include the provision of temporary signage for users to explain the works being undertaken and their importance in maintaining the biodiversity and habitat in the area.

As no further issues were raised it was **AGREED** to note (subject to the actions identified above) the Management Update from Brent.

8. Welsh Harp Vision- Verbal Report

Neil Earnshaw (Canal and River Trust) was then invited to provide the Joint Consultative Committee with an update on the Welsh Harp "Vision" project which involved both Brent & Barnet Councils, the Trust, London Wildlife Trust, Thames 21, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Natural England and had been established to develop an overarching vision for the Welsh Harp and review of the Management Plan. As Members had been informed at the previous meeting, it was reported that DK-CM had been appointed as the lead consultant on the project and to undertake the detailed engagement process.

In terms of the key stages in the project the initial phase had involved undertaking a baseline assessment in order to develop a strategic focus and understand the

environmental and social features of the Welsh Harp. The engagement process on the baseline assessment had closed at the end of October, and work was now underway to capture the responses as part of that stakeholder engagement with over 150 responses having been received as part of this process. Key themes already identified had included the need to establish a balance between leisure and recreation, as well as ensuring that nature and biodiversity across the Reservoir area was able to thrive. Members were advised that a final version of the report and assessment was due to be made available towards the end of 2021.

Looking forward members were advised that additional funding was now in the process of being secured for various restoration and regeneration works with a focus also on using the vision and baseline assessment to support the development of wider partnership opportunities and funding bids, which would comprise of a mix of shorter and longer term targets for the Reservoir and on which an exhibition was also being planned.

Questions and comments were then invited on the update, with the following issues raised:

- Details were sought on the stakeholders approached as part of the baseline assessment engagement and consultation process and whether this had included the Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA). In response Neil Earnshaw advised that whilst the engagement process had been focussed on those groups identified as being underrepresented in terms of the Welsh Harp area the consultation process had also included all organisations listed as members of the Joint Consultative Committee. This included WHSA but further checks would be undertaken and contact details updated for future reference.

With no further issues raised, the Committee thanked Neil Earnshaw for the update provided and **AGREED** that further progress updates should continue to be provided on development of the vision.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

The dates for future meetings of the Committee were noted, as follows:

- Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7pm (hosted by Brent) – to be held as an online meeting

10. Any other urgent Business

10.1 Pedestrian Bridge development – Hendon waterside regeneration programme (north marsh)

Concerns were highlighted regarding the plans being developed to proceed with construction of a footbridge by Barrett Homes across the north marsh of the Welsh Harp given its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and impact on the existing habitat in the area. Whilst it was noted that planning permission had been granted by Barnet Council in 2018 with conditional approval by Natural England, this had been subject to a number of objections raised including from the London Wildlife

Trust and Canal and River Trust. Whilst the conditions imposed had included a range of measures Barrett would be required to comply with in terms of habitat provision, significant concerns remained relating to the impact on the surrounding marshland as an SSSI. Although recognising that planning permission had been granted, members were keen to explore what other options were available to express their concerns and highlight support for further consideration being given to the relocation of the bridge further north as a means of avoiding any damage to the SSSI.

As a result of the concerns expressed it was **AGREED** that Councillors Clarke and Richman (in consultation with representatives from the Welsh Harp Conservation Group) should write to Barnet's planning department in order to highlight the Joint Consultative Committee's ongoing concerns regarding the location of the bridge and asking for consideration to be given to its relocation to an alternative position further north of the marshland in order to protect and prevent damage to the SSSI in the Welsh Harp Reservoir

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Councillor Vincent Lo
Chair

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Dear Phill

I am writing on behalf of Cool Oak, a new environmental pressure group I founded last month following a year of campaigning in a loose local alliance for the welfare of Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp). We have moved the dial in many areas. Canal and River Trust are now spending more than £100k on restoration works for the first time in decades. We also hosted a visit from Natural England's Tony Juniper this month to appraise him of all issues facing this historic SSSI.

I want to ask some questions regarding the Plan Alignment and Construction Method Statement (Feb 2018) for Barratt's' proposed Silk Stream Footbridge at West Hendon, and how it affects the SSSI in the area.

As you may or may not be aware, I published a report about the Silk Stream Bridge independently in September 2021, which is now posted on our new website here [<https://www.cooloakgroup.com/ourcampaigns/silk-stream-bridge>]. It was circulated among many councillors, stakeholders and interested parties at the time, and has generated interest locally and online.

It contends that the full story of the area through which the bridge will pass was not properly represented at the time when the planning application was submitted and determined. In short, the area was depicted as woodland and wet woodland, when - while that is how it largely presents today - it is in fact an overgrown mosaic of wetland habitats last re-profiled in the late 80s for the benefit of breeding birds of open water fringe protected under the SSSI citation of 1950 (re-notified in 1985); and it is only lack of stewardship that has seen its wet woodland colonisation and over-silting in the thirty years since. Prior to that it was also wetlands, being part of the northern arm of the reservoir which stretches right up to the Halford's warehouse on the A5.

It seems you even acknowledge the area is still part of the reservoir when you say in your CMS: "The new proposed pedestrian bridge consists of steel pored piles, reinforced concrete piers on both banks of the reservoir ... "

Your CMS also reiterates at several points the avoidance of the wetted channel during construction. My first question is how Barratt's propose to 'avoid the wetted channel' with the piling procedure as promised in the CMS, when most of the area - away from the narrow Silk Stream wetted channel itself - has many pockets and stretches of further wetted channel (canals, ponds, diverted waters of the Silk Stream, and a lagoon) from the last re-profiling. I attach pictures showing the

wetlands as dug in the 1980s and an aerial photo from a few years later. Further pictures are in my report. I understand the compulsory purchase of the strip of land that makes up the work area would appear to leave little room for manoeuvre. I also understand land agreements have been made for each of the piers and substructure. Can you explain therefore, how you will achieve the piling without having to issue an amendment that avoids wetted channel as promised, even if this means readdressing the land purchase?

You also say in the CMS: "The pile installation will progress from each bank working towards the wetted channel", when it appears you will be working in areas of wetted channel most of the way across. Where do you contend the wetted channel begins and ends?

You also say "Some levelling may be required" to allow for the timber mat that will support the crawler crane. Does this mean flattening islands and landscape features created for the sole purpose of creating a habitat for the breeding birds protected under the SSSI citation?

Can you also explain how a crawler crane lifting 12m concrete bridge spans and support vehicles, all on a timber mat, will be adequately supported on an area in part made up of wetted channel, thick silt, overgrown ponds, lagoon and canals?

Most fundamentally, can you explain whether and if so how the detailed construction of the bridge will be fully consistent with the approved plans and the parameters of the planning permission that has been granted, despite the fact that (contrary to what was anticipated at the time) it will be constructed on the wetted channel as explained above. Or will an amendment be required?

And finally, given the publication of my report and the archive photos of the wetlands connected to it, does Barratt's now accept the area through which the bridge will pass is more than just the littered wet woodland depicted at planning, and is in fact a neglected SSSI wetlands that was overlooked, or at best downplayed at planning? And does Barratt's realise now that Natural England have been made aware of this, it could severely impact on ecological mitigation demands made of Barratt's before a spade goes in the ground?

I look forward to your answers

Best,
Ben

Ben Watt
Cool Oak
www.cooloakgroup.com
@cooloakgroup

Reversing decades of neglect at
Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp)

IMAGES:

1. LOOKING FROM WETLANDS TO BOWLING GREEN CLUBHOUSE CLOSE TO WHERE
SILK STREAM BRIDGE WILL LAND (below)



2. LOOKING FROM WETLANDS TO BOWLING GREEN CLUBHOUSE CLOSE TO WHERE SILK STREAM BRIDGE WILL LAND (below)



3. LOOKING FROM BANK ABOVE WEST HENDON PLAYING FIELDS CAR PARK, WHERE NEW SILK STREAM BRIDGE WILL LAND (below)



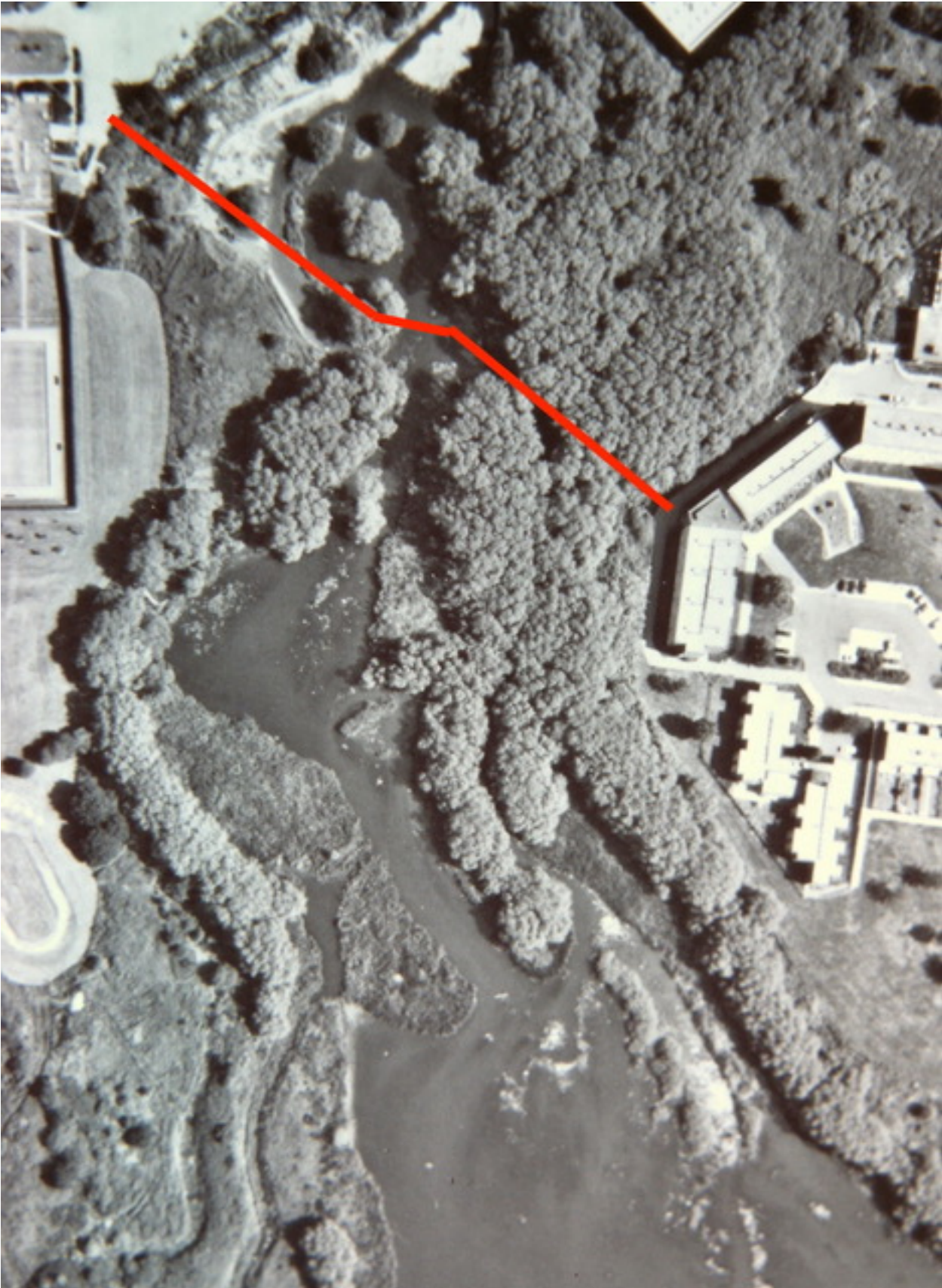
4. LOOKING FROM WETLANDS TOWARDS HALFORD'S WAREHOUSE, OVER WHICH THE SILK STREAM BRIDGE WILL PASS (below)




5. AERIAL PHOTO OF NORTH MARSH WETLANDS SHOWING OPEN WATER STRETCHING TO HALFORD'S (below)



6. SUPERIMPOSITION OF SILK STREAM BRIDGE ROUTE ACROSS WETLANDS. (CORNER OF HALFORD'S WAREHOUSE JUST VISIBLE.)
(below)



	<p>Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p>10 March 2022</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Executive Director - Environment</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>West Hendon</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Key</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7403</p>
<p>Summary</p>	
<p>To update the committee regarding the on-going site management issues and report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR).</p>	

<p>Officers Recommendations</p>
<p>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.</p>

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 Staffing updates
The Barnet Greenspaces Team has recently gone through a recruitment, we have recruited two new Greenspaces Development Officers (GDO), to work alongside a third already in post.
- 1.4 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;
- 1.5 Illegal Fishing
The council has installed additional no fishing signage in recent years however it is a regular target for vandalism.
- 1.6 Litter and Flytipping
Fly Tipping should be reported to the BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk
- 1.7 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan
- 1.7.1 The outline business case for The West Hendon Playing Fields Master plans was presented and approved at Policy and Resources Committee 16 June 2021 under agenda item 9;
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10888&Ver=4>
- The committee approved the outline business case and £18.8m of capital funding for the delivery of the scheme.
- 1.7.2 The council is now forming a Programme Board and Project Team in order to develop the design and submit a planning application.
- 1.8 Welsh Harp and SSSI management
- 1.8.1 The council in partnership with Brent Council, Canals and Rivers Trust, The GLA, The London Wildlife Trust and Thames 21 is developing an overarching Vision for the Welsh Harp and a review of the Management 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 N/A

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 project supports the wider strategy of the local authority and the upcoming Barnet Plan, and its four main priorities, in the following ways:

Clean, safe and well-run

- a place where our streets are clean and anti-social behaviour is dealt with so our residents feel safe; providing good-quality, customer-friendly services in all that we do
- improvements to the quality of parks infrastructure
- operational arrangements introduced to a site to ensure security, safety, maintenance and longevity
- ecological improvements to a Site of Special Scientific Interest, increasing awareness of the natural environment

Family friendly

- creating a family friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and our young people to achieve their best an informed and well-researched facility mix which caters for all age groups and considers all stakeholders
- improved offer for younger people, including improved junior pitches and new, accessible community facilities

Healthy

- a place with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy and healthy lives development of facilities to promote healthy and active lifestyles among residents
- inclusion of free-to-access facilities alongside more specialist options, to provide a unique offer to local residents
- improvement to community facilities

Thriving

- a place fit for the future, where all residents, business and visitors benefit from improved, sustainable infrastructure and opportunity
- Improvements to cycle and pedestrian routes through the park, increasing Barnet's offer in terms of active travel
- A significant placemaking contribution to the wider West Hendon regeneration works
- Improvement to facilities for existing local businesses

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 Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) 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”.

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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	<p align="center">Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 10 March 2022</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment</p>
<p>Welsh Harp Management Plan</p>	

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:	One Appendix A Welsh Harp/Brent Reservoir Management Action Plan 2021-22
Background Papers:	▪
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Parks Services, Brent Civic Centre. Tel: 020 8937 5628 Email: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk

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 2021/22 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.

2.0 Detail

3.1 Welsh Harp 'Vision':

The Canal & River Trust and other partner organisations will update the Committee on the Welsh Harp Vision' project that involves also Barnet Council, the London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority and Thames 21.

3.2 Management Plan:

The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan, (dated 15 March 2016) is available on the Brent Council website.

3.3 Action Plan:

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 indicates current progress. For Brent Council, additional notes are provided in the following paragraphs:

3.4 Marshland work:

Marshland conservation work on the southern shore (adjoining Neasden Recreation Ground) has been temporarily paused to enable discussions with community groups.

Visits during the spring and summer of 2022 indicated that the previous work on the northern shore at the Welsh Harp Open Space has benefited a wide range of plants within the marshland vegetation along the edge of the reservoir while retaining a variety of trees on the shoreline landscape.

3.5 Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre:

Discussions have continued between Brent Council and external partner organisations who have or may have an interest in creating a viable environmental education centre. Thames 21 have agreed to provide some services for another year while discussions continue for a longer-term solution for the future of the Centre.

3.6 Healthy Walks programme:

The walking programme has continued with walkers following social distancing guidelines. Details may change depending upon the Covid regulations and guidance current at the time of the walk. See:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/parks-leisure-and-healthy-living/sports-clubs-and-activities/sport-activity-finder/healthy-walks-in-brent-welsh-harp-nature-walk>

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan is primarily a land-use document to guide land managers and others in the maintenance, management

and legislative issues affecting the land management of the Brent Reservoir and associated land. The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan also has a forward planning role, particularly in identifying the needs of land management over timeframes into the future.

- 4.2 The actions in the accompanying Action Plan (Appendix A) 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. Where those works are not currently achievable, the Action Plan highlights key issues. Works are only undertaken when approved by the service responsible for delivering the works within existing approved budgets.
- 4.3 As is being reported to the Committee, the main land-holding organisations at the Welsh Harp and some other organisations are currently working on a 'vision' exercise, which will include a review of possible sources of funding and income for those works currently not affordable

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 landowners 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.

ALAN LUNT

Strategic Director of Regeneration &
Environment

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APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2021-2022

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. Officers of the main land-holding organisations at the Welsh Harp and some other organisations are working on a 'Vision' exercise which will include a review of possible sources of funding and income. This Action Plan tracks current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Note also the draft of a Forward Work Programme for the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee that has been tabled by Barnet Council.

RAG colour coding is subjective and may take account of the significance of the issue and of any progress.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	RAG status (text column provided for use if plain printing)	Progress: 2021-22 to 11 th February 2022
Welsh Harp Vision	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, Thames 21, London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority.	Funding and/or resources for the Vision have been provided by the partner organisations.	In progress.	Amber – in progress	Developing a vision and options for the Welsh Harp. Appointed earlier in 2021, the consultancy has been preparing information and consulting with the local communities and others.
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. Statutory inspection and works conducted in January to February 2021.

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 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 at and near to the hides.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, Brent Council		Thames 21 have managed the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre since January 2016 but are vacating in the summer of 2021.	Red	Discussions are continuing with a range of potential partners to investigate the future of the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre.
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	Barnet Council: West Hendon Allotments are Self-Managed. Brent Council: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close Allotments.

Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, and parks furniture.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	Amber	Maintenance, particularly of the well-used paths and features.
Signage; and interpretative signage.	Brent / Barnet.			Amber	Maintained. The Canal & River Trust are currently reviewing a selection of the signage, though that may now be extended to await the outcome of the 'Vision' project. Part of the review extends beyond the Canal and River Trust land to other areas of the Welsh Harp.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Green	Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies. Birchen Grove Car Park: Installation of mini-humps to deter excessive speeding and other anti-social behavior in car park: January 2020. Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: resurfaced and line-marked: January 2020.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Amber – diverse wildlife but potential for improvements	See the most recent (2020) report on wildlife produced by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group, available on their website and via the following link: Publications – Welsh Harp Conservation Group (wordpress.com) Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for: refer to the website.

Grasslands and cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded.	Spring to autumn.	Green	Grasslands: A grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) from 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: 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). The lower grassland path at the Welsh Harp Open Space is narrow. Work in 2020 aimed at reducing encroaching scrub, but the path width could benefit from occasional cutting.
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 working on proposed 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	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.	Red	<p>The January to February 2021 temporary partial drawdown of the water level within the Reservoir revealed large quantities of litter, waste and alluvium (silt). Of the alluvium, the Canal & River Trust have stated that the full removal is logistically beyond any resources that are currently available to the Canal and River Trust.</p> <p>The Canal & River Trust mapped some of the larger items and those were subsequently removed.</p> <p>There has been much activity by the wider community to clear, where it is safe to do so; material near on the shorelines.</p> <p>During the summer and early autumn of 2021, volunteers of The Welsh Harp Group moved a large number (c. 200 plus?) of previously fly-tipped tyres in the wet woodland on the southern side of the Reservoir, to an open area for subsequent collection by the Canal & River Trust.</p> <p>There remains, in addition to litter and rubbish in the reservoir; one area of fly-tipped waste in the wooded wetland on the southern shore of the reservoir; areas of less-accessible waste around the reservoir; and issues related to the inflow of waste on the Silk Stream and River Brent.</p>
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River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going.	Amber / Red	<p>The Environment Agency clear accumulations of litter from the trash screens on the tributary rivers entering the reservoir, at the Silk Stream and at the River Brent.</p> <p>The Environment Agency clear and remove the material on a maintenance schedule but as the screens collect waste that has been deposited in the river upstream, frequent and large quantities of waste continue to accumulate in the river upstream of the screens.</p>
Clean up projects	The community		On-going but with increased projects while the shoreline has been exposed due to lowered water levels.	Amber / Green: Much has been achieved, but much is beyond the safe reach of shore work.	As noted above, where safe to do so, litter clean-up projects have been organized over several years by the Welsh Harp Litter Pickers and by residents near to Neasden Recreation Ground. More recently that has involved also The Friends of the Welsh Harp; and The Welsh Harp Group at Neasden Recreation Ground and a range of other volunteers organized via social media.
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	The Canal & River Trust have a current project (February 2022) to reduce willows in the larger reed bed in the eastern marsh. Volunteer projects are led by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group.

Reedbeds: remove young trees and marginal encroachment	Canal and River Trust	£85,000 PPL funding	Removing young trees and vegetation overhanging margins	Amber	The Canal & River Trust have works (February 2022) to make several improvements in the eastern marsh including removal of some debris and reduction of willow growth where that is causing obstructions or affecting other habitats.
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. As at 2021 there are reedbeds on the main arm of the reservoir in the eastern marsh, on the shore of Neasden Recreation Ground near to the dam wall; and on the shore of the Welsh Harp Open Space.
Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Amber	Largely self-managing. Rubbish noted in (during the water drawdown of Jan-Feb 2021) and in the vicinity of the woodland.
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.

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).	Reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	Amber	<p>During the past two decades, Willow and scrub growth has exceeded the rate of management work on those sections of the shoreline with marshland habitat. 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 from 2018 onwards by the Canal & River Trust, the Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Brent Council, led to a consent for works from Natural England and a programme of winter works from February 2019.</p> <p>January and February 2020: Continuation of work in marshland edge by Welsh Harp Sailing Association on north shore (Welsh Harp Open Space). Works continued from September 2020 to late 2020.</p> <p>2020: Northern shore. Due to Covid restrictions, work was postponed in January to February 2021. Works have temporarily paused for discussions with partners.</p> <p>2021/22: Discussions with community groups.</p>
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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.	Amber	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.	Status currently not known.	As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations or may have other specific requirements.
Marshland (northern arm of Reservoir)	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon Redevelopment.	Green	Refer to Barnet.
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	Red / Amber	The Canal and River Trust had plans to restore a boardwalk, though now awaiting the outcome of the Vision exercise.

<p>Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species. Invasive species at the Welsh Harp extends also to a number of other species where growth is across paths, excessively shading marshland or causing other issues.</p>	<p>Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council</p>	<p>Brent Council Parks actions: Knotweed Reduced at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet Council have Reduced Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Red</p>	<p>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. Thames 21 working with Brent Council and others, have been working on control of Knotweed and Giant Hogweed on the River Brent section downstream of the dam wall (spring / summer 2021). There are similar projects upstream in Barnet.</p>
<p>Cool Oak Lane bridge. Cool Oak Lane bridge and Wood Lane traffic.</p>	<p>Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.</p>	<p>Barnet Council and others.</p>	<p>New pedestrian bridge in place.</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>Pedestrian footbridge alongside historic, vehicular footbridge.</p>
<p>River Brent Catchment Management Plan</p>	<p>All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.</p>		<p>2011 - ongoing</p>	<p>Amber – in progress, with large challenges to improve the River catchment.</p>	<p>Action Plan published at: see website: https://www.thames21.org.uk/catchment-partnerships/brent/</p>