

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Monday 22 July 2024 at 6.00 pm

This will be held as an online virtual meeting hosted by
London Borough of Barnet

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<p><u>MEETING</u></p> <p>WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE</p>
<p><u>DATE AND TIME</u></p> <p>MONDAY 22ND JULY, 2024</p> <p>AT 6.00 PM</p>
<p><u>VENUE</u></p> <p>VIRTUAL</p> <p>Join the meeting now</p>

TO: MEMBERS OF WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Councillors:

Councillor Rishikesh Chakraborty – London Borough of Barnet

Councillor Ernest Ambe – London Borough of Barnet

Councillor Andrea Bilbow OBE – London Borough of Barnet

Councillor Alan Schneiderman - London Borough of Barnet

Councillor Krupa Sheth – London Borough of Brent

Councillor Parvez Ahmed – London Borough of Brent

Councillor Liz Dixon - London Borough of Brent

Councillor Mary Mitchell - London Borough of Brent

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

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Services contact: Scarlett Ryan scarlett.ryan@barnet.gov.uk 02083594173

Media Relations Contact: Gareth Greene 020 8359 7039

ASSURANCE GROUP

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Welcomes and Introductions	
2.	Absence of Members	
3.	Minutes	5 - 10
4.	Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests	
5.	Public Questions (if any)	
6.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (if any)	
7.	London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management Plan	11 - 18
8.	London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan	19 - 36
9.	Canal and River Trust Update (Verbal)	
10.	Any Other Business	

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Decisions of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Held as an online meeting on Thursday 14 March 2024 at 6.00pm

AGENDA ITEM 3

Members Present (In Remote Attendance)

Councillor Alan Schneiderman (Vice-Chair)	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Ernest Ambe Esq	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Rishikesh Chakraborty	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Saqib Butt	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Parvez Ahmed	London Borough of Brent
Matthew Gunyon (Officer)	London Borough of Barnet
Harriet Duffield (Officer)	London Borough of Barnet
Leslie Williams (Officer)	London Borough of Brent
Adam Woods (Governance)	London Borough of Brent
Ben Carroll	Canal & River Trust
Ben Watt	Cool Oak Group
Lewis Elmes	Environment Agency
Dale Langdale	Hendon Rifle Club
Dianne Murphy	London Wildlife Trust
Phil Atkinson	Phoenix Canoe Club
Hannah Reid	Thames 21
John Shepherd	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Manfred Starkl	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Leo Batten	Welsh Harp Conservation Group

1. Apologies for Absence and Clarification of any Alternate Members

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Krupa Sheth (Chair) (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Mary Mitchell (London Borough of Brent) and Councillor Andrea Bilbow (London Borough of Barnet).

As a result of Councillor Krupa Sheth (Chair) having to submit her apologies for absence Councillor Alan Schneiderman (as Vice-Chair) took the Chair for the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interests (If Any)

There were no declarations made.

3. Deputations (If Any)

None.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2023 be approved as an accurate record.

5. Matters Arising

None.

6. Brent Reservoir Project Update - Canal & River Trust

Ben Carroll (Project Manager, Canal & River Trust) provided an update to the Committee regarding the Winter works at the Brent Reservoir. In outlining the primary works, which included painting and repairing the valve tower, inspecting sluices, and general inspections and repairs, the Committee noted that the Reservoir required de-watering to access the relevant infrastructure. It was detailed that the de-watering process was due to be completed by the end of February 2024, however one of the stormiest Winter periods on record resulted in greater inflow into the Reservoir which had set the process back. Further complicating matters was that the Canal & River Trust (CRT) had to carefully oversee the release of water to adhere to guidance. Moreover, the fish rescue had been delayed due to ice cover and heavy rain, although the team had rescued 10 tonnes of fish which was double the amount collected two decades ago during the last de-watering campaign. However, the unexpected number of fish led to logistical complications, such as re-homing the fish. In addition to the above, silt management also contributed to delays as the CRT often hit the turbidity trigger level and therefore had to wait for the water quality to improve prior to releasing more water. Ultimately, this meant that the full de-watering of the Reservoir could not be achieved, reaching 1m depth at the deepest point.

In response to the aforementioned challenges, the CRT was revising their approach but this was also leading to additional delays. Nevertheless, a way forward had been agreed with Natural England which would enable the CRT to complete the works and minimise impact, with the new expectation to begin the refill from mid-April 2024 at the latest. In outlining the mitigations in place, including steel posts in the silt and artificial owls to prevent bird nesting during the refill, Ben Carroll outlined the aspiration of beginning the work on the tower during the week commencing Monday 18 March 2024 to meet the target of the mid-April refill.

Having thanked Ben Carroll for the update, the Chair invited comments and contributions from Committee members, with questions and responses summarised below:

- In response to a question regarding the likelihood of meeting the new target given the frequent delays during the project, members were advised that refilling was hoped to be completed by the end of May, as the process would take approximately 6 weeks in normal weather conditions. In highlighting that many delays had occurred due to attempting to achieve a full-dewater which had now been abandoned, Ben Carroll explained that delays should be less likely but it was still difficult to accurately estimate as to when the refill would be completed.

- The Committee noted that future work would be completed through divers and it was not planned to have another full drawdown for a number of decades due to costs and logistics.
- Regarding the removal of silt, members were informed that the CRT's Q&A section on their website could be updated to provide further information on this issue.
- In response to a query relating to the sharing of water quality data and whether any chemical analysis had been conducted, members were informed that sediment tests had been undertaken prior to the works which analysed temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity to comply with regulations. On whether the data could be shared, Ben Carroll explained that the data was provided to the Environment Agency and therefore agreements would need to be made regarding the sharing of data.
- Members detailed that the silt was very dark below certain water levels and suggested that road runoff may be occurring on the Neasden side of the North Circular Road. In response, Leslie Williams (Project Officer, Brent Council) explained that system improvement works had been carried out in the area in question which installed a permanent drain and levelled the pipe to prevent oils from being drawn into the Reservoir. In addition, Ben Carroll advised members that concerns could be passed to the relevant colleagues at the CRT.
- In discussing the owl decoys to prevent bird nesting in dangerous areas, the Committee raised concerns regarding a decoy above the normal water line which was felt could impact birds nesting in the woodland and therefore requested whether the decoy could be moved downwards. In response, members were informed that the placements had been agreed between Natural England and specialist colleagues, but feedback would be given to ecologists at the CRT.

As no further issues were raised, the Committee **AGREED** to note the update.

7. Management Plan (Barnet)

Matthew Gunyon (Head of Greenspaces, Barnet Council) introduced a report that provided an update to the committee in relation to Council activities during quarter four (January-March 2024) in respect of the Welsh Harp and West Hendon Playing Fields.

To begin, Matthew Gunyon detailed that the Council had launched a public consultation in relation to the development of the new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and a Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP replace Biodiversity Action Plans), which was being led by Land Use Consultants (LUC) on behalf of the Council, with members noting that the consultation would be available later in the year.

Regarding the West Hendon Playing Fields Masterplan, the Committee was informed that the first round of public engagement events concluded in December 2023, with the results currently being compiled into an engagement report which would be shared on the Commonplace webpage. It was explained that the information gathered through the engagement process would be used, along with existing information, to inform the design of the development, with the intention to present an update on the project at a future Committee meeting. Moreover, members noted that the Council was preparing a FAQ page on the project website to address the numerous enquiries received.

In discussing the work undertaken in relation to the SSSI, members heard that a new litter management regime would be trialled over Spring and Summer 2024 to improve the levels of litter and waste in the area. Additionally, this would be supported with two contractor led targeted deep cleans that would take place post the nesting season (Aug/Sept) and pre the nesting season (Dec/Jan). Furthermore, over the Spring and Summer seasons the Council were planning to explore options around the Public Bird hide in order to tackle the ongoing anti-social behaviour and misuse of the area. A thorough options appraisal would be completed with the aim of undertaking any required works in the autumn/winter of 2024, subject to community engagement and approval from Natural England. Lastly, in referencing the ongoing case of a nearby property causing damage to the SSSI, Matthew Gunyon advised the Committee that on the week commencing 13 November 2023, Barnet Planning Enforcement served a notice to the property owner requiring the demolition of the outbuilding and the removal of the constituent materials from the property within four months of the date of the notice, with the Council continuing to monitor the situation to ensure that the required action was completed and no further damage occurred to the SSSI.

In thanking Matthew Gunyon for the update, the Chair welcomed questions from Committee members, with contributions summarised below:

- In seeking an update on the Silk Stream bridge, members stated that a modification to the bridge would not be sufficient to protect the SSSI and thus detailed the alternative routes where the bridge could be built that, in addition to not harming the SSSI, would be cheaper and still served the purpose of connecting communities. In response, the Committee was advised that the Council was intending to provide a more detailed update at the next Committee meeting and that a written update would be distributed to members to outline the ongoing options review. Moreover, it was explained that officers and councillors were pushing for a dedicated meeting involving the Council, Barratts and residents to discuss concerns. Having heard this, members stated that the Council had statutory powers to prevent the construction of the bridge and therefore the Council needed to take joint responsibility alongside Barratts for the ongoing issues arising from the planned bridge. In response, although recognising the concerns raised, members were advised that guidance had been received from officers in relation to next steps and that issues could be further considered at the dedicated meeting regarding the bridge.
- In response to a concern regarding fly tipping and litter at Cool Oak Lane bridge, members noted that Community Safety officers would be informed of the concerns to explore implementing measures such as temporary CCTV to attempt to resolve the issue.
- Members detailed the worsening condition of the old bridge at Cool Oak Lane, due to heavy goods vehicles using the bridge, and emphasised the importance of maintaining the bridge given its listed status. In response, the Committee noted that Highways officers would be notified of the concerns and that patch repair works had been undertaken shortly before the meeting. Additionally, it was detailed that the Council was investing more funding to maintain the borough's highways and that the bridge's inspection programme could be reviewed to explore mitigating measures such as more frequent inspections and vehicle restrictions.

As no further issues were raised, the Committee **AGREED** to note the report.

8. Management Plan (Brent)

Leslie Williams (Project Officer, Brent Council) presented a report that outlined progress on the Brent Reservoir/Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2023/24. Firstly, the Committee was advised that the Action Plan, attached as Appendix A of the report, provided notes and updates on issues and projects.

Firstly, Leslie Williams thanked individuals and community groups who had assisted with the clean-up projects following the de-watering of Brent Reservoir. Following this, members were informed that the Council, the Canal & River Trust (CRT) and Natural England had met to progress the works for the marshland edge alongside the southern edge of the Reservoir adjacent to Neasden Recreation Ground. It was detailed that the works would involve tree management, particularly to increase light to the marshland edge, for the benefit of the marshland vegetation, views and to also reduce the wind shadow for water wind-sport users. The Committee heard that the works could possibly commence in September 2024 to avoid breeding season.

In providing an update regarding the Welsh Harp Centre, it was explained that the Council had appointed a design team to develop the proposals, with an early consultation underway with some of the proposed users and further plans to engage with other stakeholders and the local community. In concluding, Leslie Williams informed members that the Healthy Walks Programme was continuing, with the Welsh Harp walks occurring on Thursdays from 10am to 11am, meeting at the Welsh Harp Open Space end of Birchen Grove, Kingsbury NW9.

Having thanked Leslie Williams for the update, the Chair welcomed questions and contributions from members, which are summarised below:

- In response to a query concerning the purpose of the Welsh Harp Centre moving forward, the Committee was informed that the core purpose would be to provide Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) education, although it was reiterated that there would be arrangements for community use and that the details were yet to be finalised, with the upcoming consultation informing the future plans for the Centre.
- In highlighting that some mussels had been found as a result of the de-watering of the Reservoir, the Committee questioned whether native species could be reintroduced following the refill. In response, it was explained that restocks required permits and therefore fisheries colleagues within the Environment Agency would need to advise on any restock. Nevertheless, it was detailed that the restock was completed in stages and volunteers were advised that many fish may die naturally due to not adapting to the new environment.

As there were no further contributions, the Committee **AGREED** to note the update.

9. Investigations and Project Update – Environment Agency

Lewis Elmes (Environment Agency) provided a verbal update to the Committee regarding pollution investigations and projects in and around the Welsh Harp. To begin, Lewis Elmes reminded members of the high Ph white sediment flowing into the Reservoir discussed at the previous meeting. The Committee was informed that work to rectify the

issue had now been completed, which included disconnecting and reconnecting unmapped drains, with Thames Water following up on other identified misconnections found during the work. Furthermore, members heard that all the Thames Water network issues had now been resolved.

Regarding Edgware Brook, it was detailed that several misconnections had been identified which had now been rectified, with the recent dry weather confirming that the work had been successful in stopping the outfalls. Members noted that Thames Water was continuing to monitor the situation and was reporting back regularly.

Lewis Elmes then went onto discuss the outfalls at Dollis Brook, in which it was explained that a number of outfalls had been located with varying degrees of progress. The Committee was advised that one outfall had been successfully rectified, which would be confirmed once reinspected during dry weather; some properties were not being cooperative in rectifying a second outfall, with the Environment Agency currently working through the warrant process to get access to the relevant properties, with members advised that full rectification could take a considerable amount of time; and one case had been passed to Barnet Council for enforcement action under the Building Act. Additionally, Lewis Elmes thanked Barnet Council, Thames 21 and volunteers for their support in removing tow boarding at Dollis Brook, despite the challenging nature of the task.

Lastly, members were updated regarding the work of Clean Up River Brent who were coming to the end of their first year of Environment Agency funding. Lewis Elmes explained that the group was working to install automated pollution alert systems to improve the active monitoring of lower Brent, with a view to expand this work across the Brent area assuming funding was to continue. Moreover, the Committee was informed that the deadline for Environment Agency funding for 2025/26 was June 2024, with funding available to local authorities, charities and community groups.

Following the conclusion of the update, the Chair thanked Lewis Elmes and opened the discussion to Committee members, with questions and responses summarised below:

- Members noted that the Environment Agency were exploring all legal routes to resolve the outfalls at Dollis Brook.

Having thanked Lewis Elmes for the update, and with no further queries, the Committee **AGREED** to note the update.

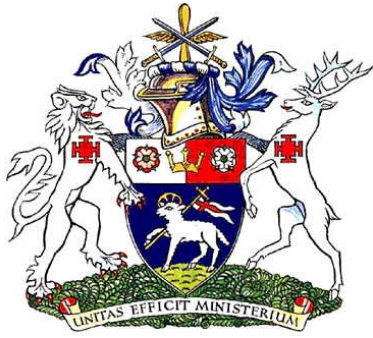
10. Any Other Urgent Business

The Committee noted that the provisional dates for the 2024/25 municipal year were as follows:

- Monday 22 July 2024
- Monday 25 November 2024
- Thursday 20 March 2025

The meeting ended at 7:15pm.

COUNCILLOR ALAN SCHNEIDERMAN
VICE-CHAIR



**Welsh Harp Joint Consultative
Committee**

22 July 2024

Title	London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update
Report of	Executive Director, Adults, Communities and Health
Wards	West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	None
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Matthew Gunyon, Head of Greenspaces matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7403

Summary

To provide an update to the committee in relation to Council activities during Quarter 1 (April-June 2024) in respect of the Welsh Harp / West Hendon Playing Fields.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the committee note the contents of this report.

.1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC) 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 and meets on a quarterly basis.

- .1.1 During April – June 2024 (Quarter 1), the Council progressed a series of activities in relation to the management and operation of West Hendon Playing Fields / Welsh Harp. The committee are requested to note the following;

.2 Management and Operations

- .2.1 There has been one reported encampment during this period, the Councils Greenspaces and Leisure Team continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments when notified.
- .2.2 Barnet Council have committed to two contractor led litter picks at The Welsh Harp. These are scheduled for September 2024 and January 2025.
- .2.3 As members of the Thames21 Brent Catchment Partnership, the council continues to work with stakeholders on the biggest issues facing the Brent River catchment, which includes the Welsh Harp. LBB attends the working group meetings, such as the invasive non-native species control group, which has recently set up an interactive map to show INNS locations and treatment plans. The long-term aim of the group is to eradicate Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed across the catchment, all of which are present at the Welsh Harp.

.3 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan

- .3.1 We concluded the first round of public engagement activities, including online surveys and in-person events in December 2023. We are compiling the results into an engagement report, which findings will be shared with through our Commonplace webpage soon.
- .3.2 In response to the overwhelming interest from the local community, we're actively fostering relationships with concerned groups and interested parties of the playing fields. Additionally, we're preparing an FAQ page on our engagement project website to address the numerous inquiries we've received. This resource will serve as a central hub for information dissemination and clarity.
- .3.3 The information gathered through the engagement process will be used along with existing information help within the project team in order to inform the design development.

- .3.4 Visualisations and drawings depicting our evolving designs will be developed and be available for comment. These visuals will offer insights into the aesthetics, functionality, and ambiance of the site. WHJCC input will be crucial in making informed decisions regarding site options.
- .3.5 We are committed to a transparent and iterative design process. Resident and community feedback, along with input from other stakeholders, will drive the refinement of our designs. Another round of engagement will follow in the Summer, ensuring that our plans resonate as well as possible with expectations of a wide community.
- .3.6 We are planning a second round of engagement with a special focus on schools and young individuals. Their perspectives are invaluable, and we are eager to involve them in shaping the future of our project. Planning for this has begun and will begin to take shape in the coming weeks.
- .3.7 We propose that the project presents at an upcoming meeting whereby we can offer some visuals and update on design and engagement.

.4 **Welsh Harp and SSSI management**

- .4.1 Following a review of Natural England’s protected sites casework delivery, they are changing the way they handle notices for works that require SSSI assent, commencing **17th June 2024**.

The purpose of these changes is to ensure that both Natural England and public bodies are following their responsibilities as set out within the legislation. The changes affect **those acting on behalf of a public body**, to which section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) applies. These organisations are known as ‘section 28G authorities’ and includes government agencies, local authorities and statutory undertakers.

There are four areas to highlight:

- Please screen your proposed activities. You are only required to submit assent notices where you consider that the activities would be likely to disturb or damage the special features of a SSSI.
- You must carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) when you are planning to undertake or approve activities on or near a SSSI that is also designated as a protected European site.
- Where we consider there to be insufficient information in your assent notice to make a full assessment, we may ask you for more information using a standard letter, or request that you withdraw your notice.
- If you provide notice for consent instead of assent, we may write to you requesting that you withdraw your consent notice.

We will continue to request advice from Natural England on proposals when necessary depending on the nature and scope of the works via protectedsites@naturalengland.org.uk

- .4.2 Over the Spring and Summer of 2024 an update litter management regime will be trialled in order to improve the levels of litter and waste in the area, this will be reviewed throughout the period and adjusted as required. This will be supported with two contractor led targeted deep cleanse actions that will take place post the nesting season (Aug/Sept) and pre the nesting season (Dec/Jan).
- .4.3 Over the Spring and Summer seasons the Council will explore options around the Public Bird hide in order to tackle the ongoing anti-social behaviour and misuse of the area. A thorough options appraisal will be completed with the aim of undertaking any require works in the autumn/winter of 2024 (subject to any approvals requires).
- .4.4 Damage to the SSSI caused by development on neighbouring properties was reported to the Council by members of the WHCG in April 2023. The Planning Enforcement Team are working with Natural England to resolve the issues and served enforcement notices to the address in May 2023. In August, a retrospective application for the construction work (23/2569/RCU) was refused by the London Borough of Barnet Planning Department. On the week commencing 13th November 2023, Barnet Planning Enforcement served a notice to the property owner requiring the demolition of the outbuilding and the removal of the constituent materials from the property within four months of the date of the notice. LBB will continue to monitor to ensure this is done and no further damage is done to the SSSI. The appeal against the enforcement notice is still in progress and the planning department have not yet been contacted following the submission of their statement.
- .4.5 The council continues to work in partnership with Brent Council, Canals, and Rivers Trust, The GLA, The London Wildlife Trust and Thames 21 in delivering the overarching Vision for the Welsh Harp and updating the existing Management Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- .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.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

.1 N/A

POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

.1 The Council will continue to develop the new and emerging policies as set out in section 1.2.1 of this report.

IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

.1.1 Following the declaration of a climate emergency, delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy is a key corporate priority for the Council.

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

.2.1 The programme of activities listed within this report are delivered within existing resources, some initiatives or tasks may require additional investment which will be considered in the development of new policies and assessed through the Councils budget setting process.

.3 Social Value

.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.

.4 Legal and Constitutional References

.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.

.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 **Risk Management**

.5.1 *There are no risk management issues associated with this report.*

.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

.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

.7 **Corporate Parenting Principles**

.7.1 N/A

.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

.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.

.9 **Insight**

.9.1 None


BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

.2 [West Hendon Playing Fields Outline Business Case – Policy and Resources Committee 16 July 2021, Agenda Item 9](#)

- .3 [Parks and Open Spaces Update – Environment and Climate Change Committee 9 June 2022, Agenda Item 9](#)
- .4 [Welsh Harp Vision Update – Environment and Climate Change Committee 6 September 2022, Agenda Item 14](#)

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	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 22 July 2024
	Report from the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Regeneration
	Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Krupa Sheth
Welsh Harp Management Plan update (Brent)	

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
List of Appendices:	Appendix A. Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan: Action Plan for 2024-2025.
Background Papers:	
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Parks Services, Brent Civic Centre. Email: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8937 5628

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2024/25 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

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 This report updates members on the issues and progress for the Welsh Harp area. These relate to the Borough Plan Priorities. The Welsh Harp contributes to the priority of A Cleaner Greener Future and also to some of the other priorities. The Welsh Harp provides publicly accessible green space, opportunities for water sports, space for recreational exercise, habitats and biodiversity, contributes to flood control within and beyond the Brent area; and provides a landscape to enhance the surrounding residential, community and commercial neighbourhoods. The Welsh Harp contributes to strategies including the:
Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-23
Flood Risk Management Strategy
Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027.

Further details of these and of other strategies can be found at:
<https://www.brent.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/strategies-priorities-and-policies>

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Welsh Harp 'Vision':

The 'Welsh Harp Vision' was published in July 2023. The Vision has been prepared by the Canal & River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, the London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority, Thames 21 and other partners.

3.2.2 Management Plan:

The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan, (dated 2016 but a long-term management plan) is available from Brent Council. Refer to the Action Plan (3.3).

Website links to parts of the Welsh Harp are at:
[Neasden Recreation Ground | Brent Council](#)
[Welsh Harp Open Space | Brent Council](#)
[Welsh Harp Reservoir | Brent Council](#)

3.2.3 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 actions. For this committee the Action Plan is updated as Appendix A. The Action Plan provides notes and updates on issues and projects. The 'Progress' column indicates current progress.

3.2.4 Brent Reservoir dam:

The Canal & River Trust will update the Committee on the works to the dam wall, associated works and water re-filling.

3.2.5 Marshland work:

It was reported at the last meeting, that discussions had been held with the Canal & River Trust, their Ecologist and Natural England regarding the marshland edge of the reservoir, alongside Neasden Recreation Ground. The local partner organisations are looking at whether resources could be available to enable the works to proceed from September 2024. Selective coppicing and other works would lead to benefits including increased light to the marshland edge, for the benefit of the marshland vegetation, enhanced views across the reservoir; and reductions of the wind shadow for water wind-sport users.

3.2.6 Maintenance:

The interpretative panels and shelter at Neasden Recreation Ground were vandalised by fire in April 2024.

The Parks Service are aware of enquiries relating to litter at Neasden Recreation Ground. The Parks Service have also discussed with the grounds maintenance contractor, how the circulation for the emptying of bins could be improved.

3.2.7 Welsh Harp Centre:

Officers held a number of stakeholder engagement meetings in May 2024. A wider meeting was held with all parties at the end of June 2024, this meeting included the Council's Design Team, and McBains Ltd. The meeting was well attended, and feedback was positive, the questionnaire previously shared has been recirculated to stakeholders to provide feedback on the current design and outline their required usage. There were some requests to include additional elements, for example, Planet House; however, these are outside the scope and budget for this project.

3.2.8 Healthy Walks programme:

The walking programme continues. The Welsh Harp walks are on Thursdays from 10am to 11am, meeting at the Welsh Harp Open Space end of Birchen Grove, Kingsbury NW9. For details, please see the walking website at: [Walking for Health - Welsh Harp | Brent Council](#)

3.2.9 Pollution incidents:

Refer to the Environment Agency.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The Safeguarding, Partnership and Strategy, with the Property and Assets teams of Brent Council are conducting consultation relating to the Welsh Harp Centre.

The Welsh Harp Education Centre Project stakeholder engagement is outlined above in paragraph 3.2.7. Officers are in the process of finalising a communications strategy for the project. This will include actions to inform ward members; local residents and other relevant, interested parties as to the development of the new education centre.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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. The actions will be closely monitored, prioritised and re-profiled to ensure there are existing resources available to mitigate against any possible overspends. 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.
- 5.3 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

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 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.

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Paragraph 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 (NPPF) provides that to protect and enhance biodiversity, plans should identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks. For decision making, paragraph 186 of the NPPF provides that if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused. Paragraph 186 also provides that planning permission should not normally be permitted where development on land within or outside a SSSI is likely to have an adverse effect on it.
- 6.5 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.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 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

7.2 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.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

To set out how the proposals impact on the Council's environmental objectives and climate emergency strategy.

8.1 The Brent Reservoir, whilst originally constructed as part of a waterways transport system, now has a role in managing the flow of the River Brent. The Reservoir has a number of in-built systems and associated procedures that help to reduce the risk of flooding to the urban communities downstream, during and following high-rainfall events.

8.2 The Brent Reservoir and the wider Welsh Harp area have important roles in the conservation of biodiversity. The Brent Reservoir is a Site of Special Scientific Interest on account of the significance of its wildlife.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

10.0 Communication Considerations

To outline relevant considerations in relation to any required communication strategy or campaigns.

10.1 The Welsh Harp 'Vision', healthy living initiatives and the provision of information about the Welsh Harp have been mentioned in this report.

Alice Lester
Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and
Regeneration

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APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2024-2025

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 timeframes, though many are not affordable in the short term.

The Action Plan here tracks current year progress on the existing Management Plan while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Progress is indicated within the text and may include the priority of the issue, risks and progress.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress: 2024-25 to 11 th July 2024
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.	Published in late July 2023.	Developing a vision and options for the Welsh Harp.
Implementation of the Welsh Harp Vision	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, Thames 21, London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority.	The Vision team are investigating potential grant sources. The first is a potential application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.	On-going	In discussion.

River Brent Catchment Management Plan – the Brent Reservoir is on the River Brent.	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21 / London Boroughs within the River Brent Catchment.		Ongoing since 2011.	River Brent Catchment Partnership Action Plan published at: https://www.thames21.org.uk/catchment-partnerships/brent/
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (CRT)	Canal and River Trust	Works: October 2023 to May 2024.	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards. Statutory inspection and works conducted in January to February 2021. Works, involving pre-drawdown of the Reservoir, commenced October 2023 and reservoir refilled by late May 2024.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-going	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing Infrastructure: club-houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the Canal and River Trust; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	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	The WHCG organise winter projects at and near to the hides.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Brent Council, Thames 21		Brent Council are leading on the future of the Education Centre, while Thames 21 are currently maintaining a presence.	Refer to: Brent Council Cabinet, May 2023 report. Brent Council are working on details for a new Welsh Harp Centre building as a post-16 skills resource centre, with a focus on horticulture, work experience and volunteering opportunities. There is the potential for use of the site at other times by third sector and community organisations. Consultation discussions with local organisations: June 2024.

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.	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.	Maintenance, particularly of the well-used paths and features.
Signage; and interpretative signage.	Brent / Barnet.		The C&RT have a series of interpretative signs in design.	Maintained. Loss of interpretative viewing point and panels at Neasden Recreation ground, due to vandalism in April 2024.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies. Birchen Grove Car Park: Mini-humps installed in January 2020. Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: resurfaced and line-marked: January 2020. Cool Oak Lane Car Park: Barnet.

Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	See the most recent 2022 report (published in June 2023) 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.	On-going – seasonal effects with various cutting frequencies for different types of grassland.	Grasslands: A grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including at Neasden Recreation Ground) from spring 2018 includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value of amenity grassland. Sown areas of bee-friendly plants were added in 2019. Cutting of these areas is usually in September or October. There are also rough-grassland habitats both at Neasden Recreation Ground and at the Welsh Harp Open Space.
Grasslands: paths cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded.	Spring to autumn.	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	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.	<p>Several clean-ups have been organized since January 2021. The Canal & River Trust have cleared some larger items from the reservoir itself, while the C&RT and community organisations have held several clean-up events of the margins of the reservoir.</p> <p>During the current de-watering of the reservoir, from late 2023 into early 2024, a number of safety-supervised events have been organized to clear litter from the margins of the reservoir.</p> <p>There remains, in addition to litter and rubbish in the reservoir; fly-tipped waste in the wooded wetland on the southern shore of the reservoir; and issues related to the inflow of waste on the Silk Stream and River Brent. A proportion of that waste is of materials fly-tipped into the rivers upstream.</p> <p>Litter and fly-tipping onto the public open spaces of the Welsh Harp is a responsibility of the grounds maintenance contractors of either Barnet or Brent Council. For Brent, instances can be reported using the FixMyStreet app, but please select 'Parks' on the first set of options which takes the user to a dedicated page for parks.</p>
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintenance of Priestley Way trash screen - weekly.	<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; which for the Priestley Way (Staples Corner) trash screen is once fortnightly. As the screens collect waste that has been deposited in the river upstream, frequent and large quantities of waste can continue to accumulate in the river upstream of the screens. Inevitably, some smaller items will flow through the screens into the reservoir.</p>

Clean up projects	The community		On-going.	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; The Welsh Harp Group at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Clean Up the River Brent group.
Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 rafts.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts. .	On-going. Autumn / winter.	WHCG have a programme 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. Canal & River Trust.	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	The Canal & River Trust reduced and removed in early 2022, some willows in the reed bed in the eastern marsh.
Reedbeds: remove young trees and marginal encroachment	Canal and River Trust	£85,000 PPL funding	Removing young trees and vegetation overhanging margins	In early 2022, The Canal & River Trust made improvements in the eastern marsh including removal of some debris and reduction of willow growth where that is causing obstructions or affecting other habitats. There is more to be done.
Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed 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. 2023: CRT works to create alcoves in the reedbed in the Eastern Marsh.

Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing. Rubbish noted during the water drawdown of Jan-Feb 2021 which needs to be extracted, and the possibility of some additional materials since.
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.		Where permanent, woodland at the Welsh Harp is largely self-managing. If resources were available, some areas could be enhanced. However, where willow and other tree species are encroaching onto other habitats, for example marshland or reedbeds, then management is required to maintain the mix of habitats, particularly at the margins of the 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.	<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) 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 to 2021.</p> <p>For the southern shore, a programme of works was detailed by the C&RT Ecologist in early 2024 and discussions are in progress to proceed with works from about September 2024.</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.	Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.
Marshland: orchids and other marshland plants	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	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 and habitats (northern arm of Reservoir)	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon Redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet. Discussions are in progress regarding other works in the northern arm of the Reservoir.
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	The remnants of the previous boardwalk have been collected by volunteers. A section of the original boardwalk and a small footbridge remain in place after repairs by volunteers.

<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 and Giant Hogweed elsewhere.</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>On-going by Barnet Council, Brent Council, and the Canal and River Trust. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment; and knowledge is shared between partners of the River Brent Catchment Partnership. Thames 21 working with Brent Council and others, have treated some 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>Spring 2022: Brent: Control of Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space near to Wood Lane. Barnet: Similar work on invasive species.</p> <p>Autumn 2023: Completion of Riverside Connections control programme for Japanese Knotweed and visible Giant Hogweed between Quainton Street Open Space and the foot of the Welsh Harp dam wall.</p> <p>2024: Giant Hogweed: Welsh Harp (and particularly downstream at sites towards Alperton).</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>Pedestrian footbridge alongside historic, vehicular footbridge.</p>
<p>West Hendon Playing Fields</p>	<p>Barnet Council</p>	<p>Barnet Council</p>		

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