

MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday 20 March 2025 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Rishikesh Chakraborty - London Borough of Barnet (Chair)
Councillor Ernest Ambe - London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Parvez Ahmed - London Borough of Brent
Councillor Krupa Sheth - London Borough of Brent
Councillor Mary Mitchell – London Borough of Brent
Councillor Liz Dixon - London Borough of Brent

Also in attendance:

Matt Gunyon - London Borough of Barnet
Harriet Duffield - London Borough of Barnet
Leslie Williams - London Borough of Brent
Hannah Reid - Thames 21
John Shepherd
Judy Shepherd
Manfred Mollenhauer

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all Committee Members and participants to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Schneiderman, London Borough of Barnet.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

4. Declarations of pecuniary interests

None.

5. Public Questions and Comments (if any)

None.

6. Report of the Monitoring Officer (if any)

None.

7. London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management Plan

Matthew Gunyon, Head of Greenspaces - Greenspaces and Leisure, introduced the report and provided an overview to the committee.

Mr Gunyon provided an update on management and operations. He informed the committee that the issue of a reported rough sleeper had been resolved.

It was reported that West Hendon Playing Fields Project would progress forward with a phased approach to delivering the masterplan.

In addition, Mr Gunyon outlined to the committee that the London Borough of Barnet's in-house Grounds Maintenance team had cleared an area of vegetation between the north marsh and the playing fields.

The Chair thanked Matthew Gunyon, Head of Greenspaces for the update and noted the reported.

The Chair provided an opportunity for the committee to ask questions.

A question was raised regarding monitoring water pollution levels. In response, Mr Gunyon informed the committee he has reached out to the Environment Agency for a response and will update the committee at the next meeting.

Cllr Mitchell (Brent) raised a concern of a ward member who had a subsidence issue with trees. In response, Mr Gunyon asked if Cllr Mitchell or the ward member could reach out so the issue can be investigated.

A request was made for signs such as 'no BBQs' to be considered. Mr Gunyon informed the committee that the service was reviewing enforcement patrols to take place over Friday and Saturday summer nights.

8. London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan

Leslie Williams, Project Officer, introduced the report and provided an overview to the committee.

Mr Williams updated the committee on recommended works to conserve the marshland along the edge of the Brent Reservoir with Neasden Recreation.

In reference to section 3.2.11, Mr Williams informed the committee that the Canals and River Trust have submitted a planning application for the Pulley Wheel sculpture. Materials from this have been reclaimed and recovered from a previous Dam. It was noted to the committee that information regarding the planning application is on the website.

In addition, Mr Williams informed the Board that Brent Council launched the Staples Corner Growth Area Masterplan.

The Chair thanked Leslie Williams, Project Officer for the update and noted the reported.

The Chair provided an opportunity for the committee to ask questions.

Cllr Mitchell (Brent) requested an updated on the Welsh Harp Education Centre, in response Mr Williams outlined that it is was not his specific area but the scope of the idea remained roughly the same and advised Cllr Mitchell to get in touch with the relevant department.

9. **Any other urgent business**

The Chair, Cllr Chakraborty thanked the committee for the past year. Cllr Ambe (Barnet) thanked Cllr Chakraborty for his hard work this past year.

The meeting closed at 6.37 pm

COUNCILLOR R CHAKRABORTY
Chair