

VIRTUAL MEETING

WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 2020

AT 7.00 PM

TO: MEMBERS OF WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)

Councillor John Hart	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Saira Don	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Nagus Narenthira	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Anne Clarke	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Roxanne Mashari	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Parvez Ahmed	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Vincent Lo	London Borough of Brent
Councillor Amer Agha	London Borough of Brent
Councillor George Crane	London Borough of Brent

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Helene Richman	London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Alex Prager	London Borough of Barnet

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

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Service contact: Pakeezah Rahman pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 6452

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454

ASSURANCE GROUP

Please consider the environment before printing.

A live audio recording and documents can be found here:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=206&MId=10716&Ver=4>

Member

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

Organisation

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 16 January 2020 at 7.00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 3

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

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

1. **Declarations of pecuniary interests**

None.

2. **Deputations**

None.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: -

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

4. **Matters arising**

None.

5. **Management Plan (Barnet)**

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

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

The Greenspaces Team, Community Safety and Councillor John Hart undertook a site visit during which evidence of two small fly tips was noted in addition to litter in and around the area. The Community Safety Officer agreed to arrange to have the area litter picked by the Community Payback Team. Mr Gunyon urged members to take pictures of incidents of fly tipping and report them to the BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED:

That the report Management Plan (Barnet) be noted.

6. Management Plan (Brent)

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

Marshland work: Officers of the Canal & River Trust, Brent Council, and members of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association had met to discuss continuation of the work commenced last winter. In some areas of the Welsh Harp Open Space and at Neasden Recreation Ground tree growth during recent years in the marshland and

nearby areas had shaded marshland, reduced views of the Reservoir and increased wind-shadows into the reservoir which affected water wind sports.

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

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

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

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

Healthy Walks programme:

See:

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

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

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

RESOLVED:

That the report Management Plan (Barnet) be noted.

7. Environment Agency - Verbal Report

None.

8. Planning Issues

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

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

None.

10. **Any other urgent business**

GLA Funding Support for Brent Catchment Partnership

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

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

List of Flora and Fauna

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

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

COUNCILLOR J HART
Vice Chair in the Chair



Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

19 November 2020

AGENDA ITEM 5

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment

WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2020/21 year to date. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan, (dated 15 March 2016) is available on the Brent Council website at <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/parks-and-allotments/park-finder/welsh-harp-reservoir/>
- 3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan that lists current year progress and actions that may require a longer time-frame and/or for the resources to be identified to undertake the action. For

this committee the Action Plan is updated as Appendix A. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress. Additional notes are provided in the following paragraphs:

- 3.3 Marshland work: Following the work in the winters of 2018/19 and 2019/20, the Canal & River Trust and volunteers of the Welsh Harp Sailing Association have organised a continuation of the marshland work. The earlier work has been successful in encouraging the herbaceous marshland flora and in re-opening views to the reservoir, while retaining spaced trees and groups of trees on the shoreline. Preparation and application for consents was organised during the summer of 2020. Work on site commenced in early September 2020. Work has been conducted taking account of current Covid regulations at the time of the work; and has included a break of a few weeks to re-access the situation. Projects to date have been on the northern shore, towards and around the pond near to the boundaries of the two Boroughs. It is planned for works to continue until the end of February 2021, given the bird breeding season from 1st March to end of August.
- 3.4 Three reasons for the work are:
- Habitat and wildlife: The marshland and the marshland flora are valuable for wildlife. As the marshland is only a few metres wide, the marshland habitat is important at this location. The growth of the trees shades the ground flora. The aim is to reduce the cover of the trees in the marshland while retaining a selection of the marshland trees.
 - Water wind-sports: Trees on the edge of the reservoir create a wind shadow that can extend over the reservoir and which reduces the wind for water sports.
 - Landscape and amenity: The growth of the trees can reduce the view of the reservoir and the views across the reservoir.
- 3.5 Consent from Natural England identifies the boundaries within which the work can proceed and lists conditions. Locally, notes from the previous work has been summarised into a guidance note which aims to act as a style-guide to the work. In particular to identify which types of trees are priorities for retaining near to the water and the types of trees that are a priority for coppicing.
- 3.6 The coppicing does often reveal accumulated litter including washed-up material in the marshland, while at the same time provides temporary access opportunities for clearing the litter before the marshland flora regrows.
- 3.7 Public Spaces Protection Order. Parks. Following the report to Brent Council's Cabinet of 9th September 2019, implementation of the Public Space Protection Orders is proceeding in parks.
<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=455&MId=5357&Ver=4>
- 3.8 Meadow areas: The meadow areas, amongst the amenity grassland of Neasden Recreation Ground, are due for an annual cut in the early autumn of 2020.
- 3.9 Healthy Walks programme:

The walking programme recommenced in August 2020 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/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/sports-and-wellbeing/sport-activity-finder/healthy-walks-in-brent-welsh-harp-nature-walk/>

- 3.10 Cycling in Neasden Recreation Ground: On 25th November 2019 a decision was made at full Council to revoke a byelaw and to allow cycling in some of Brent's parks and open spaces. Cycling is considered to provide benefits for health and for sustainable transport. The intention is to promote safe and responsible cycling. Detailed surveys and observations of all parks and open spaces covered by the byelaw have been completed to identify any potential areas of conflict between cyclists and other park users, these areas included:

- Entrances
- play areas
- outdoor gyms
- cafes and picnic areas
- paths that may be too narrow to allow safe sharing of the space, or
- places with a steep topography that may affect cycling speeds as hills can encourage faster and slower paces.

- 3.11 Where potential conflicts and risks have been identified, mitigation measures are recommended which include; '5mph' signs and surface markings to reduce speed and encourage safe cycling and 'no cycling' signs in areas where the paths are too narrow or close to park facilities. Appendix B includes details of the signs identified for parks in Brent including for Neasden Recreation Ground.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan provides recommendations for works to be undertaken. Works are only undertaken when approved by the service responsible for delivering the works within existing approved budgets.
- 4.2 The Action Plan 2020/21 (Appendix A) actions are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable within existing budgets in the short term. More details of works are included in Appendix A."

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp is a designated 'Site of Special Scientific Interest ('SSSI')'. Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ('CROW') and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) sets out the duties in relation to SSSIs. Land owners or occupiers, and also public bodies, are required to give notice to and consult with Natural England where they wish to carry out, or cause or permit to be carried out any operation in an area of land that is of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features (this requirement applies to operations

within a SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest). Natural England will issue consent, which may have conditions or refuse consent. It is a criminal offence to carry out a listed operation without Natural England's consent or to ignore any conditions of a consent which may result in an unlimited fine and a restoration order. CROW (and section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) places a duty on all public bodies to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of a SSSI. When advice is obtained from Natural England prior to carrying out the works, an explanation of how the Council has taken into account any advice Natural England has given should be provided –

The Council must be able to show that it considered alternatives that could reduce the impact on the SSSI and the methods being used are those that cause as little damage as practicable to the land:-

The Council should demonstrate how it has assessed differing interests (including the special interests of the SSSI) before deciding to go ahead with the works.

- 5.2 It is good practice for 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 2020-2021

The Management Plan outlines the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir. These are achievable over varying time-frames, though many are not affordable in the short term. This Action Plan tracks current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	RAG status (text column provided for use if plain printing)	Progress: 2020-21 to 22 nd October 2020
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (Canal and River Trust)	Canal and River Trust	Maintain. On-Going	GREEN	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	GREEN	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing Infrastructure: club-houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the Canal and River Trust; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	GREEN	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure. See also Phoenix Canoe Club.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	GREEN	The WHCG organise winter projects around the hides.

Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	GREEN	Refer to Barnet.
Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	GREEN	Largely self-managing.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, (Brent)	Thames 21 are managing the Centre.	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre from January 2016.	AMBER	Thames 21 have managed the Centre from January 2016. Activities at the Centre have been affected by the restrictions on activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
Allotments	Brent, West Hendon Allotment Society	Brent: refer to Allotments and Food Growing Strategy. Barnet: West Hendon Allotments are self-managed by the holders.	Allotments are maintained. There are some areas for biodiversity within the Dors Close Allotments.	GREEN	West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close Allotments.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, and other parks furniture. Litter collection.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	GREEN	Maintained; and well-used. The signage on 'section 10' of the Capital Ring including the Welsh Harp, was due for checking by the volunteer Capital Ring Rangers in late February 2020.

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

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

Litter. Clean up projects.	Brent Council. Barnet Council. Canal & River Trust. Thames 21. Environment Agency.	Landowners: Brent Council, Barnet Council, Canal & River Trust. Leaseholders. Also much volunteer involvement.	On-going.	AMBER	<p>The marshland conservation work provides temporary improved access for litter picking.</p> <p>Neasden Recreation Ground: As reported previously to WHJCC.</p> <p>From spring 2019, winter 2019/2020 and from the late summer of 2020: Litter clean-up downstream at Quainton Street Open Space organized by Thames 21.</p> <p>There are some areas within the Welsh Harp with both accumulated and on-going littering.</p>
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going.	AMBER	<p>Maintenance is on-going.</p> <p>Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.</p>
Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 rafts.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts. .	On-going. Autumn / winter.	AMBER	WHCG have a programme for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. Recent problems with access to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	AMBER	Led by the WHCG.

Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	AMBER	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, Canal and River Trust	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		AMBER	Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 - ongoing	AMBER	Action Plan published at: http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/

Cool Oak Lane bridge. Cool Oak Lane bridge and Wood Lane traffic.	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.	Works in progress: early 2020. Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017.	AMBER	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development. Works in progress: early 2020. Barnet to update on progress.
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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>Willow and scrub growth is exceeding management work on the shoreline. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) has reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland.</p> <p>Discussions from autumn 2018 onwards by Canal & River Trust, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Brent Council; and from summer 2020 with Barnet Council and Welsh Harp Conservation Group.</p> <p>Welsh Harp Open Space: trial marshland works by Welsh Harp Sailing Association, 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).</p> <p>2020-21: Natural England consent sought for works for 2020-21. Local guidelines drafted to describe the works. Works commenced in September 2020 organised by Welsh Harp Sailing Association (with the Canal & River Trust; and Brent Council). Progressing to area around the pond on the northern shore and views of the reservoir from paths.</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.
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	RED / AMBER	The boardwalk is damaged. Update: 03/11/2020: possibility of restoring in 2021.

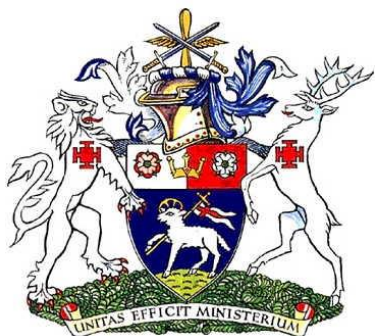
Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council	Brent parks have been dealing with Japanese Knotweed at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Thames 21 are investigating possible systems for mapping of invasive species; possibly by linking to existing work by other recording partners.	Control of these species requires continuing attention: timely short-term control; control at the time of other works; and as part of longer term management.	RED	On-going by Brent Council and Barnet Council. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment. Operational knowledge is also shared via the River Brent Catchment Partnership.
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Brent Park Signs Survey

Park Name	Location Reference	Photo	Description
Neasden Recreation Ground	Aboyne Road Entrance 1		Agenda Annex 1no 5mph sign to be located on new post in grassed area
Neasden Recreation Ground	Aboyne Road Entrance 2		1no 5mph sign to be located on gate
Neasden Recreation Ground	North Circular Road Entrance		1no 5mph sign to be located on gate
Neasden Recreation Ground	Outdoor Gym		1no No cycling sign to be installed on new post in grassed area
Neasden Recreation Ground	Playground Entrance		1no No cycling sign to be installed on railings by gate
Neasden Recreation Ground	Sports Court Entrance		1no No cycling sign to be installed on palisade fencing
Neasden Recreation Ground	North Circular Road Entrance by Bridge 1		1no 5mph sign to be located on existing post replacing existing sign

Brent Park Signs Survey

Neasden Recreation Ground	North Circular Road Entrance by Bridge 2		1no 5mph sign to be located on existing post replacing existing sign
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Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

19 November 2020

Agenda Item 6

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

Summary

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

Officers Recommendations

1. That the committee consider and note the contents of this report and to invite the committee to make comments on the contents of the report.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee is comprised of Canals and Rivers Trust, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee only and meets on a quarterly basis.
- 1.2 The committee is invited to note and make comments on the on-going site management issues during this quarter as follows:
- 1.3 Illegal encampments
The Greenspaces Team continue to work closely with the Barnet Community Safety Team, the Local Police and other partners to identify and remove encampments;
- 1.4 Litter and Flytipping
- 1.4.1 A request has been put to the Barnet Community Safety Team to consider the need for CCTV along Cool Oak Lane.
- 1.4.2 Fly Tipping should be reported to the BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk
- 1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan & Replacement Ball Court
- 1.5.1 The Sports Hub Master Plans which covers West Hendon Playing Fields and Barnet/Kind George V Playing Fields Master plans were presented to the Environment Committee 12 March 2020 (<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=9910&Ver=4>), the committee approved the following recommendations;
1. That the Committee noted the outcomes of the public and stakeholder consultation on the draft Master Plan for Barnet and King George V Playing Fields.
 2. That the Committee approved the Final Master Plan for Barnet and King George V Playing Fields.
 3. That the Committee noted the outcomes of the public and stakeholder consultation on the draft Master Plan for West Hendon Playing Fields.
 4. That the Committee approved the Final Master Plan for West Hendon Playing Fields including the inclusion of Woodfield Park in the Final Master Plan.
 5. That the Committee noted that the Business Cases for the Sports Hubs for Barnet and King George V Playing Fields, and West Hendon Playing Fields will be reported to a future meeting of the Environment Committee and other Theme Committees as appropriate.

- 1.5.2 Key changes to the West Hendon proposal following the review of the consultation;
 - 1.5.2.1 Relocation of car parking to Woodfield Park. The proposed car park would be 94 spaces compared to the 99 spaces provided in the Cool Oak Lane car park.
 - 1.5.2.2 Relocation of the high ropes course to Woodfield Park.
 - 1.5.2.3 Include a new pedestrian crossing point along Cool Oak Lane to provide safe access between West Hendon Playing Fields and Woodfield Park.
 - 1.5.2.4 Simplified pedestrian / cycle route through SSSI and relocation of proposed bird hides.
 - 1.5.2.5 Include increased planting to create a 'buffer zone' between the Astro Turf Pitches and Local Nature Reserve.
- 1.5.3 One of the tennis courts in West Hendon Playing Fields is being converted into a Basketball Court. Posts have been erected and we are seeking quotations to complete an overlay of the playing surface along with new lines.
 - 1.5.3.1 Note these facilities are currently close due to the current government guidelines in relation to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee include that it considers and co-ordinates all the interests of recreation, leisure, maintenance and nature conservation with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The committee note the actions being implemented as set out under section one.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities that Barnet's parks and open spaces will be amongst the best in London. The need to develop more innovative ways of maintaining its parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough.

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

- 5.2.1 Any costs incurred from the programmes and initiatives will be met within the existing Greenspaces budget.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to safeguard, protect and enhance sites of special scientific interest. The Local Authority has the power under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. However, English Nature must be consulted by the Authority in the use of the powers given by section 21. The 1949 Act states that a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) must be managed in such a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.
- 5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:
“to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation / leisure / maintenance / nature conservation and statutory requirements of the British Waterways Board and the Environment Agency at the Welsh Harp; with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation”.
- 5.4.3 Barnet’s Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.1 that the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these Local Authorities.

5.5 Risk Management

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

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 Parks and Open Spaces benefit all sectors of the community by improving the local environment. Maintenance is carried out according to the management plan and takes into account requests from residents, users and Members. Improvements are made, wherever possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010

- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.7 **Corporate Parenting Principles**

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

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

5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 None

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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Natural England
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP
United Kingdom

AGENDA ITEM 8

7th September 2020

Dear Sir / Madam,

Welsh Harp Reservoir (Brent Reservoir - London, NW9); minor scrub/tree clearance

I write on behalf of the West Hendon Partnership Board, a resident-led steering group, whose objective is to positively influence the regeneration of the West Hendon estate.

The Welsh Harp Reservoir, a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), is a much-loved local natural resource to this community that we all enjoy living next to. However, for most of the year the view of the water is largely hidden from the estate due to the proliferation of scrub and trees, only being semi-visible in the winter months when the vegetation has died off for another season.

With this in mind, the West Hendon Partnership Board approached Barnet Council earlier this year, enquiring if a small section of scrub and trees could be cleared from the Welsh Harp banks, to afford the residents of our estate a clear and direct view of the water front. The area chosen is limited in size with the intention of causing the least disruption.

We were pleased Barnet Council supported these indicative proposals, and working with the developer, Barratt Metropolitan LLP, a plan has been prepared setting out the extent of the proposed clearance from within the SSSI (appended to this letter).

As the primary statutory undertaker for matters relating to SSSI's in England, we hope you are in a position to approve this request, and we look forward to enjoying far greater views of the Welsh Harp, and its wildlife, from within the grounds of our estate and our homes.

Please note that I would like to delegate correspondence in this matter moving forward with regard to agreeing any conditions, or agreement of other technical matters, to Barnet Council and Barratt Metropolitan LLP.

Yours faithfully,

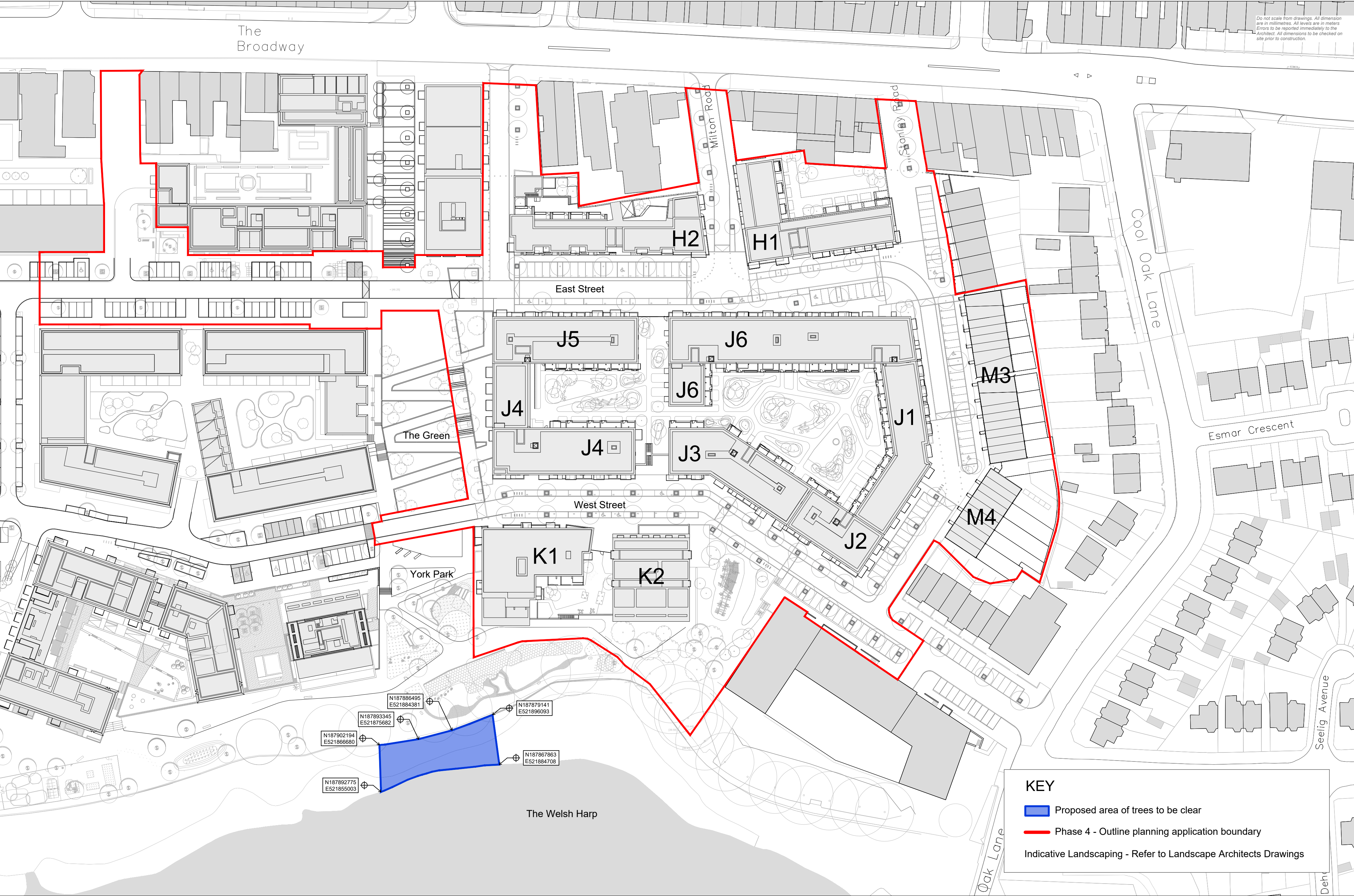
pp 

Judy Lynch
Chairperson (and on behalf of)
West Hendon Partnership Board

judy.lynch.lavender@gmail.com

cc...

Simon Bailey, Interim Regeneration Manager, Barnet Council
Gaurav Powale, Barratt Metropolitan LLP
Rob Webb, Resident Independent Advisor, Priority Estates Projects Ltd
Cllrs Alex Prager, Saira Don, Helene Richman (West Hendon Ward, Barnet Council)



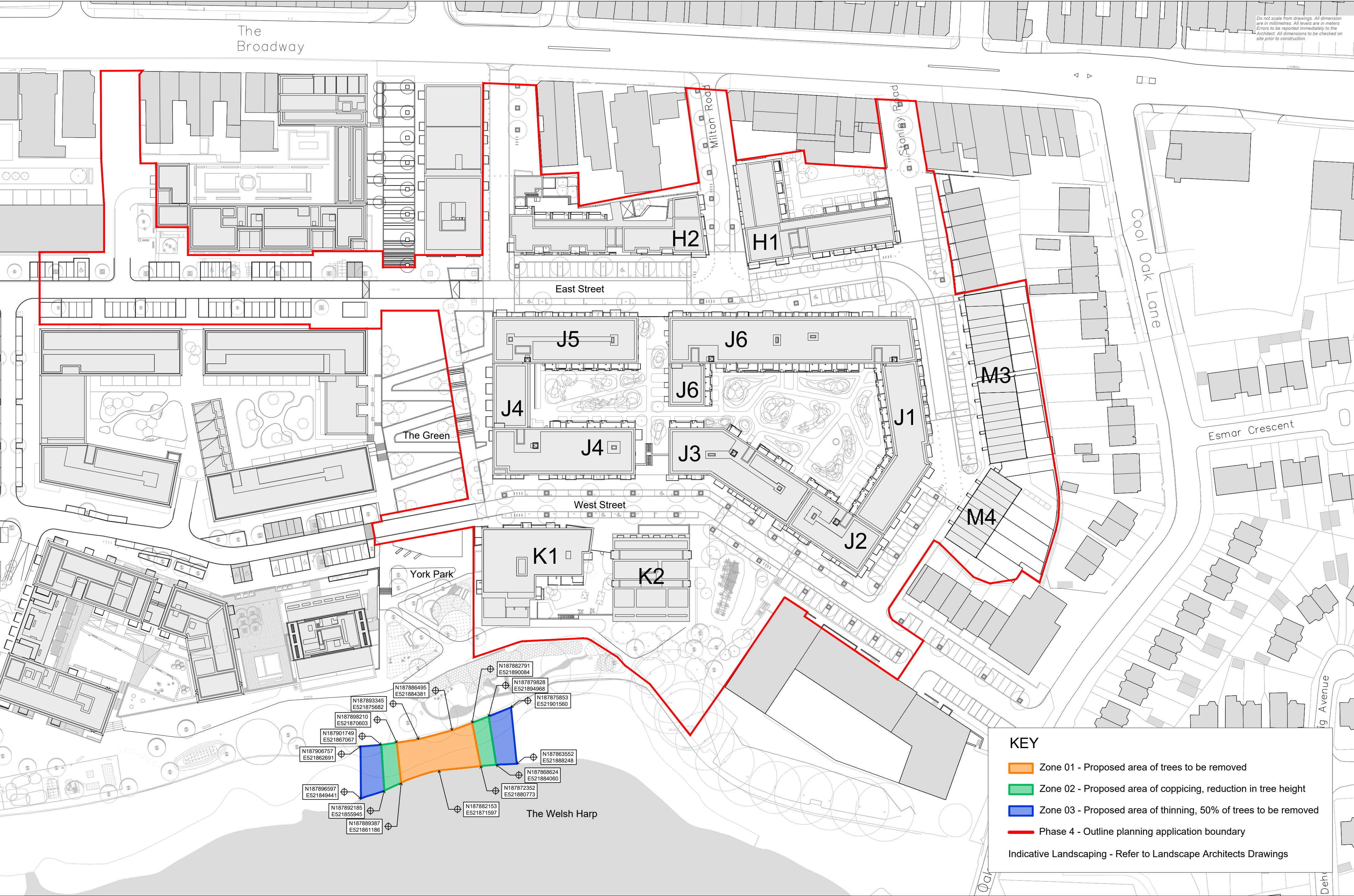
Do not scale from drawings. All dimension are in millimetres. All levels are in meters. Errors to be reported immediately to the Architect. All dimensions to be checked on site prior to construction.

KEY

Proposed area of trees to be clear

Phase 4 - Outline planning application boundary

Indicative Landscaping - Refer to Landscape Architects Drawings



Do not scale from drawings. All dimension are in millimetres. All levels are in meters. Errors to be reported immediately to the Architect. All dimensions to be checked on site prior to construction.

KEY

- Zone 01 - Proposed area of trees to be removed
- Zone 02 - Proposed area of coppicing, reduction in tree height
- Zone 03 - Proposed area of thinning, 50% of trees to be removed
- Phase 4 - Outline planning application boundary
- Indicative Landscaping - Refer to Landscape Architects Drawings

DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION	CHK
10.03.2020	P1	Issued for information	JL
21.09.2020	P2	Issued for information	JL
23.09.2020	P3	Issued for information	JL
02.10.2020	P4	Issued for information	JL

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