



## Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

17 November 2021

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| <b>Title</b>                   | London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update  |
| <b>Report of</b>               | Executive Director - Environment  |
| <b>Wards</b>                   | West Hendon   |
| <b>Status</b>                  | Public  |
| <b>Urgent</b>                  | No  |
| <b>Key</b>                     | None  |
| <b>Enclosures</b>              | None  |
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### 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 Illegal Fishing

The council has installed additional no fishing signage in recent years however it is a regular target for vandalism.

During the summer months on 2021 ParkGuard were commissioned to undertake patrols in a number of parks across the borough including Welsh Harp and they engaged with any anglers informing them it was not permitted and reported such instances to the Environment Agency.

### 1.5 Litter and Flytipping

Fly Tipping should be reported to the [BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk)

### 1.6 Parks Patrols

During the summer of 2021 the Council commissioned ParkGuard as part of a pilot project to undertake parks patrols in some key hotspot locations which included the Welsh Harp.

The pilot has come to a closure and the council is undertaking a review of the pilot in order to consider if there is an option to provide a similar service in the future subject to funding being available.

### 1.7 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan

1.7.1 The outline business case for The West Hendon Playing Fields Master plans was presented and approved at Policy and Resources Committee 16 June 2021 under agenda item 9;

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10888&Ver=4>

The committee approved the outline business case and £18.8m of capital funding for the delivery of the scheme.

1.7.2 The council is now forming a Programme Board and Project Team in order to develop the design and submit a planning application.

### 1.8 Welsh Harp and SSSI management

- 1.8.1 The council in partnership with Brent Council, Canals and Rivers Trust, The GLA, The London Wildlife Trust and Thames 21 is developing an overarching Vision for the Welsh Harp and a review of the Management Plan.

## 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

## 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 N/A

## 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

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

## 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

### 5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

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

#### **Clean, safe and well-run**

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

#### **Family friendly**

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

#### **Healthy**

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

#### **Thriving**

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

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

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

## 5.3 **Social Value**

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

## 5.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to safeguard, protect and enhance sites of special scientific interest. The Local Authority has the power under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. However, English Nature must be consulted by the Authority in the use of the powers given by section 21. The 1949 Act states that a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) must be managed in such a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

- 5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:  
 “to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation / leisure / maintenance / nature conservation and statutory requirements of the 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](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) in the biodiversity section.