

AGENDA ITEM: 7

Meeting	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Date	19 July 2011
Subject	Welsh Harp Management Plan
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment
Summary	To report the position on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and on-going site management.

Officer Contributors	Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Services Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	West Hendon
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

Contact for further information: Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Services Manager, 020 8359 7803.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the contents of the report be noted.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 23 March 2011 – approved the proposed boundary of the Local Nature Reserve.
- 2.2 Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 15 March 2005 agreed the designation of a Local Nature Reserve on the Welsh Harp.
- 2.3 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee of 15 June 2005 agreed draft byelaws.
- 2.4 Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee on 5 September 2006 and Cabinet on 16 October 2006 endorsed the draft byelaws for formal approval by full Council on 7 November 2006.
- 2.5 Council formally endorsed the draft byelaws on 7 November 2007.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Councils Corporate Plan 2010 - 2013 identifies as one of its Corporate Priorities the need to ensure Barnet's continued success as a prosperous place where people want to live and at the same time preserve and enhance our Greenspaces as identified as part of a successful London suburb".

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

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

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 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.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 None.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 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.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee, as set out in its Constitution, include:
“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 and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.”

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1. Current ongoing management issues.

9.1.1 Trees Rear off Dehar Crescent

Consent has been given from English Nature regarding pollarding various willows and works have been carried out.

The Welsh Harp Tree Management and English Nature consent letter is detailed in Appendix A.

9.1.2 Japanese Knotweed Control Programme

An annual inspection was carried out in April, this was to monitor the previously controlled areas of infestations and to located further areas for control. There was one new area of infestation which is located near the bottom of the allotments and the new bird hide. The weed control programme for invasive species will continue, further control measures in the Welsh Harp will be carried out via injection directly into the plant canes, reducing any concerns regarding contamination to honey bees from glysophate that has been sprayed onto the surfaces of the leaves/flowers.

9.1.3 Welsh Harp Working Group – Action Plan

The Welsh Harp working group has not met for over six months, a review of the group and its ability to commit and deliver should be considered.

The working group comprises of the following representatives:

- London Borough of Barnet
- London Borough of Brent
- British Waterways
- Welsh Harp Conservationists
- Welsh Harp sailing Association

9.1.4 Brent River Partnership

All the stakeholders located within the Brent Catchment have formed an informal partnership to deliver joined up working in delivering the Water Framework Directive, particular priorities are the eradication of invasive species throughout the catchment and improving water quality.

9.1.5 Infrastructure

Three new ranger litter bins and two new wooden sleeper benches have been installed along the main footpath from Brent to Cool Oak Lane. One dog bin was removed from the west Hendon side of the welsh harp

9.1.6 Litter Collection

With the rise in litter during the summer months weekend litter patrols / collections have commenced this will go toward the aesthetics of the welsh harp.

9.1.7 Rough Sleeper and Professional Dog Walkers

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team and LBB's PITT team have both been informed of the various situations which have arisen and are currently in the process of dealing with them.

9.1.8 Fly Tipping

There has been a new low metal vehicle barrier installed to the car park entrance of Woodfield Park. This was installed in April to help reduce the amount of fly tipping which was occurring in the car park.

9.1.9 Blue Green Algae

An officer as well as a member of our Health and Safety team will be carrying out an inspection of the site whilst installing warning signs around the water edge

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Legal – PD

CFO – SP