

**MEETING**

**WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**DATE AND TIME**

**WEDNESDAY 11TH JULY, 2018**

**AT 7.00 PM**

**VENUE**

**HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG**

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

Chairman: To be appointed

Vice Chairman: To be appointed

Councillor John Hart  
Councillor Jess Brayne  
Councillor Saira Don  
Councillor Nagus Narenthira

Councillor George Crane  
Councillor Pavez Ahmed  
Councillor Roxanne Mashari  
Councillor Vincent Lo

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Edel Fingleton	Thames 21 (Welsh Harp Education Centre)
David Carter	Brent Sports Council
Sam Thomas	Canal and River Trust
Sam Ho	Environment Agency
A Jefferson	Hendon Rifle Club
Dale Langdale	Hendon Rifle Club
Julie Johnson	Local Agenda 21
Clive Cohen	London Wildlife Trust
Dianne Murphy	London Wildlife Trust
Phil Atkinson	Phoenix Canoe
Jon Bell	Princes Park Youth Football Club

Commander G F Beck MBE	Training Ship Broadsword
Brian Turner	Training Ship Broadsword
Andrew Haynes	Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Roy Beddard	Welsh Harp Conservation Group
John Shepherd	Welsh Harp Sailing Association
Martin Hall	West Hendon Allotment Society
Judy Shepherd	West Hendon Community Forum
Derrick Chung	West Hendon Residents' Association / Friends of York Park
Geoffrey Johnson	Woolmead Residents' Association

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is at 10AM on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2018. Requests must be submitted to Pakeezah Rahman [pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk) 020 8359 6452.

**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](mailto:pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk) 020 8359 6452.

Media Relations contact: Gareth Greene 020 8359 7039

## **ASSURANCE GROUP**

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair	
2.	Minutes	5 - 10
3.	Absence of Members	
4.	Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests	
5.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (if any)	
6.	Membership Applications	11 - 14
7.	London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan	15 - 24
8.	London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management plan	25 - 30
9.	Verbal update on activities in the Welsh Harp	
10.	Water Testing Verbal Update	31 - 32
11.	Any Other Business	
12.	Any Other Items that the Chairman Decides are Urgent	

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## **MINUTES OF THE WELSH HARP JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 7.00 pm**

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

PRESENT: Councillor Agha (London Borough of Brent) (Chair), Councillors Ahmed (London Borough of Brent), Hart (London Borough of Barnet) and Langleben (London Borough of Barnet) and Richard Bennet (Canal and River Trust), Sam Ho (Environmental Agency), Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust), Dianne Murphy (London Wildlife Trust), Phil Atkinson (Phoenix Canoe), Andrew Haynes (Welsh Harp Conservation Group), John Shepherd (Welsh Harp Sailing Association), Martin Hall (West Hendon Allotment Society), Geoffrey Johnson (Woolmead Residents' Association) Nanayaa Ampoma (Planning Officer, Barnet Council) and Daniella Levene (Friends of Welsh Harp)

Also present: Peter and Renata Enos (Cleaner Earth UK) and Lucy Shuker (Brent River Catchment Partnership)

### **1. Chair's opening remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the municipal year.

### **2. Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Roy Beddard (Welsh Harp Conservation Group)
- Derrick Chung (West Hendon Residents' Association)
- Councillor Crane (Brent Council)
- Matthew Gunyon (Partnerships and Development Manager - Barnet Council)
- Rebecca Hart (Natural England)
- Julie Johnson (Local Agenda 21)
- Councillor Khatri (Barnet Council)
- Councillor Mashari (Brent Council)
- Nathan Smith (Barratt)

Councillor Dixon was present as substitute for Councillor Mashari.

### **3. Declarations of interests**

Councillor Langleben declared a personal interest as Trustee of the West Hendon Estate Community Fund.

For purposes of transparency, Councillor Langleben advised that his spouse was employed by Brent Council.

### **4. Deputations (if any)**

There were no deputations.

## **5. Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as an accurate record subject to the following amendments:

- Daniella Levene (Friends of the Welsh Harp) be included in the list of those present.
- That it be recorded that an update on Cool Oak Bridge was sought.

## **6. Matters arising (if any)**

The Chair noted the information provided by Eric Holroyd of Barratt in response to actions agreed at the last meeting, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A member of the committee sought assurance that the bird and bat boxes installed as part of the West Hendon Regeneration were appropriately cleaned and maintained. It was agreed that this query would be submitted to Nathan Smith (Barratt).

RESOLVED: that Nathan Smith of Barratt be asked to respond to the committee's query regarding the maintenance and cleaning of the bird and bat boxes installed as part of the West Hendon Regeneration.

## **7. Management Plan (Barnet)**

The Chair advised that Matthew Gunyon (Partnerships and Development Manager, Greenspaces, Barnet Council) was currently on paternity leave and drew the committee's attention to the written report provided. The Chair confirmed that in the absence of Matthew Gunyon, any actions for the Greenspaces team of Barnet Council would be recorded and forwarded following the meeting. Nanayaa Ampoma (Planner Officer, Barnet Council) advised that she was in attendance from Barnet Council.

It was noted that the report incorrectly referred to British Waterways, which was now known as the Canal and River Trust.

RESOLVED:

- i) that the report of the Strategic Director – Environment, Barnet Council be noted;
- ii) that the following matters be raised with the Greenspaces team of Barnet Council:
  - a. the committee sought an update on the works on Cool Oak Bridge;
  - b. that with regard to the drainage encroachment referred to at paragraph 1.6 of the report, a further incident had been witnessed of a hose pipe being used to continue draining waste from the private property into the Welsh Harp.

## **8. Management Plan (Brent)**

Leslie Williams (Barham Park Project Officer) introduced the report updating the committee on the progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan

since the last meeting. The committee heard that the local community and the Welsh Harp Litterpickers had organised a very successful clean up along several hundred meters of the shoreline and marshland of Neasden Recreation Ground during the winter. Brent council was organising contractors to clear litter along the boundary with the North Circular Road and in an area of scrub woodland near to the eastern end of the Neasden Recreation Ground. The committee was further informed that the boardwalk to the east of Neasden Recreation Ground remained in a damaged condition. The landowner had been contacted and access to the boardwalk had been discouraged.

In the subsequent discussion Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) highlighted that it was now breeding season and suggested that any further clean-up operations be delayed until after August to avoid disrupting nesting birds. Representatives of Cleaner Earth UK, who had been involved in the clean-up operation commented that this would be detrimental to birds and other users of the area, citing health and safety concerns and the harm that could be caused to wildlife by certain forms of litter. Daniella Levene (Friends of the Welsh Harp) noted that disruption to nesting birds could be avoided by ensuring volunteers were appropriately informed of the necessary restrictions. Dianne Murphey (London Wildlife Trust) added that there were many areas that were not sensitive areas with regard to breeding birds.

The committee discussed actions to prevent littering, including the provision of more bins and trash traps, on the spot fines, CCTV and a greater enforcement officer presence. Phil Atkinson (Phoenix Canoe) advised that an enforcement officer was also needed to tackle the prolific illegal fishing in the reservoir. Councillor Langleben highlighted that paragraph 1.4 of the report from Barnet Council indicated that the new parks furniture contract was currently being processed by the legal team of Barnet Council and was due to commence from 1 April 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) that the report from the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment be noted.
- ii) that the following actions be noted for all future clean-up events for the Welsh Harp:
  - The organisers of the event to:
    - a. ensure that volunteers are instructed to avoid any sensitive areas for wildlife, particularly breeding areas for birds;
    - b. provide promotional details in advance to both Brent and Barnet Council to assist in advertising the events;
    - c. share photographs of these event to support post-event promotion of the activity.

**9. Thames 21**

Lucy Shuker (Brent Catchment Partnership Development Manager) outlined the role of the Brent River Catchment Partnership and her role as Development Manager. She would be working with all the partners and stakeholders of the River Brent to deliver environmental improvements and wider benefits to local residents. She would be identifying suitable projects, undertaking fundraising and sharing

knowledge of the river's function and ecology. Lucy Shuker emphasised that she was keen to support existing improvement activity. The committee heard that the Partnership was hosted by Thames 21 and included five local authorities.

Lucy Shuker then discussed a recent pollution incident, commenting that the Environment Agency had done a fantastic job of cleaning up following the event and querying whether there was an opportunity for partners to work together on a larger scale to improve the area affected. The committee heard that the incident had been caused by a fire at a paint factory that had been doused with water, which had subsequently drained into the river Brent and the surrounding woodland. The Environment Agency had acted quickly to pump a lot of the pollutant material out and had monitored the situation in the following weeks. Consultants were now taking detailed ground boreholes and undertaking remedial works.

Richard Bennet (Canal and River Trust) agreed that following the outcome of the investigation, it would be a good opportunity to try to deliver environmental improvements for the site.

The committee subsequently discussed water testing and Samantha Ho (Environment Agency) confirmed that testing was undertaken weekly at two points; in the Silk Stream and at Priestley Way in Brent. Samantha Ho further advised that the key stakeholders and landowners had been informed of the pollution incident. Lucy Shuker advised that part of her role would be to develop a social media presence and this could help in raising awareness of such incidents. Nanayaa Ampoma (Planning Officer, Barnet Council) advised that she would explore how the process for reporting pollution incidents and follow up activity could be better promoted on Barnet Council's website. The Chair highlighted that Brent had a Cleaner Brent app for residents and suggested that it could be explored whether reporting of pollution events could be included in this facility.

#### RESOLVED:

- i) The members of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee should be informed of any pollution incidents in the Welsh Harp via the Brent and Barnet Committee Governance teams.
- ii) That officers of Barnet Council explore better promoting on the Barnet Council's website the process for reporting pollution incidents.
- iii) That officers of Brent Council explore including pollution reporting in the Cleaner Brent App.

#### 10. **Environment Agency - Verbal Report (if any)**

This item was discussed under agenda item 9.

#### 11. **Planning Issues (if any)**

None.

#### 12. **Date of next meeting**

The Chair highlighted that the meeting dates would be confirmed after the meeting calendars for Brent and Barnet Councils were agreed at their respective annual council meetings.

**13. Any other urgent business**

The Chair noted that it had previously been agreed that each member organisation would be given the opportunity to provide a brief update on activity and invited members to make contributions.

Clive Cohen (London Wildlife Trust) queried whether there had been any incidents of bird flu in the Welsh Harp and suggested that contact could be made with colleagues familiar with treating infected birds. Richard Bennet (Canal and River Trust) confirmed that there had been a few incidents of confirmed bird flu.

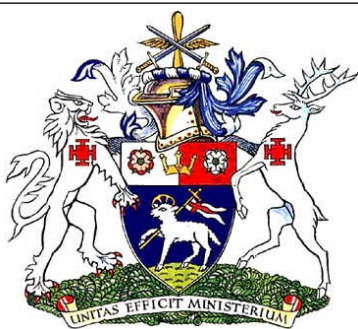
Councillor Langleben (Barnet Council) thanked the Chair and Officers for their hard work and commitment to the committee through the year.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm

Cllr A Agha  
Chair

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## AGENDA ITEM 6



## Welsh Harp Consultative Committee 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018

<b>Title</b>	<b>Membership Applications</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	West Hendon
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Abigail Lewis, Governance Officer <a href="mailto:Abigail.Lewis@barnet.gov.uk">Abigail.Lewis@barnet.gov.uk</a> 020 8359 4369

### Summary

This report informs the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee of two applications from organisations that wish to join the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee.

- (1) (River) Brent Catchment Partnership
- (2) Cleaner Earth UK

### Recommendations

When considering the applications, the Committee must be satisfied that the organisation has sufficient interest in the Welsh harp to justify its nomination.

That, subject to the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee's terms of reference:

- (1) Vote to approve or reject (River) Brent Catchment Partnership application for membership.
- (2) Vote to approve or reject Cleaner Earth UK application for membership/

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Two applications for membership of the Welsh Harp Consultative Committee have been received. The applications are as follows;

Organisation (name and type)	<b>(River) Brent Catchment Partnership</b> - independent governance body, set up to deliver improvements to all River Brent and tributary water bodies as required by the Thames River Basin Management Plan (under UK WFD Regulations).
Description of organisation	The River Brent Catchment Partnership (BCP) acts as a group of organisations (operating across all business sectors and including community groups) committed to improving the rivers, brooks and streams within the River Brent catchment in North and West London.
Interest in the Welsh Harp	<p>The Welsh Harp is a very important site within the wider River Brent catchment, being at the confluence of the two main tributary river systems: the Silk Stream and Dollis Brook/upper Brent.</p> <p>The BCP takes a catchment based approach to improving the Brent rivers and valley environments including the Welsh Harp, working with all stakeholders from neighbouring communities. It is therefore interested in working proactively with all partners to help facilitate, resource and coordinate sustainable integrated environmental improvements to benefit local wildlife and people.</p> <p>Although the BCP is currently hosted by Thames21, which is represented at the JCC as an organisation due to its involvement at the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre, the Brent Catchment Partnership serves the interests of the River Brent independently of Thames21, and seeks to represent the best integration of interests between all partner organisations and general public.</p> <p>This request therefore seeks to recognise the role of the Brent Catchment Partnership as separate and independent from the representative and interests of Thames21.</p>
Name and position of applicant	Dr Lucy Shuker – Development Manager for the Brent Catchment Partnership.

Organisation	<b>Cleaner Earth UK- (Facebook based volunteer group)</b>
Description of organisation	Facebook group founded by Peter Eros. Aim of the group is to raise awareness of plastic pollution caused by littering on environment and society.
Interest in the Welsh Harp	We are both living in close proximity of the Recreational Ground part of Welsh Harp Nature Reserve and have ever growing concern about the impact of the serious issues of homelessness, crime gangs, fly tipping and the littering have on safety of the area for residents and responsible members of public visiting the area, which issues have not been resolved for years. Also we as people from rural background have even deeper concern of the impact human activity brings to wildlife and environment and we believe that awareness and sense of responsibility can be taught through example and making difference of the area you live and know is the starting point to make difference in a global scale.
Name and position of applicant	Peter Eros – Founder of Cleaner Earth UK

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 As outlined in the Welsh Harp Consultative Committees Terms of Reference, organisations may apply to the Committee to be represented. When making the decision the Committee must be satisfied that the organisation has sufficient interest in the Welsh Harp to justify its nomination.

Organisations may apply to the Committee to be represented. Applications should be forwarded in writing to the Clerk, who will arrange for the request to be reported to the Committee for decision.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

3.1 Not applicable;

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 Post decision implementation depends on the decision taken by the Committee.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

Not applicable

**5.2 Social Value**

- 5.2.1 Requests for Membership to the Committee provide an avenue for organisations with an interest in the Welsh Harp to join the Committee.

**5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these other Local Authorities.

**5.4 Risk Management**

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

**5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.5.1 Requests for Membership must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

**5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.



**Welsh Harp Joint Consultative  
Committee**  
11 July 2018

AGENDA ITEM 7

**Report from the Strategic Director  
of Regeneration & Environment**

**WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	1
<b>Background Papers:</b>	▪
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Leslie Williams, Barham Park Project Officer, Regeneration & Environment, Brent Civic Centre. E: <a href="mailto:Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk">Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk</a> 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 2018/19 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/media/16404048/brent-reservoir-welsh-harp-management-plan-15-03-2016.pdf>
- 3.2 The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan for the current year; which for this committee report is updated as Appendix A. The 'Progress' column summarises current progress. These projects include:

- 3.3 Litter clean-up projects outlined at the previous meeting of the Committee.
- 3.4 Control of invasive species, particularly invasive plants, included in reports and updates of partner organisations.
- 3.5 Oak Processionary Moth has recently been reported from the Welsh Harp (though it has been reported during recent years too). For background information see:  
<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/oakprocessionarymoth>

#### **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.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, 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 site of special scientific interest ('SSSI'), and to operations outside the SSSI that may affect the features of interest); and Natural England will issue consent, with conditions or refuse consent. Failing to follow this process is a criminal offence which may result in a 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 the site. 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 –

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

- 5.2 It is good practice for land owners 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 have a general duty to have regard to

the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

- 5.4 The owner of land included in a SSSI has a legal duty 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. Consideration of the duties must precede the decision. It is important that regard is had to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material. 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.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (b) 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;
- (c) 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.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) Tackle prejudice, and
- (b) Promote 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 No potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified at this stage. 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.

**AMAR DAVE**

Strategic Director of Regeneration &  
Environment

## **APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2018-2019**

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 progress of current year priorities and projects.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Approximate timetable</b>	<b>Progress: 2018-19 to 22 June 2018</b>
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (C&RT)	C&RT	Maintain. On-Going	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	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
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.
Clean up projects: including some control of invasive plants.	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.	Brent Council clean up of parts of Neasden Recreation Ground earlier in year. Volunteers from the local community and the Welsh Harp Litterpickers have made a significant recent contribution along the reservoir edge at Neasden Recreation Ground; and elsewhere around the Reservoir.

River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going.  Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. .	Maintenance is on-going.  Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.  Note also the responses to contain and reduce run-off and pollution following a fire in early 2018 near to Staples Corner.
Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure.
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 in for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	The WHCG are expecting to organize projects around the hides during the winter of 2018/19.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	Led by the WHCG. Autumn / winter works.
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 has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.

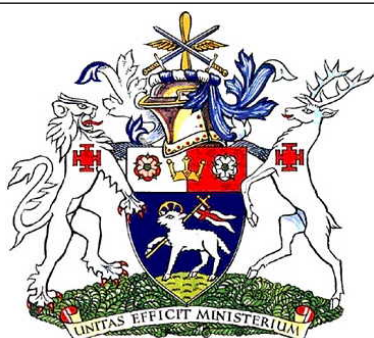
Marshland: maintain	Brent Council, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Canal and River Trust.	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports (by reducing excess growth of trees).	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	Willow growth appears to be 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.
Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet.
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	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.
South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	The boardwalk is damaged.

Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed	C&RT, 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.	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. Project to reduce Himalayan Balsam scheduled for 1st July 2018.
Wet woodland	C&RT, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing.
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.	Paths maintained.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, (Brent)	Thames 21 are managing the Centre following a Community Asset Transfer from Brent Council.	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre re-opened from January 2016.	Thames 21 have managed the Centre from January 2016.

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. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close, commenced in 2013.	West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close.
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.	Maintained; and well-used.  Rough sleepers: see Committee report for updates.
Wood Lane traffic: Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.	Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017.	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development.
Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2018/2019. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).
Signage	Brent / Barnet.			Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 -	Action Plan published at: <a href="http://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/brent_river_corridor_improvement_plan_final_2014.pdf">http://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/brent_river_corridor_improvement_plan_final_2014.pdf</a>

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## AGENDA ITEM 8

**Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee****11 July 2018**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Welsh Harp Management Plan</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Strategic Director - Environment
<b>Wards</b>	West Hendon
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	None
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Matthew Gunyon, <a href="mailto:matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk">matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk</a> 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).

**Recommendations**

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 comprises of British Waterways, 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 Council has had not reported incidents of rough sleeping in the past twelve months at The Welsh Harp. The Operations and Development Services are planning to undertake a site walk in order to ascertain if any encampments are in place.

1.4 Litter

In the low season (winter) the area is litter picked and the bins are emptied twice a week, and in the high season (summer) the frequency increases to four times a week. There are occasional action days on the site which includes litter picking by local volunteers in the accessible areas.

1.4.1 The Operational Service has reported that the amount of litter has increased with the recent good weather and that it is at an all-time high which is affecting the clearance rate for some hot spot sites.

1.4.2 The new parks furniture contract has been awarded. The Council is currently assessing all sites across the borough and is planning its investment prioritising the replacement of any furniture that has been removed due to safety concerns and sites which have little or no furniture provision.

1.5 Replacement Ball Court

SLC (The Sport, Leisure and Culture Consultancy) has been appointed to undertake the master planning exercise for two Sport Hub sites in Barnet one of which is West Hendon Playing Fields. As part of their brief they are required to design in a replacement ball court, and consider the best location to site it.

The meantime the Council is considering the option of converting one of the Tennis Courts at West Hendon Playing Fields into a Ball Court as a temporary measure until a permanent facility can be provided.

1.6 Drainage Encroachment

There are currently two drainage encroachments that the council's enforcement team are dealing with. We are working to get these resolved as quickly as possible

1.7 Cool Oak Lane Bridge

The Highways Team has reported that the section of Cool Oak Lane Bridge that had been damaged has had the following repairs;

- Coping stone repairs and repointed on the wall parapet.
- The bridge itself has been resurfaced and remarked.
- New safety bollards have been installed.

## **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 Street Scene 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 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 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 8.01 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 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises of the land owners, legislative bodies, and third

sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

5.8      **Insight**

5.8.1    None

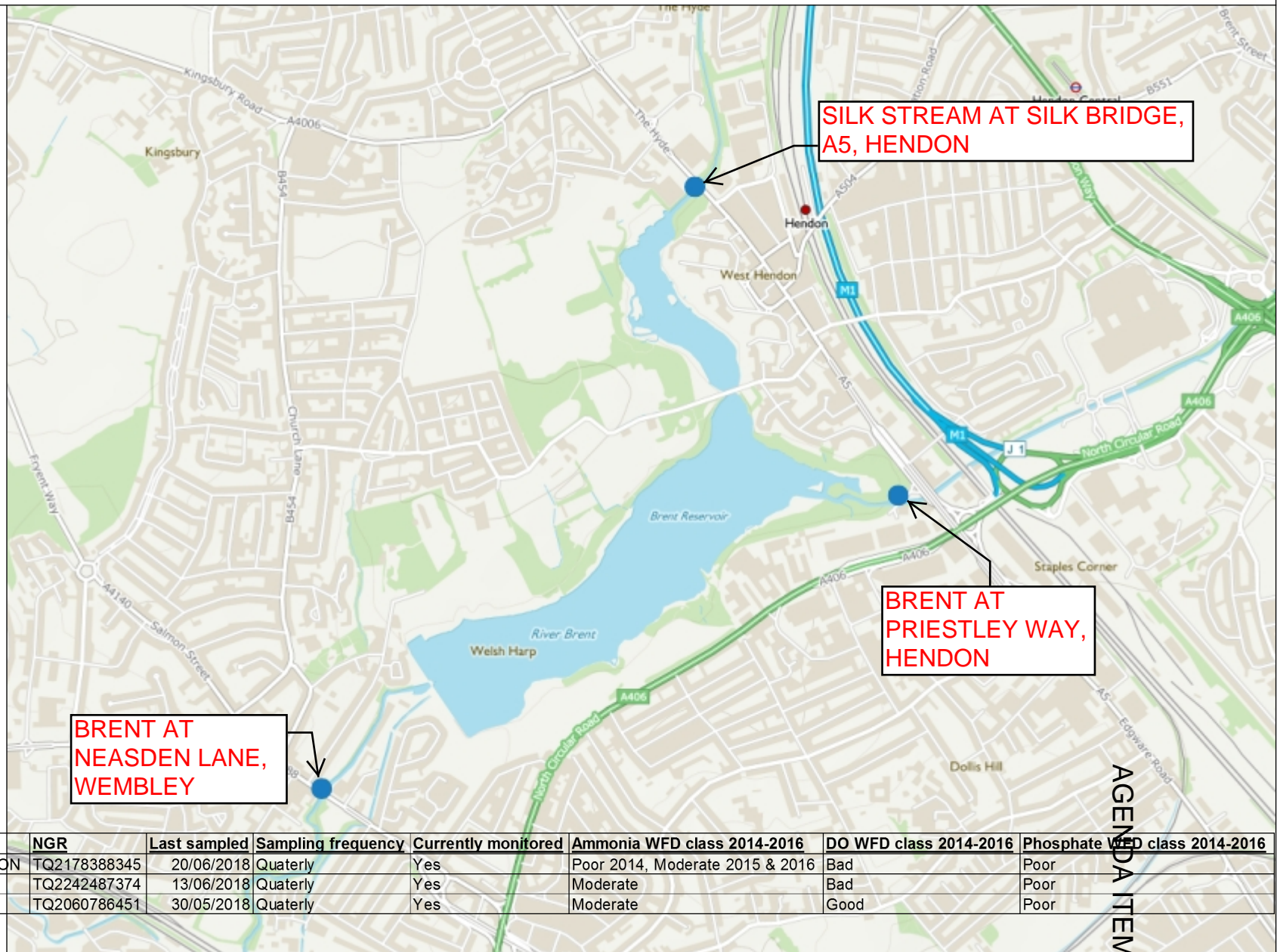
**6.      BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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.

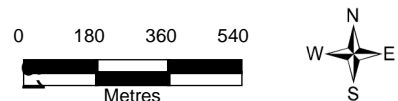
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# EA Water quality sampling points pertaining to Welsh Harp

Legend



Sample point name	NGR	Last sampled	Sampling frequency	Currently monitored	Ammonia WFD class 2014-2016	DO WFD class 2014-2016	Phosphate WFD class 2014-2016
SILK STREAM AT SILK BRIDGE, A5, HENDON	TQ2178388345	20/06/2018	Quarterly	Yes	Poor 2014, Moderate 2015 & 2016	Bad	Poor
BRENT AT PRIESTLEY WAY, HENDON	TQ2242487374	13/06/2018	Quarterly	Yes	Moderate	Bad	Poor
BRENT AT NEASDEN LANE, WEMBLEY	TQ2060786451	30/05/2018	Quarterly	Yes	Moderate	Good	Poor



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