

Notes from Mousehold Heath Working Group

Weds 20 March 2013

14:00 – 16:30 Wymer Room City Hall

Present:

Cllr Bradford, Chairman (DB)
Cllr Little (SL)
Cllr Ackroyd (CA)
Cllr Price (BP)
Cllr Thomas (VT)
Chris Southgate (CS) The Norwich Society
Margaret Bush (MB) The Mousehold Heath Defenders

William Stewart (WS)	Mousehold Heath Warden
Lenny Stamp (LS)	Neighbourhood and community manager
Bob Cronk (BC)	Head of neighbourhood services

1. Pavilion update

Members were given an update on the pavilion.

ACTION POINT:

An estimate of work was needed for both refurbishing one toilet and for refurbishing both at the same time.

Estimates were needed for the roofing requirements with the Conservators taking responsibility for external decoration repairs (excluding the toilets).

To explore how weight restrictions could be included in the terms of the lease and to look at how these could be enforced.

BC to ask NPS to undertake an asset review and to recommend which repairs to the building are the most urgent

2. Project Proposals

(Mr Tim Holt-Wilson (TH-W) was present for his item.)

TH-W outlined his proposal for a new earth heritage project exploring the brick making heritage of Norwich. He explained that the project is currently at the pre application stage with the heritage lottery fund.

He described the practical implications of the project such as the need to take core samples from the heath and digging trial pits. These would allow technical analysis of local bricks to establish links between the heath and local architecture. He reported that archaeological remains of the original brickfields may still be below the surface of the heath which could form the

basis for a community archaeology project. He envisioned undertaking historical surveys of people who had been involved in the brick making industry, along with the production of booklets and possibly a website.

The conservators recommended that the focus of the project should not be diluted by widening the scope too far.

The pre-application costs for the project would be around £4,800 with the total cost for the project at £70,000.

ACTION POINTS:

TH-W: to take his pre-application to the heritage lottery fund and relay any feedback to the conservators at a later meeting.

3. Green exercise / way markers:

WS updated the committee on the green exercise project and explained that the heath had been used by many organisations such as the green gym. He distributed a copy of the maps that will be put onto the walk England website showing walks of different times and intensities. The members were impressed with the variety of options shown on the map. WS also reported that the wardens were keen to use natural materials as way markers on the heath rather than incorporating any more site furniture.

ACTION POINT:

Boards with new maps to be looked at as part of the itinerant meeting

4. High Level Stewardship (HLS) update:

WS reported that £1000 payment had been received from HLS for completing capital works on the heath and will be allocated to a Mousehold budget.

WS confirmed that £2200.00 will be received annually for a period of 10 years from HLS providing a programme of heath maintenance works are completed and an additional £4200.00 will be paid for the first two years for capital works.

5. Successes

WS gave a verbal update on some of the recent successes. He updated the conservators on the volunteer hours put into works on the heath including conservation work on St William's Chapel and scrub clearance. He also reported that the restoration work on the Ranger's house was going well and the new owner hoped to move into the house in May 2013. LS updated the conservator's on the planning regulations for the house and confirmed that it has to remain a domestic dwelling.

WS said that they were looking to create a wildflower area around the new pond once the weather improved, using a Norfolk wildflower mix from a local supplier.

ACTION POINT:

WS to bring a written update on successes to the next full meeting of the conservators

6. Any Other Business

MB reported that there has been a problem with bikers digging trails on the heath and becoming abusive towards those who challenge them about this. It was suggested that volunteers are used to fill in the trails as soon as they appear as a first solution. It was agreed that this should be trialled.