

Report to Mousehold Heath conservators
15 March 2013
Report of Head of local neighbourhood services
Subject Mousehold Heath update report

Item

7

Purpose

To provide an update on issues and recent activities at Mousehold Heath

Recommendation

That Conservators comment on current activities that have been undertaken on Mousehold Heath

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority City of character and culture

Financial implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will have or will be met from approved budgetary provision

Ward/s: All wards

Contact officers

Lenny Stamp Communities and neighbourhood manager 01603 213218

Will Stewart Mousehold warden 01603 213110

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Background documents

None

Report

1. All general day to day work is on schedule with no issues to report to this meeting.

Safety

2. A number of trees near footpaths, which potentially posed a safety issue, have been made safe by the Mousehold Wardens.

Heathland restoration

3. Community volunteer groups continue to focus on heathland restoration and footpath maintenance work supervised by the Mousehold Wardens. Numbers are reported below.

Path Maintenance

4. To provide useable safe access and egress along pathways on the heath, a tractor-mounted cut and collect mower, supervised by the Mousehold wardens has been used to maintain paths and manage heathland and grassland areas by removing dead vegetation and humus.

Anti-social behaviour

5. There has been an increase in reports of fly-tipping and graffiti cases over this quarter. Mousehold Wardens have reported these issues which have been removed by contractors. The changing rooms have been a target.

Volunteer activity

6. There has been a total of 1020 volunteer hours worked on the site in the last quarter. These have been completed by:
 - The Conservation Volunteers (TCV),
 - Norwich Community Green Gym,
 - The Julian Support Trust,
 - City College Duke Of Edinburgh Award Scheme group,
 - Assist Trust,
 - Easton College and
 - A work placement student, along with volunteers from the community.

These works have significantly contributed to the implementation of objectives set out in the Management Plan, along with increasing local resident involvement in the projects.

Events

7. There have been to events in the last quarter despite adverse weather:
 - Two Community Wildlife Walks have taken place, led by the Mousehold Wardens and a local naturalist. This event was part funded by Norfolk County Council Adult Education (24).
 - The Norfolk Schools cross-country run (200).

Rangers House

8. The Household Wardens have been liaising with the new owner of the Ranger's House to ensure that the work to the building has minimal impact on the heath, make the property more secure and reduce criminal damage. Safety and privacy fencing has been erected around the site to enhanced the security.