

Item 7

Management sub group report

Notes from Mousehold Heath Working Group

Mon 21 February 2011

14:00 – 16:00 Wymer Room City Hall

Present:

Cllr David Bradford (Cllr DB, Chairman)
Cllr Jenny Lay (Cllr JL)
Chris Southgate (CS)
Margaret Bush (MB)

Lenny Stamp (LS) Neighbourhood Manager, North
Paul Holley (PH) Natural Areas Officer

Apologies

None received.

NOTE: The forthcoming auction of the Ranger's House was discussed as an additional item.

Item 1: Former Ranger's House

(There was discussion on the Ranger's house. Officers will update Conservators at the meeting).

Item 2: notes from last CWG meeting

LS and PH outlined the new management arrangements for the Mousehold Heath Wardens. LS had taken over line management of the two staff concerned, but they would continue to liaise with PH on land management issues. The possibility of inviting the Mousehold Wardens to future Conservators' meetings was discussed. It was felt that generally it would be more appropriate for them to attend the CWG meetings, rather than the full Conservators' meetings. PH said that the Mousehold Wardens had attended selected CWG meetings in the recent past to report on or to discuss matters relevant to their work.

PH outlined recent works, including the GNDP heathland project and the heathland management work being undertaken by the contractor Peter Frizzell with his specialist 'cut & collect' machine. MB said that she had seen

the contractor at work earlier that day, and things seemed to be going well. She also asked if a bench currently in an overgrown area near where the works were taking place could be re-located into the open.

PH also outlined planned future management works, including bracken control planned for the summer. In reply to a query from Cllr JL, PH said that replacements for bollards along Britannia Road, and remedial works to the car park there were planned.

Cllr DB mentioned that a bus stop with associated kerbing had been constructed on Mousehold Avenue without either the Conservators or officers responsible for Mousehold Heath being notified.

MB reported on recent research into the history of the Cavalry Track; there were indications that the track might be considerably older than had previously been assumed.

ACTION POINTS:

1. PH would consult with Mousehold Heath Wardens over the possible bench re-location.
2. PH would raise the bus stop issue with the section responsible.

Item 3: changing rooms update

PH reported that, after some delay due to a need to meet council procedures, the purchase of the new building had been approved. Some vegetation clearance would probably be necessary to accommodate the new building, and PH would see if this could be done by the Mousehold Wardens as currently the council's tree gang was fully committed to other work.

ACTION POINT: PH to consult with Mousehold Heath Wardens.

Item 4: Pavilion meeting

CS reviewed items for discussion at this meeting (scheduled for 14:00 the following day, Tues 22 February). These would include the condition of the Pavilion building and the possibility of future co-operation between the Conservators and Blue Sky Leisure, the company that owned Zak's.

Item 5: any other business

CS asked if any band concerts had been planned at Mousehold for 2011, and PH provided a list of four concert dates that had been notified. The increase in the number of concerts booked was welcomed, and it was felt that there was scope for even more.

MB said that 2011 was the 125th anniversary of Mousehold Heath being designated as a public open space; could a commemorative picnic take place

on one of the band concert days? It was felt that a large scale event might not be practical, owing to the large number of people and demand for parking that might materialise, but a small scale event by the Mousehold Defenders could be possible.

ACTION POINT: MB to consult with Mousehold Wardens.

Cllr JL drew attention to a stretch of overgrown hedgerow along Britannia Rd and Mons Avenue.

ACTION POINT: PH would mention this to Mousehold Wardens.