

Report for Information

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators

Item

29 June 2012

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Report of Head of local neighbourhood services

Subject Recent activities at Mousehold Heath

Purpose

To provide Mousehold Conservators with an update on issues and recent activities on Mousehold Heath.

Recommendation

That the Conservators comment on the report.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority safe & clean city.

Financial implications

There are no direct budgetary implications leading from this report other than those from agreed budgets.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Driver – Environment and neighbourhoods

Contact officers

Lenny Stamp

01603 213281

Paul Holley

01603 212343

Background documents

Report

Management works and recent events

1. Since the last meeting of the Mousehold Conservators on 30 March 2012, volunteers have achieved at least 430 work hours at Mousehold Heath. The volunteers involved were from BTCV, the Community Green Gym, the Mousehold Heath Defenders, Skilforce and NANSA. Work undertaken has included wildlife surveying, heathland management and path maintenance. Progress has also been made with the Mousehold Heath Earth Heritage project.
2. Following its winter repair, the Vinegar Pond has continued to hold water (even during the very dry period in March) and the frogs have had a successful breeding season.
3. Despite the unsettled spring weather, the following events were run by the Mousehold Heath wardens with number of attendees in brackets.
4. 18/04/12: Green Gym presentation ceremony, attended by the Lady Mayor and the Sheriff (20)
5. 24/05/12: Community Wildlife Watch walk (12)
6. 25/05/12: Norwich Ladies' walking group (9)
7. 26/05/12: Moth survey night (6)
8. 7/06/12: Butterfly walk (4)
9. Further events are planned for the remainder of the year.

The Pavilion (Zak's restaurant)

10. This is covered in a separate report

Ranger's House

11. Officers understand that the former Ranger's House has now been sold to a private buyer, and a planning application for its refurbishment as a family home is now under consideration.

Fountain ground changing rooms

12. We have been advised that the installation of an electricity meter is currently awaited, after which the building will at long last be available for use in the forthcoming football season.

Officers' future roles

13. Since 2010 the Mousehold Heath wardens have been part of the north neighbourhood team. In view of this, there has been some tidying up of officers' roles.
14. General issues and day to day matters concerning Mousehold will now be addressed by the Mousehold Heath wardens in the first instance, with support from Lenny Stamp. The natural areas officer, Paul Holley, will retain a specialist advisory role on wildlife and land management issues and will contribute to the work of the Mousehold Conservators when required.