

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
19 October 2012
Report of Head of local neighbourhood services
Subject Management update

Item

6

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 that arise from this report will be met from approved budgetary provision.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Gihawi – Play, parks and open spaces

Contact officers

Lenny Stamp

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Background documents

None

Report

1. The previous few months have been an active period for management activity.

Volunteering

2. 949 volunteer hours of management work have been completed over the summer period, which were supervised or overseen by the Mousehold Heath wardens.
3. The groups that have been involved include:
 - The Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV),
 - Norwich Community Green Gym,
 - The Mousehold Heath Defenders,
 - The Assist Trust,
 - Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme group
 - Volunteers from the local community.
4. The work that has been undertaken has included:
 - heathland restoration, through bruising bracken (management plan objective 7.2)
 - path clearance and restoration (11.0)
 - ecological surveys (5.1)
 - management of the Anthills grassland (8.1)
 - CONNECT 2 cycle/pedestrian route work
 - vegetation clearance from St. William's Chapel site as part of the section 17 management agreement.

Programmed works

5. Management works that have been undertaken or progressed has included:
 - A tree survey and tree works undertaken for public health and safety purposes
 - Ensuring all contract issues and failures are reported
 - Day to day patrolling and visitor engagement
 - Dealing with enquiries, both internal and external
 - Ordering graffiti removal
 - Co ordinate the mounting for public display at city hall of the bronze city skyline

- Progressing the design and production of a plaque for the Mottram Memorial and restoration of the memorial
- Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) project application completed
- Review grass cutting of St James Hill disable pathway i.e. remove overhanging vegetation for improved access.
- Co-ordinate and manage the works programme for 2012/13
- Promotion of guided walks programme which been advertised in Citizen, Inner city and on community neighbourhood boards.
- Verge flailing of all main highways
- Initiation of infrastructure renewals starting with bollard replacement at Britannia Road in line with the works programme

Events

6. A high number of public events and activities were organised, led and overseen by the Mousehold Heath wardens in the summer period with numbers attending as follows:
 - Guided walks and site visits for outside bodies, such as, the Barrow Common Management Committee, who are interested in our habitat management techniques
 - Three community wildlife watch walks (30)
 - Bat surveys in conjunction with the Big Norwich Bat Project.
 - Four moth survey evenings (40)
 - Butterfly surveys, including two public walks, one of which was attended by and aired on radio Norfolk by Helen McDermott (70)
 - Geology and landscape walk led by Tim Holt-Wilson to formally open the Earth Heritage Trail and distribute the new leaflet (37).
 - A Norwich HEART Heritage landscape and social history walk, led by Tim Holt-Wilson and Colin Howey to celebrate the open day weekend in September (35)
 - Fungi walk with Dr Tony Leech
 - A health and biodiversity walk to celebrate the start of the London 2012 Olympics (17)
 - Open Academy environment day.
 - Environmental education activities for Open Academy students and Sprowston Beavers Group (80).
 - Forest School new term agreed with Nicola Harrison from Mousehold Avenue middle school
 - Playdays and bandstand concert organised by Norwich City Council events team (>200).