

Report for Information

Report to	Mousehold Heath Conservators 18 June 2010	ITEM
Report of	Head of Local Neighbourhood Services	8
Subject	Off-Road Cycling Issues on Mousehold Heath.	

Purpose

To provide an update on developments concerning off-road cycling at Mousehold Heath since the previous meeting of the Mousehold Conservators on 12 March 2010.

Recommendations

That the Conservators note the report's contents.

Financial Consequences

This report is for information only and any costs to date have been met from existing budgets.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority of Safe & Healthy Neighbourhoods, and the service plan priority to ensure Norwich has a clean and safe environment.

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

Mousehold Heath Management Plan, 2008-2013.

Report

1. Following further discussions with the Forestry Commission, the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) has been contacted over the development of a managed cycling area on Mousehold Heath. The CTC is now the Forestry Commission's main advisor on off-road cycling and it is currently collating information on best practice in managing off-road cycling facilities, which will build upon the guidance notes already produced by the Forestry Commission. A meeting and possible site visit with the CTC's off-road Cycling Development Officer has been requested.
2. The Mousehold Heath Wardens have been monitoring current usage of the 'hills and hollows' site, and informing cyclists of where they are currently permitted to cycle. Useful feedback has been obtained, and some cyclists have provided their contact details, but so far there has been limited interest in forming a users' group for the site. The Conservators agreed that this was of the pre-requisites of the development of an off-road cycling area. The Mousehold Wardens have also attempted to make contact with off-road cyclists via local cycle shops, and this will continue.
3. Recent contacts with site users have revealed that many of them use the 'hills and hollows' site very infrequently, which might partly account for the relative lack of interest in forming a user's group. However, both the Forestry Commission and the CTC have indicated that although user's groups are desirable they do not regard them as essential for managing off-road cycling sites.
4. The Mousehold Wardens are continuing to enforce the 'no cycling' bye-law elsewhere on the site.
5. It has been pointed out that the existing authorised cycle route via Valley Drive and Gilman Road may be inadequately signed, so this matter is being taken up with the Council's Cycling Officer.