

Report for Information

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
18 June 2010

Report of Head of Local Neighbourhood Services

**ITEM
10**

Subject Report of the Mousehold Heath Management Subgroup

Purpose

To update the Mousehold Conservators on the work undertaken by the Management Sub group since the last meeting.

Recommendations

That the Conservators note the report

Financial Consequences

The works proposed and discussed by the Management subgroup will be met from existing budgets.

Corporate Objective/Service Plan Priority

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Safe and healthy neighbourhoods – working in partnership with residents to create neighbourhoods where people feel secure, where the streets are clean and well maintained, where there is good quality housing and local amenities and where there are active local communities” and the service plan priority

Contact Officers

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Notes from Mousehold Heath Working Group

Monday, 10 May 2010

14:00 – 16:00 Wymer Room City Hall

Present:

Councillor David Bradford (Cllr DB)
Councillor Julie Brociek-Coulton (Cllr J-BC)
Councillor Stephen Little (Cllr SL)
Chris Southgate (CS)
Malcolm Bryant (MB)

Bob Cronk (BC) - first part of meeting
Paul Holley (PH)

Apologies

There were apologies from Councillors Bearman and Lay and Simon Meek.

Off-road cycling

MB reported that mountain bikes were seen being unloaded from vehicles and being ridden all over Mousehold Heath. BC suggested that, in such instances, the registration numbers of the vehicles could be noted and the council advised, as might be possible for the council to access vehicle registration numbers and to contact the owners.

Cllr DB asked if the existing authorised cycle route across the site could be better marked.

ACTION POINT: PH to take up with Tim Mellors, the Council's Cycling Officer.

PH reported that the Mousehold Heath Wardens were making efforts to establish a dialogue with off-road cyclists on Mousehold by approaching them directly and via cycle shops. Working Group members suggested additional cycle shops that could be contacted.

BC outlined recent Norwich City Council's recent re-organisation, in view of the need to make £6M savings and to re-orientate services around neighbourhood working. The Mousehold Heath wardens would be transferring to Neighbourhood Services, and would operate mainly from the Pilling Park neighbourhood office.

Cllr J-BC asked how the Mousehold wardens could be contacted in an emergency. MB felt that the Mousehold Heath Defenders should have direct access to the warden's mobile phone numbers.

ACTION POINT: BC to look into possibility of providing list of relevant phone contact numbers.

CS asked if the council's re-organisation would be likely to have any financial consequences for the Mousehold Heath Conservators. BC replied that it would not, as the Conservators only get charged for the costs of the

Mousehold wardens and specific support services identified in the budget report. The Conservators do not contribute to the cost of officer time from green spaces or local neighbourhood services.

Fountain Ground changing room

PH had been advised that the existing changing rooms were beyond economical repair, and two options for replacement buildings were presented the larger and more expensive of which might be eligible for Football Foundation funding. Cllr SL said that an enhanced facility could be promoted to a wider range of potential users

The pros and cons of incorporating additional facilities, such as a public toilet or a Mousehold Wardens' office/visitor point were discussed. Cllr DB suggested that the 'footprints' of the proposed buildings could be marked out on the ground for the forthcoming itinerant visit.

ACTION POINTS: PH to approach the council's Sports Development section and the Football Foundation regarding possible funding for new changing facility.

PH to organise marking out of building footprints for forthcoming itinerant.

Mousehold Heath Pavilion update

Cllr JB and CS had visited the building along with PH and Kate d'Este Hoare, Norwich City Council's Conservation & Design Officer. Although the building seemed to be basically sound, there were concerns about the state of some features, especially the gutters. KDH advised that local listing for the building could be investigated on the grounds of its interest as a long-standing feature of Mousehold.

ACTION POINTS:

1. KDH was asked to provide a brief note on the building and its condition by CS.
2. PH to check responsibilities for repair with John Reid from Asset & City Management.
3. PH to consult further with John Reid over vehicle weight limits on the access track.
4. PH to look into possible refurbishment of the two external toilet blocks.

Vinegar Pond

It was noted that the Vinegar Pond did not appear to be holding water effectively, and remediation options were discussed. Cllr DB suggested that a 'do nothing' scenario could be considered for the foreseeable future; Cllr SL suggested that options for lining the pond should be investigated. CS asked if an options paper could be provided for the June Conservators' meeting.

ACTION POINT: PH to review options and report back to June Conservators' meeting.

Any Other Business

1. Complaints had been received about an alleyway at the rear of properties on Lavengro Road being obstructed by vegetation from Mousehold Heath. It was decided to include this issue on the forthcoming itinerant.

2. PH advised that a fast food vendor had asked if he could operate from Britannia Road car park. The request was declined, on the basis that the location was unsuitable and that objections might be forthcoming from Zak's Restaurant.

ACTION POINT: PH to advise vendor of decision.