

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
19 June 2015
Report of Head of local neighbourhood services
Subject Mousehold Heath update

Item

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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 during the last period.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate Priority City of character and culture

Financial implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will have or will be met from approved budgetary provision

Contact officers

Lenny Stamp Communities and neighbourhood manager	01603 213218
Will Stewart Mousehold warden	01603 213310
Nigel Hales Mousehold warden	01603 213310

Background documents

None

Report

Site management

A resident from Gertrude Road was caught fly tipping a considerable amount of household waste adjacent to Gilman Road from his back garden. He was challenged by the Mousehold Heath Wardens and told this was illegal and he would be liable to prosecution if he did not remove it immediately. Arrangements were made for the resident to gain access with a vehicle to remove the items from site and a follow up warning letter was sent by the Environmental Protection Team.

A camper was seen on two occasions - once adjacent to the Rangers House and again adjacent to Gilman Road. The Mousehold wardens advised the individual on a number of times that this was against the byelaws. Norwich City Council's rough sleeper/single home coordinator was contacted and after some persuasion from the local PCSOs, the camper moved on.

Litter picks have taken place involving Norwich Community Green Gym and JumpStart Project volunteers.

A number of BMX jumps have been removed by the Mousehold wardens and an Easton College work placement student.

Asset management

The changing room building on the Fountain Ground sports pitch was vandalised, with sky lights in the roof smashed and the outside of the building graffitied. An adjacent litter bin was also set alight and these incidents were reported to the police who are monitoring the situation. The costs of the repair fall below the insurance excess and will be met from the Mousehold budget.

Tree and natural area management

The two six monthly tree surveys were completed covering all main public footpaths, identifying 87 trees needing monitoring, safety works or urgent attention.

23 windblown, dead, dying or dangerous trees have been made safe, cut up and removed from near paths and high amenity areas with help from Green Gym and an Easton College Student.

The large Tree of Heaven has now been removed adjacent to the pavilion by the tree contractor.

Access works

Repairs were carried out to Hill Farm Track, by TCV volunteers and Mousehold wardens, who repaired a large hole that had been created by erosion from heavy rain.

Works were undertaken by the TCV adjacent to the Rangers House, to remove scrub for the completion of the Push the Pedalways project linking up Gurney Road to Heathgate.

Fly tipping was removed from the Gilman Road area by volunteers from Dibden Road Hostel and JumpStart Project.

Maintenance to paths and the Cavalry Track, on St. James Hill, were carried out by TCV. This involved cutting back and removing overgrown vegetation which was making access difficult.

Promotion and Interpretation

The interpretation panel for St. Williams Chapel has now been installed.

Volunteers

There have been a total of 440 volunteer hours on site in the last quarter.

These have been completed by:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- Norwich Community Green Gym
- Mousehold Heath Defenders
- The Assist Trust
- Hartford House Engage Group
- An Easton College work placement student
- Volunteers from the community.
- Dibden Road Hostel JumpStart Project participants.

These works have significantly contributed to the implementation of objectives set out in the Management Plan, along with increasing community involvement in the many projects being undertaken on the site.

Surveys:

A number of bee, butterfly, flower, moth and dragonfly surveys have been carried out by members of Mousehold Heath Defenders, Green Gym and individuals from the community, collecting important data on the site's biodiversity. All records are forwarded to county recorders and Norfolk County Council's, Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service.

Events

A range of events to increase understanding and enjoyment of the site, have been organised or hosted on the heath in the last period, these being:

- A number of Forest School environmental education activities.
- A community wildlife watch walk
- Dawn bird survey walk to celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day.
- Moth survey evening
- Norwich School Cross Country Run