

Mousehold Heath Conservators

Date: **Friday, 18 March 2022**
Time: **14:00**
Venue: **Council chamber City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH**

Committee members:

Councillor Maxwell (chair)
Councillor Sands (M) (vice chair)
Councillor Brociek-Coulton
Councillor Button
Councillor Champion
Councillor Galvin
Councillor Kendrick
Councillor Lubbock
Councillor Sands (S)
Clare Cohen, Mousehold Heath
Defenders
Matthew Davies, Norwich Fringe Project
John Trevelyan, The Norwich Society

For further information please contact:

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Information for members of the public

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For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website.

Agenda

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|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies

To receive apologies for absence | |
| 2 | Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public which have been submitted in accordance with the council's constitution. | |
| 3 | Declarations of interest

(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting) | |
| 4 | Minutes of Mousehold Heath Conservators 21 January 2022

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2022 | 5 - 8 |
| 5 | Mousehold Heath budget monitoring to 31 January 2022

Purpose - To provide the 2021/22 revenue budget monitoring position and 2021/22 capital receipts balance as at 31 January 2022. | 9 - 12 |
| 6 | Norwich City Services Limited first year update (oral presentation) | |
| 7 | Designated area for concessionary trading at Britannia Road car park

Purpose - To seek approval to provide a designated area for concessionary trading at Mousehold Heath car park on Britannia Road. | 13 - 18 |
| 8 | Public toilet provision at Gurney Road car park

Purpose - To decide on the options to be developed and costed for the provision of public toilets on Mousehold Heath. | 19 - 26 |
| 9 | Mousehold Heath management update 15 January 2022 to 28 February 2022 | 27 - 32 |

Purpose - To provide an update on the activities on the Heath relating to the delivery of the Mousehold Heath management plan objectives between 15 January 2022 to 28 February 2022.

10 Exclusion of the public

Consideration of exclusion of the public.

EXEMPT ITEMS:

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and the public.)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, members are asked to decide whether, in all circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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***11 Pavilion roof works (para 3)**

- This report is not for publication because it would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as in para 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Date of publication: **Thursday, 10 March 2022**



Mousehold Heath Conservators

14:00 to 14:40

21 January 2022

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Sands (M) (vice-chair), Brociek-Coulton, Champion, Kendrick, Lubbock and Sands (S) and Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and John Trevelyan (Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillor Galvin and Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

1. Public Questions/Petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2021.

4. Mousehold Heath Budget Monitoring April to November 2021

(The head of finance, audit and risk attended the meeting for this item.)

The head of finance, audit and risk presented the report. She referred to the forecasted underspend of £1622 and that appendix A highlighted that there were no major variances in the spend compared to the budget for this. Members were also advised that the reserves balance was detailed in Table 1 in the report, and that the pension deficit costs were smoothed over by the in-year cost.

In response to a question the head of finance, audit and risk stated that the year 2022-23 was the final year in which the pension deficit would need to be paid. A member asked whether there was a danger of the reserves being lost and the head of finance, audit and risk clarified that the Mousehold Heath reserves were earmarked reserves specifically to be used for costs related to the Heath.

The parks and open spaces manager highlighted that the current level of reserves was higher than the prudent minimum level of reserves as there were planned works that would initially need to be drawn down from the reserves.

RESOLVED to note the current budget monitoring and reserves positions.

(Councillor Button joined the meeting at this point).

5. Mousehold Heath Conservators Budget and Precept 2022-23

(The head of finance, audit and risk attended the meeting for this item.)

The head of finance, audit and risk presented the report. She highlighted that the proposed budget for 2022-23 was around £10,000 higher due to inflationary costs associated with both staff salary increases and contractual costs. A member asked whether the budget for 2022-23 included inflation costs related to the increasing utility costs and in response the head of finance, audit and risk stated that this had been calculated as part of the budget but that this would be monitored and adjusted as part of the ongoing budget monitoring as there may be further price increases.

In response to a question the head of finance, audit and risk said that there were no amendments to the budget proposed so it would stay at the proposed level.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) Review the forecast balances position as set out in paragraphs 3-4 of the report;
- (2) Consider the risk management arrangements and prudent minimum reserve levels set out in paragraphs 4-9 of the report;
- (3) Review the budget proposals set out in paragraph 10 of the report and approve the budgets in Appendix A to the report;
- (4) Place a precept on Norwich City Council for the relevant amount for the financial year 2022/23 as per paragraph 12.

6. Mousehold Heath Management Update 31 August 2021 to 14 January 2022

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. He highlighted that the second six monthly tree safety survey had been completed and any specialised tree works had been completed by Norwich City Services Limited (NCSL),.

A licence for a vacant concession at Britannia Road car park and the additional income for this had been reflected in the forecasted outturn for the end of the year. As the management subgroup had met on 9 November 2021 to discuss, amongst other things, the pavilion, a report on the pavilion roof repairs would be brought to the next meeting of the Mousehold Heath Conservators. The parks and open spaces manager would be looking to undertake a survey to understand roof repair estimates alongside the costs for any other planned works. This would inform a report on planned works for the financial year 2022-23 and whether the precept for the financial year 2023-24 would need to be increased to meet costs.

The parks and open spaces manager also highlighted while there were instances of fly tipping and graffiti, which have been removed by the relevant teams, on the Heath this was comparatively low compared to other green spaces within Norwich.

A number of activities to improve the habitats and biodiversity of the Heath had been undertaken with activities for both volunteers and school children starting to increase as the Covid-19 restrictions were beginning to ease.

Finally he had been in contact with NCSL and the company would present an update to the committee at the March meeting. This would allow the company to relay to members any issues, improvements and changes that had happened related to their work on the Heath. This would also tie in with the other services being brought into NCSL in April and they would be able to give an update how the building maintenance and repairs works on the Heath would be incorporated.

In response to a member's question the parks and open spaces manager stated that in terms of treating diseased trees a number of different actions could be taken, depending on the nature of the disease, safety risk and severity of the issue.

Claire Cohen asked the parks and open spaces manager whether the suggestion of painting the band stand had been delayed. In response he stated that an update on this this would be brought to the March meeting.

A member asked whether there was a timeline available for the toilet blocks. In response the parks and open spaces manager stated that this would be dependent on the decision of the Conservators at the March meeting, but he would include a timeline within each option presented. He also clarified that the current total refurbishment option was being costed based on the suggestion of the management subgroup, which was for accessible, gender-neutral toilets.

As a point of clarification, the parks and open spaces manager confirmed that works for the pavilion had not been brought forward from the financial year 2022-23 as the cost of these would put the prudent minimum reserves at risk.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

7. Management Subgroup Membership

The chair introduced the report and stated that the members of the management subgroup for the 2021-22 civic year were appointed at the 23 July 2021 meeting and were Councillors Maxwell (chair), Mike Sands (vice chair), Brociek-Coulton and Champion and Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Conservators) and John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society)

RESOLVED to approve the management subgroup appointments.

8. Proposal for a McDonald's on the former Richard Nash car sales site

(The chair agreed to take this item as urgent business)

Clare Cohen stated that she had received a letter concerning a consultation for a proposed McDonald's which would border the Heath. Members discussed their

concerns around the possibility of increased litter and attraction of rats, due to the change of use, on the Heath.

CHAIR



Committee Name: Mousehold Heath Conservators

Committee Date: 18/03/2022

Report Title: Mousehold Heath Conservators Budget Monitoring to
January 2022

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Executive director of corporate and commercial services

Wards: Crome / Catton Grove

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To provide the 2021/22 revenue budget monitoring position and 2021/22 capital receipts balance as at 31 January 2022.

Recommendation:

To note the current budget monitoring and reserves positions

Policy Framework

The Council has three corporate priorities, which are:

- People living well
- Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment
- Inclusive economy

This report meets the People living well & Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment corporate priorities

Report Details

1. Conservators approved a precept for the financial year 2021/22 of £235,471 at their meeting of 15 January 2021.
2. The Conservators have requested that budget reports be brought to their meetings on a regular basis. Appendix A details the financial position for Mousehold Heath as at the end of January 2022, and comparison of the expected outturn to the annual budget. There are no significant variances to comment on at this stage.
3. The wardens are managing an overall underspend to deliver repairs to the pavilion roof in 2022/23 and to partially offset the cost of the pension deficit payment paid back at the end of each year until 2021/22
4. Corporate recharge budgets are no longer shown against individual cost centres within the General Fund, for accounting presentation purposes. All corporate recharges are still calculated in line with agreed principles. The Conservator's element of the recharges has been included within the figures in this report, for consistency between accounting periods.
5. Overall, the budget shows a forecast underspend of £9,891.
6. The impact of the precept and forecast 2021/22 budget monitoring position on the Mousehold Heath balances are as follows:

Table 1:

	£
Balance brought forward from 2021/22	-29,107
Precept 2021/22	-235,471
Forecast Outturn 2021/22	225,580
10th instalment of pension deficit costs	2,808
Forecast balance to be carried forward to 2022/23	-36,190
In-year movement in reserves (deficit)	-7,083

The prudent minimum level of reserves has been assessed as £9,800 for 2021/22. The reserve balance is expected to continue to exceed the prudent minimum balance.

Capital

7. The position on capital reserve is as below, with no spend incurred in 2021/22 to date. There are no current items in the capital budget, therefore no spend can be incurred in 2021/22 without a budget amendment to Council.

Table 2:

Item	£
Rangers House balance brought forward	(100,766)
Interest accrued on balance up until Mach 2021	(3,306)
Forecast interest for 2021/22	(20)
Forecast balance of receipts at 31/03/2022	(104,092)

Contact officers

Name:

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Background documents

None

Appendix A: Mousehold Heath Conservators Budget Position as at 31 January (P10) 2021/22

		Budget (£)	Actual to P10 (£)	Forecast outturn (£)	Forecast variance (£)
2000	Salaries	74,296	60,371	74,926	630
2011	Employers Pension Contributions	9,776	7,951	9,776	0
2015	Annual Added Years Payments	4,168	0	4,168	0
2018	Pension Deficit Recovery	17,200	17,200	17,200	0
2090	Employee/Public Liability Insurance	460	459	460	0
2102	Responsive Repairs	0	2,175	0	0
2103	General Repairs & Maintenance	15,000	7,534	7,749	(7,251)
2207	Contract Cleaning	9,515	7,529	9,035	(480)
2216	Electricity	1,493	259	600	(893)
2231	Grounds General Maintenance	2,204	734	2,204	0
2239	Recharge from GMO main contract	62,126	51,471	61,765	(361)
2240	Treeworks	8,200	6,833	8,200	(0)
2255	Fire Insurance Buildings/Contents	34	33	34	0
2285	Water Charges Metered	78	0	78	0
2400	Car and Cycle Allowances	800	144	344	(456)
2600	Clothing and Uniforms General	500	388	500	0
2658	Equipment - Purchase	450	423	450	0
2659	Equipment - Repairs & Maintenance	650	346	650	0
2663	Other Equipment and Tools	550	406	550	0
2682	Refreshments	745	37	368	(377)
2684	Staff Conference & Course Fees	500	0	250	(250)
2710	Specialist Supplies	445	350	350	(95)
2832	Projects	4,046	1,400	2,713	(1,333)
2849	Other Contractual Services	7,110	4,000	7,110	0
4011	Property Services Support	0	402	402	402
4015	Recharge from Area Housing Office	5,000	0	5,000	0
1061	Football	(1,404)	0	0	1,404
1146	Other Rents	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	0
1148	Catering Concession Income	(1,800)	(2,631)	(2,631)	(831)
1412	Government Grants - Specific	(2,204)	(2,204)	(2,204)	0
	Corporate Recharges	30,533	0	30,533	0
		235,471	150,612	225,580	(9,891)



Committee Name: Mousehold Heath Conservators

Committee Date: 18/03/2022

Report Title: Designated area for concessionary trading at Britannia Road car park

Report from: Head of environment services

Wards: Crome/Catton Grove

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To seek approval to provide a designated area for concessionary trading at Mousehold Heath car park on Britannia Road.

Recommendation:

To approve the proposed works.

Policy Framework

The Council has three corporate priorities, which are:

- People living well
- Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment
- Inclusive economy

This report meets the great neighbourhoods, housing and environment corporate priority

This report addresses maintain a clean and sustainable city with a good local environment that people value strategic action in the Corporate Plan

The Mousehold Conservators Mousehold Heath management plan 2019-2028 has eight objectives, which are:

- A) To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.
- B) To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.
- C) To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.
- D) To manage Mousehold Heath in a way that has a positive impact on the environment.

E) To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath.

F) To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.

G) To provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in all aspect of our work.

H) To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and a sense of pride.

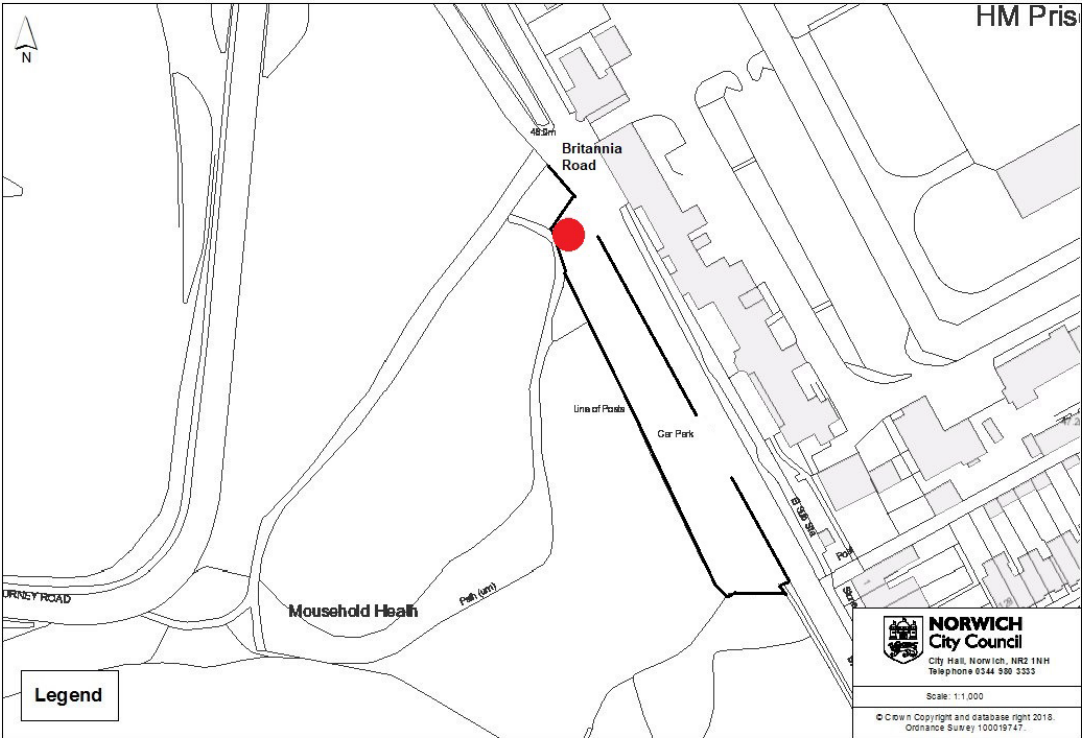
This report meets the objective(s):

B) To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.

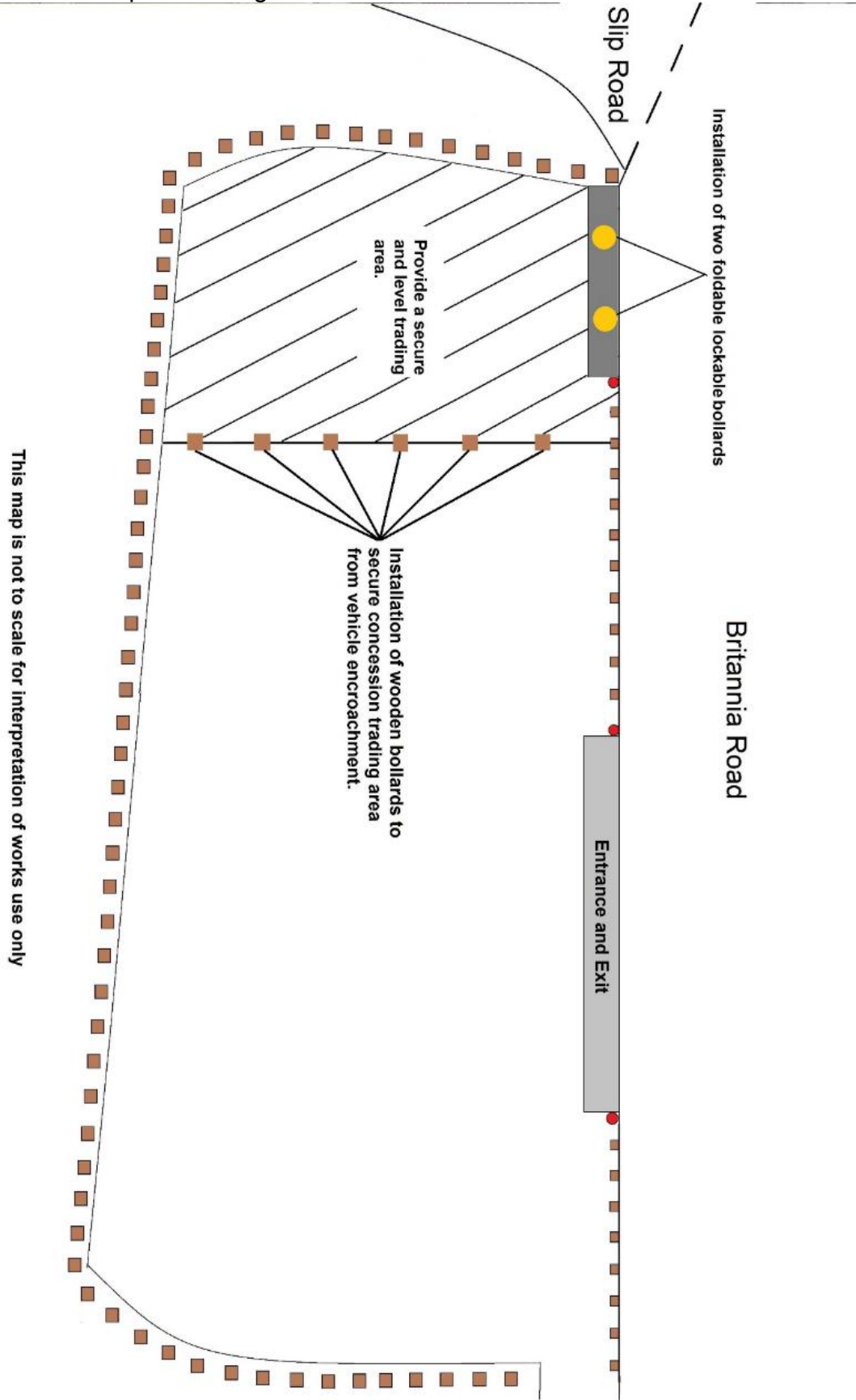
Report

1. The public car park at Britannia Road is an area that the conservators grant a concessionary licence for the sale of food and drink from a mobile unit. The licence generates an annual revenue income stream for the conservators.
2. The space allocated for trading is situated at the northern end of the car park to minimise the risk of disturbance to neighbouring properties. (**Plan1**)
3. As the designated area is opposite the smaller of the two entrances to the car park there have often been cars parked in the area specified for the licence holder to trade from. There have been occasions when the car park is busy that the only available space to trade from has been at the end of the car park nearest the properties.
4. To address the problem and enable a licensee to be able to trade from the location specified, it is proposed that a small area of the car park is sectioned off using bollards to prevent vehicles in the car park from parking in it. (**Plan 2** please note that the plan is not to scale and for illustrative purposes and is a much smaller proportion of the car park than shown in the plan)
5. The bollards would be installed in a similar arrangement to those used at the site to prevent vehicles driving onto the heath.
6. The northern entrance to the car park would be closed off using two drop down bollards and all visitors to the car park would need to use the main entrance/exit.
7. The arrangement would have additional benefits aside from providing a designated pitch for the trader.
8. It would reduce the risk to people queuing for food from a collision with a car as they would be in an area with no vehicle movements. This is especially important.
9. The risk of complaints from the neighbours would be reduced as there would be no risk of the concession having to trade from the southern end of the car park.
10. The use of a single entrance / exit has the potential to reduce car speeds in and out of the car park through the use of the single entrance / exit. It would also remove the option of driving in through one entrance and through the car park and out at speed. This would have benefits with regards to reducing deterioration of the surface and improving safety.
11. The bollards would be installed by the wardens with the materials costing approximately £2,000. These would be funded as part of project ME01/02 provide and maintain bollards, from the approved budget for 2022/23.

Plan 1: Designated trading location



Plan 2: Proposed designated area



This map is not to scale for interpretation of works use only

Contact Officer:

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Committee Name: Mousehold Heath Conservators

Committee Date: 18/03/2022

Report Title: Public toilet provision at Gurney Road car park

Report from: Head of environment services

Wards: Crome/Catton Grove

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To decide on the options to be developed and costed for the provision of public toilets on Mousehold Heath.

Recommendations:

To maintain the current provision (option 1) until the costings for works to refurbish the buildings as existing, with water saving and electricity saving measures and baby changing facilities added. (option 2).

Policy Framework

The Council has three corporate priorities, which are:

- People living well
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- Inclusive economy

This report meets the great neighbourhoods, housing and environment corporate priority

This report addresses maintain a clean and sustainable city with a good local environment that people value strategic action in the Corporate Plan

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- C) To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.
- D) To manage Mousehold Heath in a way that has a positive impact on the environment.

E) To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath.

F) To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.

G) To provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in all aspect of our work.

H) To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and a sense of pride.

This report meets the objective(s):

A) To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.

C) To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.

F) To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.

Background

1. Mousehold Heath covers 84 hectares, and it provides recreational, health and environmental and biodiversity benefits for the residents of the city, greater Norwich and the region.
2. The Mousehold Heath Conservators are responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the public toilets, located adjacent to the public car park and the pavilion at Gurney Road.
3. The toilet blocks, male and female were built circa 1901 when the pavilion was built to serve visitors to the heath. The buildings are constructed from wood with a pitch tiled roof. A disabled facility was introduced more recently adjoining the male toilet block.
4. The toilets are a timber and brick construction and cover an area of approximately 27m². They provide one male toilet, one female toilet, one disabled toilet, cold water handwashing and no drying (not a legal obligation) and have an electrical supply, internal lights, water supply and mains drainage.
5. Ongoing repairs have been undertaken over the years. This work has mainly been the replacement of wooden panels and roof tiles in keeping with the original design.
6. The pavilion next to the toilet block is locally listed. The toilet structures which are not identified as individual assets on the council's local list are also not mentioned on the local listing of the pavilion. Clarification regarding their status is currently being sought.
7. The provision of toilets has been considered previously by the conservators, and they have continued to provide them as a basic facility. The Mousehold Heath management plan 2019-2028 identified that the provision of the public toilets would be reviewed again in 2021/22.
8. Due to their proximity to the pavilion and the car park, the toilets suffer from a relatively low amount of vandalism. The level of use by heath visitors is not known. Observations by the wardens is that it is relatively low level use, although this may be as a result of the condition with people finding alternative places to use.
9. There are public toilets located at Mousehold pitch and putt. There are also toilets at the pavilion for use by clients to Zak's and in the changing rooms located at the Fountain Ground for use by those booking the football pitch.
10. The toilets were closed during the pandemic and opened to the public again early 2022.
11. The Mousehold Conservators hold a capital balance of £104,000.

Report

12. The external condition of the buildings is very poor and unwelcoming. Work is required to replace damaged roof tiles. A condition survey of the buildings has identified that they are structurally in a maintainable condition, though there are external repairs required. They are in a poor decorative condition internally and the electrics and lighting require an upgrade.
13. The remaining life expectancy of the external parts of the building is 30 – 40 years except for the fascias, soffits and rainwater goods which is 10-15 years. There are some timber parts that do require repairing/replacing.
14. Internally the ceilings and walls are in good condition and have a remaining life expectancy of 50 years the toilets and basins are in average condition with a life expectancy of 20 years. The floors and internal decorating are in poor condition.
15. There are several possible options relating to the provision of public toilets on Mousehold Heath, which are set out below.
16. At a meeting of the Mousehold Conservators on 21 January 2022, the parks and open spaces manager asked for the conservators to email him any requirements they would like to be considered as part of the options report.
17. Two Councillors sent emails with items to consider. Cllr Brociek-Couton asked that the provision of a baby changing facility is included and Cllr Champion asked for the provision of an eco-toilet to be considered.
18. Due to NPSNorwich being unable to provide estimates for any works in the lead up to the services being brought in house on 1 April 2022, it has not been possible to give any indicative costs or timescales for the options.
19. There are a number of options regarding the future of the public toilet provision.

20. Option 1: Do nothing (continue on the current basis)

Advantages

- The public toilets will be available for visitor to the heath.
- The capital receipt will not be used for the provision of a relatively low use facility.

Disadvantages

- The toilets will remain unwelcoming to heath visitors.
- Potential positive reputational impact for the Mousehold Heath Conservators regarding the quality of provision.
- There will be no baby changing facility.
- There will be ongoing revenue expenditure to carry out temporary repairs, that will increase over time as the fabric of the buildings deteriorates.
- The potential loss of the buildings in the future as they reach a condition that requires them to be demolished.
- There will be a risk of visitors using the heath environs as a toilet.

- There will be a risk of tensions with leaseholder if there is increased use of pavilion toilets by non-clients.
- There is no reduction in water or electricity use.

21. Option 2: Refurbishment as existing, with water saving and electricity saving measures incorporated into the design and add baby changing facilities into the existing provision

Advantages

- The public toilets will be available for visitor to the heath.
- They will be more welcoming for visitors.
- A positive reputational impact for the conservators.
- It will ensure that the buildings will be maintained and exist into the future.
- The toilets will be more welcoming.
- The capital receipt will not be used for the provision of a relatively low use facility.
- The ongoing repair and maintenance expenditure will be reduced in the short to medium term.
- There will be a reduced risk of visitors using heath environs as a toilet.
- There will be a reduced risk of tension with leaseholder as non-clients will use the public toilets.
- A reduction in water and energy use.
- The

Disadvantages

- There will be a requirement for future revenue expenditure for repairs and maintenance.
- The potential loss of the buildings in the future as they reach a condition which requires them to be demolished.
- Easy to deliver and a relatively short timescale for the development of the specification, procuring and delivery.

22. Option 3: Conversion of the male toilet to mixed gender including a baby changing facility, retain disabled toilet and closure of female toilet.

Advantages

- The public toilets will be available for visitor to the heath.
- Toilets will be more welcoming for visitors.
- A positive reputational impact for the conservators.
- One of the buildings will be maintained and exist into the future.
- The toilets will be more welcoming.
- The ongoing repair and maintenance expenditure will be reduced in the short to medium term.
- The cleaning and consumables costs will be reduced.
- There will be reduced risk of visitors using heath environs as a toilet.
- There will be reduced risk of tension with the leaseholder as non-clients will use the public toilets.
- There would be the potential to convert the female toilet into a secure store in the future (if a purpose for it can be identified).

Disadvantages

- It is potentially the most costly option, excluding the eco-toilet option, which has too many unknowns regarding what would be required at this point)
- The capital reserve will be used for what is a relatively low use facility
- It is more complex to deliver, and it will take more time for the development of the specification, procurement and delivery.

23. Option 4: Close the toilets permanently

Advantages

- Revenue expenditure will be minimal and relate to keeping the building secure and structurally safe.
- There will be a contract saving as the toilets will not need to be cleaned or consumables provided.

Disadvantages

- There will be no public toilets provided at what is a focal point for visitors to the heath.
- Potential reputational impact for the Mousehold Heath Conservators regarding the removal of toilet provision.
- The buildings would gradually deteriorate over time resulting in an unwelcoming sight to visitors to the heath and result in their loss at some point in the future when they become structurally unsafe.
- Increased risk of visitors using the heath environs as a toilet.
- Tensions with leaseholder if there is increased use of pavilion toilets by non-clients.

24. Option 5: Install eco toilet(s) as part of options 2 and 3 or if this is not possible as a stand alone unit.

At the time of the report, it has not been possible to establish if the existing buildings could be used, the costs to retro fit, what would be viable and any potential negative impacts.

25. There is a need to research this option further if the conservators feel it is a option they would like to pursue. Information will be required, regarding the quantity needed, the cost of provision, installation and emptying and compliance with relevant environmental legislation.

Advantages

- The public toilets will be available for visitor to the heath.
- Reduced water consumption, which also reduces energy bills and carbon emissions.
- The public toilets will be available for visitor to the heath.
- A potentially positive reputational impact for the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

Disadvantages

- The provision of a composting toilet and compromised user experience, in a location that has existing utility supplies.

- A new contract would need to be procured by the conservators for the emptying, removal and storage of waste until it meets the requirements to be used as a fertilizer.
- Potential difficulties due to the proximity of the restaurant entrance with access, smells when emptying the facility and venting.
- There will be no contract saving as the toilets will require consumables and cleaning.
- If a stand alone unit is required, it will not resolve the issues with the existing toilet blocks.
- It will be more complex to deliver and take more time for the development of the specification, procurement and delivery of the facility and also a waste contract.

Implications

Financial and Resources

26. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2019-22 and Budget. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

27. Option 2 is recommended because:

- although the current provision is aesthetically in poor condition it is structurally sound and despite cosmetic deterioration internally and externally this can be remedied;
- utilities are currently in place to service the building;
- it can be delivered with some improved environmental benefits and;
- it will be the most cost effective option for a relatively low use facility that will halt the decline/loss of the buildings and deliver good facilities for visitors to the heath.

Contact Officer:

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Committee Name: Mousehold Heath Conservators

Committee Date: 18/03/2022

Report Title: Mousehold Heath management update 15 January 2022 to 28 February 2022

Report from: Head of environment services

Wards: Crome/Catton Grove

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To provide an update on the activities on the Heath relating to the delivery of the Mousehold Heath management plan objectives between 15 January 2022 to 28 February 2022.

Recommendation:

To note the content of the report.

Policy Framework

The Council has three corporate priorities, which are:

- People living well
- Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment
- Inclusive economy

This report meets the great neighbourhoods, housing and environment corporate priority

The Mousehold Conservators Mousehold Heath management plan 2019-2028 has eight objectives, which are:

- A) To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.
- B) To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.
- C) To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.
- D) To manage Mousehold Heath in a way that has a positive impact on the environment.

E) To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath.

F) To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.

G) To provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in all aspect of our work.

H) To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and a sense of pride.

This report meets all the objectives.

Report Details

Objective A: To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.

AI30/02 TREE SAFETY INSPECTION

1. As a result of storms Dudley and Eunice 31, windblown trees and a number of fallen branches, identified during patrols and reported by members of the community, had work carried out by the Mousehold wardens to reduce any risk posed to visitors.

Objective B: To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.

MC81/01 VIEW FROM MOTTRAM MEMORIAL

2. Encroaching scrub and saplings were cleared to maintain the historic view to the city and conserve unimproved grassland on St James Hill.

ML60/01 NORFOLK CONSTABULARY

3. The Mousehold wardens liaised with police officers regarding anti-social behaviour in the woodland adjacent to Gilman Road.

MP00/01 SITE PRESENCE

4. Three abandoned camping areas were removed, located adjacent to St. James Hill, the Rangers House and the centre of the heath. A camper van driver was also informed of the bylaws preventing camping and overnight stays.

Objective C: To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.

ME04/02 LITTER BINS

5. One litter bin on the pathway leading to the pitch and putt course had its outer cover replaced due to fire damage.

ME04/03 FLY TIPPING

6. The NCSL EPA crew removed and disposed of garden waste and building materials flytipped at the pitch and putt car park.

ME12/01 REMOVE GRAFFITI

7. Graffiti was removed from the bandstand and football changing rooms at the Fountain Ground sports.

ME41 PROVIDE/MAINTAIN PATHS

8. Scrub partially blocking the all access path and other paths have been cut back to maintain access to the Mottram Memorial and around St James Hill. The work was done by the wardens assisted by TCV volunteers.

Objective E: To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath.

MH04/01 GLADE MANAGEMENT, MAINTAIN

9. The glade behind the pavilion had encroaching vegetation cut and raked off to maintain the area as a glade.

MH31/01 SCRUB AND TREE REMOVAL

10. Invasive scrub and birch trees were removed in the heathland area to maintain the important heathland habitat, as required by the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement that contributes funding to the management of the area.
11. Birch saplings were pulled up in open heathland areas using tree poppers by the wardens and volunteers.

MH39/03 COMMON GORSE REMOVAL

12. Invasive common gorse was cut and removed from heathland areas to conserve heather, western gorse and other dwarf shrub species.
13. Fire breaks were also created in large stands of gorse, to reduce fire risk and create a mosaic of vegetation types. These isolated gorse thickets provide ideal bird nesting habitat.

HL40/06 NATURAL ENGLAND HLS AGREEMENT

14. The HLS agreement was due to come to an end and the scheme will be replaced by a new countryside stewardship scheme. The new scheme is not yet open and so Natural England have extended the existing agreement until October 2023.
15. The council sent an expression of interest to Natural England to be involved in a pilot of the new scheme.

Objective H: To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and a sense of pride.

MI60/01 EVENTS

16. Enchanted Wood Forest School and Tribe held one environmental play activity each on the heath. The events were managed through Norwich City Council events team. These sessions increase the enjoyment, knowledge and interest of nature and the heath for young people.

RC30/01 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

- 17.25. Local historians, involved with the research and restoration of the World War 2 RAF/USAF air base located at Newman Road, Rackheath, have been researching the use of the heath in war time, supported by a Mousehold warden.

RH31/01 FOREST SCHOOLS

18. A fourth Forest School environmental education activity group has started using the heath, facilitated by the Mousehold wardens and Norwich City Council events team. The new group from 'Action For Children Norfolk ECFS and the City and Eaton Early Childhood and Family Service work alongside Norfolk County Council. They are pleased to have found such a large, accessible natural area in the city for their activities.

Objective G: To provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in all aspect of our work.

AT50/01 VOLUNTEERS GENERAL

19. A total of 733 volunteer work hours have been contributed to work on the site in the last period by the following groups:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- The Assist Trust
- Mousehold Heath Defenders
- Mousehold Heath Mousketeers
- Crown Commercial Corporate Group
- Good Gym Norwich
- City College student groups
- Norwich High School For Girls
- Many individual volunteers from the community.

20. Volunteering has provided an opportunity for the community to become involved with the management of the heath, to increase their understanding of the projects being undertaken, the importance of the heath and to engender a sense of ownership and pride in the space.

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