

Report for Information

Report to	Mousehold Heath Conservators 13 January 2012	Item
Report of	Report of the Head of local neighbourhood services	8
Subject	Mousehold heath update report	

Purpose

To provide an update on issues and recent activities at Mousehold Heath.

Recommendations

That the Conservators comment on the report.

Financial Consequences

Any works identified in the report have been, or will be met from existing approved budgets.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority safe and healthy neighbourhoods

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Background Documents

Mousehold Heath management plan, 2008-2013 and annual work programme 2011/12.

Report

Activities and management works undertaken

Vinegar Pond

1. Part of the Vinegar Pond basin was re-profiled and lined with bentonite clay in December 2011. Early indications are positive, as the bentonite-lined area of the pond is currently holding water and it is hoped that it will provide a suitable breeding area for the frogs in 2012. The Mousehold Defenders have offered a donation of £1,000 to the restoration of the Vinegar Pond. The funding will make a valuable contribution to this work and Conservators are asked to thank the Defenders for this donation.
2. Heathland restoration work using specialist 'cut and collect' machinery was again carried out by the contractor Peter Frizzell.
3. A significant amount of trees and branches were brought down by the gales over the New Year period, but most of these were cleared by the Mousehold wardens.
4. A large amount of other habitat management work has been overseen, or undertaken by, the Mousehold Heath wardens. The Mousehold Defenders, BTCV, Norwich Community Green Gym and groups from Aviva/BSkyB and the College of West Anglia have all been involved and 1,445 volunteer hours have been completed since 1 September 2011.
5. The Mousehold wardens have continued to run guided walks and other events for both the general public and special interest groups. Attendance figures for recent events are: Bat Walk (38), Moth Evening (8), Fungal Foray (13), Mousehold Heritage Walk (30), Autumn Watch Walk (8) and Winter Watch Walk (13). Note: Wildlife Watch is an environmental club for children and young people, and is the junior section of the Wildlife Trusts Partnership.
6. The Mousehold Heritage Walk was again organised in partnership with HEART (Norwich Heritage, Economic and Regeneration Trust). This event, for which pre-booking was essential, was over-subscribed and it is hoped to organise a similar walk in conjunction with HEART as part of the 2012 events programme.
7. The Mousehold Heath wardens continue to uphold the by-laws, especially regarding unauthorised motorcycling on the site and a persistent offender was sentenced after pleading guilty in October.
8. The Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership was successful in obtaining funding for a Mousehold Heath 'Earth Heritage Trail'. This will highlight the unique geology and quarrying history of Mousehold. This is covered in more detail in the notes of the management sub-group meeting.
9. The Britannia Road car park was re-profiled (as were the Pavilion and Pitch and Putt car parks), along with additional works to discourage motorists from speeding along the car park and disturbing local residents during the

evenings. The vandalised plinth of the Mottram Memorial was removed at the same time.

10. Members and officers met to discuss a programme of works to reduce the on going anti social behaviour that has been occurring on the car park following a discussion at the last meeting.
11. The Itinerant group agreed that blocking of the entrance at the disable parking area would enable additional parking for two more vehicles easier access to the disable pathway and reduce speeding vehicles entering and exiting the car park close to residential properties.
12. In addition the other two entrances, one close to the cavalry track, the other in the centre of the car park needed repair along the boundary to the highway. Options to achieve this were discussed that would also prevent gravel spilling onto the highway and being re-distributed around the car park.
13. It was also agreed that to re-site the remaining litter bin on the heath side of the retaining bollards and this work would be carried out in conjunction with the annual re-grading of the surface.
14. The proposals were endorsed by the members attending and agreed by Chair under delegated powers.
15. The Fountain Ground changing room has now been installed on site, but it is not yet operational due to a technical problem with the electricity supply. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved shortly with the building's supplier and UK Power Networks.