

## **Report for Information**

**Report to** Mousehold Heath Conservators  
17 September 2010

**ITEM**

**Report of** Report of the Head of Local Neighbourhood Services

**8**

**Subject** Greater Norwich Development Partnership – Mousehold Heath and adjacent playing field, proposed Green Infrastructure Works.

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### **Purpose**

To inform the Conservators of some additional works to be carried adjacent to the heath which are externally funded that will benefit the objectives of the Conservators and the management plan and some works on site that progress the agreed management plan.

### **Recommendations**

That the Conservators note the report.

### **Financial Consequences**

The work described in the report will be met by funding provided by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership.

### **Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities**

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

**Contact Officer: William Stewart, Mousehold Heath Warden**  
**Telephone: 01603 213310**

## **Background**

In terms of green infrastructure and Growth Agenda, Mousehold Heath is a unique open space within the functional urban area, offering access to a significant area of multi-functional green space, and providing a potential “footstep” for a green corridor linking through to the proposed developments within the Rackheath and Thorpe St Andrew Growth Triangle. As part of work commissioned by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) in their “green infrastructure delivery plan”, Mousehold Heath was selected as a demonstration project for the green infrastructure programme and has been allocated a small capital sum (£20,000), for works.

Further information on the proposed works are set out below.

## **Project objectives**

To enhance the historic Mousehold area through recreating and expanding the original heathland landscape, through key green corridors that link the heath towards Rackheath and Thorpe St Andrew Growth Triangle.

Fund and implement heathland restoration works set out in the Mousehold Heath Management Plan.

Increase understanding, access and enjoyment of the area and Mousehold Heath.

Create an area for Open Academy students to study, carry out practical tasks and enjoy.

## **Method**

To use soil inversion to create sandy topsoil, followed by heather seeding, resulting in a section of the current school playing field becoming heather heathland. This would be monitored and managed by Heartease Open Academy students, with advice from the Mousehold Wardens.

An area at the far end of the field will be scraped and a wildflower seed mix planted, to increase nectar for insects and create a biological study area for students.

A path would be installed through the area, with an interpretive board (showing historic information and drawings from Open Academy students) installed. A lockable gate would be installed, to allow public access during daylight hours. A turf reinforcement grid would be installed inside the main access gate to support vehicle access.

A number of temporary boards would be put up around the site to inform members of the public about the project.

On Mousehold Heath an area of scrub will be cleared and a small scrape created, linking the newly created area with the established heathland habitat in the Pilot Project area of Mousehold Heath. These works are identified in Section 7, Area 2 of the M.H. Management Plan.

### **Costs**

Soil inversion - £8000

Heather seed (from Buxton/Cawston Heath) - £500

Interpretation board + design - £2500

Turf reinforcement grid - £500

Sow wildflower mix - £1000

Gate - £200

Underground utilities test - £160

Soil Samples - £225

Temporary information foam boards - £100 (+5)

Heathland restoration works on Mousehold Heath - £6000.

The cost of the works will be met from funds provided by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership. All works on Mousehold Heath will be supervised by a Mousehold Warden and will adhere to the objectives set out in the Management Plan 2008-2013.

### **Timing**

Funding has been secured for works to start in November 2010.

### **Other information**

A number of meetings have been held with a representative of the GNDP; Open Academy, Norfolk County Council and Mousehold Warden in attendance. Representatives from these organisations are fully supportive of the project.