

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
18 March 2016
Report of Interim executive head of neighbourhoods
Subject Mousehold Heath update

Item

7

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

Asset management

1. A number of new wooden bollards have been installed to the front of the public car park in front of the pavilion on Gurney Road and three. This will be followed up by more replacements at the beginning of the new financial year 2015-16. Three new benches were installed on Gilman Road Open Space.

Tree and natural area management

2. A number of dead, dying, dangerous and windblown trees and branches near footpaths have been made safe by the Mousehold wardens, including branches blocking main pathways.
3. A significant amount of heathland and grassland management has been undertaken involving volunteers and contractors, to restore and improve the condition of existing habitats in line with the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England.

Asset management

4. Minor repairs have been undertaken to taps in the toilets adjacent to the Pavilion and showers in Fountain Ground changing rooms.

Access works

5. Paths on St. James Hill have been maintained by Mousehold Heath Defenders, the Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Green Gym, City College group and other volunteers.
6. A contractor using a tractor-mounted cut and collect mower, supervised by Mousehold wardens, has cut back paths and emergency vehicle access routes across the site.
7. Paths have been cut back around St. Williams Chapel and vegetation cut and removed to improve access, views across and enjoyment of the scheduled ancient monument in line with Management Plan.
8. These conservation and improve works have involved hundreds of hours of volunteer work by the Mousehold Heath Defenders, TCV, Norwich Community Green Gym, a City College Foundation skills and Duke of Edinburgh award scheme groups and an Easton College work placement student, all supervised by the Mousehold wardens. Work to improve will continue in autumn 2016.

Volunteers

9. There have been a total of 1100 volunteer hours undertaken 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
- An Easton College and City College work placement students.
- Volunteers from the community.
- City College Duke of Edinburgh award scheme group.
- City College Foundation work skills group
- Harford House volunteer team.

10. 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.

Events

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

- A number of annual volunteer Christmas thank you meals took place at the Britannia Road café.
- Two cross-country inter-schools have taken place on the heath.
- A guided walk for new Norwich Community Green Gym members was led by a Mousehold Heath warden.