



## MOUSEHOLD HEATH CONSERVATORS

2.05pm to 3.40pm

18 October 2013

Present: Councillors Bradford (chair), Ackroyd, Barker Maxwell and Little; Lenny Stamp (Community and neighbourhood manager), Bob Cronk (Head of local neighbourhood services), Margaret Bush (The Mousehold Heath Defenders) and Chris Southgate (The Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Henderson and Price

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

### 2. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2013.

### 3. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT APRIL 2013 - SEPTEMBER 2013

The finance control manager attended for this item and presented the report. In response to a member's question, he said that he felt the forecast salary overspend was a sensible one, and likely due to seasonal shift payments during the summer months.

In response to a further question, the head of local neighbourhood services said that the £3K required for works on the pavilion would be acquired by moving an item on the work programme into next year to allow the redecoration and renovation works to take place in 2013.

**RESOLVED** to note the current budget monitoring position.

### 4. ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

The head of local neighbourhood services explained that the annual report provides an opportunity to showcase the value of Mousehold Heath to the city.

The community and neighbourhood manager presented the report, explaining that a considerable amount of partnership working had taken place during the year. He highlighted the Mottram Memorial refurbishment in conjunction with the Norwich Society as an example of positive partnership working.

Other work highlighted included:

- Wardens working with the open academy to encourage an understanding of conservation
- A plan having been put in place to tackle fires caused by antisocial behaviour
- Species surveys
- Work that had taken place around St William's chapel

Members said that not only did the report provide an excellent summary of the work carried out, but that it had the potential to encourage further use of the heath.

The head of local neighbourhood services explained that the report is usually circulated electronically to partner agencies such as Natural England. Discussion ensued in which members expressed a desire to have the report more widely distributed and publicised. A number of suggestions were made in relation to this:

- Place an article in 'Citizen' to detail the work of the wardens
- Use the report as a promotional tool via an annual press launch
- Look at the potential for professional publication and sale of the document through outlets such as the tourist information centre
- Use social media to promote both the report and the wider work of the wardens

Discussion moved on to World War I commemorations and the head of local neighbourhood services said that he would look at what is happening locally and circulate ideas to members.

Specific thanks were then given to the wardens for the extensive work they carry out on both the heath and the annual report.

**RESOLVED** to;

- 1) Note the annual report;
- 2) Authorise the head of local neighbourhood services to explore and circulate WWI commemoration ideas to committee members;

## **5. MOUSEHOLD HEATH UPDATE**

The community and neighbourhood manager presented the report and said that the work on the heath is on target. He explained that the wardens had continued to work closely with the police to monitor instances of anti-social behaviour. He said that a series of guided walks throughout the summer had been a success a suggestion for a Halloween bat watch was being explored. He also added that over 1,000 hours of voluntary work had taken place on the heath over the year. Finally he clarified that Blue Sky Leisure would be in attendance at an additional November meeting on the heath to discuss the works to both the toilets and the pavilion.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

## **6. MANAGEMENT SUB-GROUP REPORT - MOUSEHOLD HEATH CONSERVATORS SUBGROUP NOTES**

The head of local neighbourhood services presented the notes taken at the sub group meeting.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

## **7. PUSH THE PEDALWAYS - HEATHGATE TO VALLEY DRIVE**

The head of local neighbourhood services presented the report, explaining the background to the pink pedalway segment of the city cycle route. He said that an additional meeting needed to be arranged on site at the heath so that conservators could be given an overview of the planned cycle route works alongside the heath. It was suggested that this be coincided with a visit to the pavilion and toilets with Blue Sky Leisure to discuss the works there.

**RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting on the heath for November 2013 to include committee members, the head of local neighbourhood services, the design, conservation and landscape manager, and Blue Sky Leisure.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to confirm that the next meeting of the Conservators will be held at City Hall at 2pm on Friday 17 January 2014.

CHAIR