

Management sub group report

Item **8**

Notes from Mousehold Heath Sub Group

Mon 01 November 2010

14:00 – 16:00 Wymer Room City Hall

Present:

Cllr David Bradford (Cllr DB, Chairman)
Cllr Jenny Lay (Cllr JL)
Chris Southgate (CS)
Malcolm Bryant (MB)

Bob Cronk (BC) Head of Neighbourhood Services
Lenny Stamp (LS) Neighbourhood Manager, North
Paul Holley (PH) Natural Areas Officer

Apologies

Cllrs Julie Brociek-Coulton and Stephen Little

Item 1 – New Management Structure

BC outlined changes in the management structure relevant to Mousehold Heath. The two Mousehold Heath wardens would now be line managed by LS, with the transition intended to be in place by 10 December 2010. The Mousehold wardens' roles would otherwise remain unchanged, and regular contact with the natural areas officer and other relevant staff would be maintained. CS pointed out that this 'matrix management' model could have both advantages and drawbacks. In response to a query from Cllr DB, BC said that the final responsibility for the Mousehold wardens lay with him.

BC said that there would be budget issues in future years that might need to be addressed by the Mousehold Conservators. Cllr DB said that a 'route map' to define the current position and a way forward would be useful.

In response to a query from Cllr JL, BC said that litter-picking on the Heath was done by Connaught [now known as Fountains], and that the buildings were managed by Sherwood. MB asked if the Neighbourhood Manager's costs would be taken from the Mousehold Heath budget. BC replied that these costs would not, but specific services, e.g. Legal would be charged for.

CS suggested an induction for LS, who advised that a meeting had been organised between him, the Mousehold Heath wardens and PH. LS then outlined his background and explained his working relationships. In response to a question from MB concerning the Mousehold wardens' mobile numbers being made available to the Mousehold Heath Defenders, LS said that it would be more appropriate to call the neighbourhood warden team on their 24 hour hotline number to report incidents or emergencies. The team were often able to be on site within ten minutes, and the call would be officially logged on the council's system. LS then outlined approaches to dealing with anti-social behaviour.

Item 2 – Notes from Last Meeting

CS asked for an amendment to the notes of the last meeting (02.08.10) to reflect his comments regarding the use of the access track to Zak's Restaurant. This was actioned, and the notes now read:

'Bob Clark said that there were no restrictions on the use of the access track to the building. CS expressed concerns about possible damage to underground services, especially a gas pipeline, from the heavy delivery vehicles now using the track.'

Cllr DB added that use of the access track would be raised in the proposed future discussions with Zak's.

Item 3 – Changing Rooms Update

PH provided a brief update on the changing rooms procurement situation.

ACTION POINTS:

1. PH to discuss further with Gary Bagge, [Asset & City Management] finalise design modifications and present to Conservators' Working Group before the next full Conservators' meeting.
2. PH to liaise with Chris Bennett [Design & Conservation] over design of new changing rooms.

Item 4 – Pavilion Update

PH reported that Zak's had responded favourably to a request for an informal meeting between their management and the Conservators; a date would now be arranged.

ACTION POINT: following a request from the Conservators, PH would ask Bob Clark [Asset & City Management] how much had been spent on maintaining the Pavilion building over the last ten years.

Item 5 – Future Conservators' Working Group Meetings

It was decided to try to arrange 2011 meetings for Mondays three weeks before the main Conservators' meetings.

ACTION POINT: PH to organise.

Item 6 – Any Other Business

(i) CS asked for further details of the MP/MEP visit planned for Friday 19 November.

ACTION POINT: PH to send.

(ii) MB asked about the chainsaw outfit for the Mousehold Heath wardens. PH said that this had been ordered and that delivery was expected shortly.

(iii) Cllr JL raised the Britannia Road car park situation, where groups of people gathering in the evening in their customised cars were causing a nuisance to local residents. She reported that the police were investigating options to try to tackle the problem.

(iv) PH asked if the Conservators would approve nominal expenses for volunteers leading guided walks or other public events at Mousehold Heath; this was agreed. PH also reported that the Assist Trust was now undertaking volunteer work on the heath, and they had suggested that the Conservators make a donation of £200 towards the purchase of some hand tools. PH suggested that if the Conservators were minded to do this, there should be an agreement that the tools should remain the property of the Conservators for a fixed period (two or three years was suggested). This was agreed.

ACTION POINT: PH to agree with Assist Trust.

Item 7 – Dates of Next Meetings

The next full Conservator's meeting would be at 14:00 on Friday 10 December.

The date of the next CWG would be advised by PH.