

## **Report for Information**

**Report to** Mousehold Heath Conservators  
10 December 2010

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

**Subject** Mousehold heath management plan progress report

---

9

### **Purpose**

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

### **Recommendations**

That the Conservator's note the report's contents.

### **Financial Consequences**

Any works that arise from this report will be met from existing budgets.

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

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

### **Contact Officers**

Paul Holley

01603 212343

### **Background Documents**

Mousehold Heath Management Plan, 2008-2013 and annual work programme 2010/11.

# **Report**

## **Management works**

An intensive level of management activity has been maintained, with 875 volunteer hours being completed over the review period. These have involved the Mousehold Heath Defenders, the Assist Trust, BTCV, the Community Green Gym, a student placement from the Heartsease Open Academy and groups from Aviva and the College of West Anglia. Tasks undertaken have included the ongoing restoration of the Cavalry Track, heathland management and clearing a woodland glade/access route. Further volunteer work is planned for the remainder of the winter.

In addition, an owl box and other nesting boxes made by a Mousehold Heath Defender have been put up, and the bat boxes inspected. A picnic bench funded by the Mousehold Defenders has been installed at the Anthills site.

A large number of wind-blown and hazardous trees have had to be cleared; much of the more recent work was accomplished by the Mousehold Wardens themselves, using the newly purchased chainsaw. The chainsaw, along with the previously obtained brush-cutter, are already enabling the wardens to undertake management works much more effectively.

The Desert and Anthills conservation areas were cut and cleared by Connaught (now Fountains) contractors.

Mechanical cutting of some of the gorse areas using a specialist machine is planned for December, and the results will be monitored.

The first phase of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) funded project has started, which will involve the creation of a demonstration heathland area on a playing field off Heartsease Lane, with associated works on the adjacent part of Mousehold Heath.

## **Events**

Recent events have included a fungi walk led by the county recorder, a history walk organised by Margaret Bush of the Mousehold Defenders, a wildlife walk led by the wardens for Move on East and a Remembrance Day ceremony organised by the Mousehold Defenders. A total of 131 people attended these events. The wardens also organised Forest Schools activities for local children.

## **Fountain Ground changing rooms**

Further work has been undertaken on the procurement of new changing rooms to replace the current life-expired building on the Fountain Ground. This included a visit by the Mousehold Heath Conservators to view a potential replacement building on 1 October.

## **Miscellaneous issues**

Several meetings involving local residents, the police and council members and staff have been held in an attempt to resolve the current issue of disturbance to residents of Britannia Road. The problems are being caused by groups of people

gathering in their cars at night and making excessive noise.

Other recent issues covered by the Household Wardens have included monitoring the grounds contract, and dealing with incidents including a burnt out car on Gilman Road, graffiti and fly-tipping.