Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators Item

22 January 2016

Report of Head of local neighbourhood services

Purpose

Subject

To propose the Mousehold Heath draft work programme for 2016-17

Annual work programme 2014-15

Recommendation

To approve the draft work programme for 2016-17

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a clean and safe city

Financial implications

Any costs that arise from this report will be met from the approved Mousehold budget or from external funding.

Contact officers

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Lenny Stamp, community and neighbourhood manager 01603 213281 north

Background documents

None

Report

Review of 2015-16 work programme

- All main objectives set out in the 2015-16 works programme for biodiversity improvements will have been met by the end of the financial year, including heathland and grassland habitat improvements that form part of the site's Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement.
- 2. Infrastructure improvements programme of installation of interpretation panels and their upkeep, renewing furnishings, clearing and keeping open access on pathways (including removing windblown trees) and levelling car park surfaces is providing improved access to visitors and local users alike; this was carried out through the year.
- 3. The events in the guided walk programme have been very well attended with full attendance on nearly all public walks.
- 4. A large number of flora and fauna surveys have increased biological records, as well as increasing community involvement, understanding and enjoyment of the site.
- 5. A new six monthly tree inspection survey, to cover all well used paths, was designed and implemented by the Mousehold wardens to address dangerous and windblown trees and branches being made safe.
- 6. In line with the management plan objectives the maintenance of all public car parks, particularly Britannia Road, are now managed on an annual inspection basis with the support of a civil engineer from our contractor to assess what works need to be ordered. This will help in providing a safe surface condition mitigating any severe pot holes developing, drops near the kerb and water collection. Minor repairs will be arranged by the Mousehold Heath wardens with volunteer help where possible.

Proposed work programme 2016-17

7. The Conservators have in more recent years, approved the annual work programme for the following financial year at the same meeting that the budget and precept is approved. This is to ensure that activity is aligned with the budget setting process.

Rationale

- 8. Many of the proposed actions in the work programme consist of ongoing site management works and activities such as the annual programme of events. It is intended to at least maintain, and where possible expand, the levels of habitat management activity, infrastructure improvement and services to the public undertaken in previous years, subject to the availability of resources. This should be possible for the following reasons:
 - New ways of working, especially the greater availability and involvement of volunteer time, have reduced costs and enabled an increase in the amount of management work undertaken. It should be noted that organising and supervising volunteer work parties requires staff time and this is possible through the efforts and good work of the Mousehold wardens.

• The use of contractors with specialist machinery has been increased, especially for heathland management. Also, the increased use of machine tools e.g. chainsaw and brush-cutter for use by the Mousehold wardens and the training of volunteers, has enabled many smaller tasks, such as, tree safety works, path maintenance, habitat management, etc., to be undertaken at lower cost and more efficiently.

pe		Location Name	Item	Action	Management Plan Map 5 Aerial Map Location	Management plan Obj.	Estimated cost £		APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
ere are two ponds on site that are fed by s roductions should they occur.	urface wa	ater run off these play host to	breeding frogs and newts	throughout Winter, Spring and summer	and provide good	l habitats for aqu	atic inverteb	rates and pla	int life. Object	tives are to re	etain water lev	els througho	ut the year ar	id avoid intro	duction of un	suitable plan	t and animal s	pecies, remo	ve any unautl	horised
bitat Management - Water	1	Vinegar Pond	Pond	Monitor condition	E4	4.8	0	D/MW	MW	MW	MW									MW
	1	Long Valley	Wildlife Pond	Monitor condition	E6	4.8	0	MW								MW	MW			
busehold Heath covers 184 acres of which e Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme				secondary woodland with small areas of	open grassland, o	ppen spaces and	sports pitch	es. Objective	es are to mair	ntain, enhanc	e and increas	e biodiversity	y of areas of I	neather and lo	wland heath	vegetation, jo	oining up of e	kisting areas	of heathland	in line with
bitat Management - Heath	1	Heathland areas	Gorse management	Cut/collect gorse areas on rotation	Annual rotation	4.5	2,000	MW/C								MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	
				Conservation. Contractor																
	1	Heathland areas	Scrub clearance	Heathland restoration and cut scrub. Community Green Gym	E13-14/F13- 14/G13-14/H14	4.5	1,500	MW/C	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	GG/MW	
	1	Heathland areas	Humus stripping	Remove topsoil from selected areas to encourage heathland regeneration. Contractor	Annual rotation	4.5	1,000	MW/C								MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	MW/C	
	1	St. James' Hill	Scrub clearance	Cut back scrub	E13-14/F13-14/ G12-14/H13-14	4.5	0	MW								TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	
	1	All Heathland areas	Control scrub regrowth	Control regrowth from previously cut scrub. TCV work parties	D3-4/E3-5/F3- 5/G3-5&7/H4- 5&7/I4-5/J6-7/K6- 7/L6	4.5	4,500	MW	TCV/MW	TCV/ MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW	
	1	Heathland areas	Bracken control	Cut/bruise bracken in open areas TCV work parties	G4-5/H5/I5	4.5	0	MW			TCV/MW	TCV/MW	TCV/MW							
	3	Playing field adj pitch & putt	GNDP project	Monitor/manage heathland project area	K6/L6/M6	4.5	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW							
asses and wild flower species favouring ac mover encroaching scrub and trees.	cid soil c	I onditions are an integral com	I ponent of heathland veget	I ation providing a diverse habitat for a m	I ultitude of insects	these areas wil	be rapidly lo	ost without a	ppropriate ma	anagement. O	bjectives are	to cut vegeta	tion once per	year and ren	nove arisings	ensuring nut	rient levels ar	e kept to a mi	nimum, perio	dically
bitat Management - Acid Grassland and Id Flower Meadow	1	The Desert	Wild Flower management	Cut areas & remove arisings (Cons.Cut 5) Contractor	C5-6/D5-6	4.6	0	MW/C						С						
NOT TOWN MODELS	1	The Anthills	Grassland management	Cut areas & remove arisings (Cons.Cut 5) TCV GG MW	G8/H8	4.6	0	MW/TCV						TCV/GG MW						
	1	The Anthills	Grassland management	Control any encroaching scrub TCV GG MW	G8/H8	4.6	0	MW/TCV								TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	
	2	St James' Hill/Cav Track area	Scrub management	Control, or coppice areas on rotation	E14/F12-14/G14	4.6	0	MW							TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW	TCV/GG MW			
ousehold Heath now mainly consists of dea d fallen dead wood.	nse wood	dland with little understory or	I ground flora. To increase a	I and improve its ecological value, objecti	ves are to create a	l a network of ride	s and glades	by widening	existing trac	ks and pathw	ays, works in	clude thinnin	g, coppicing	and pollardin	g allowing in	more light fo	r ground flora	to flourish w	hile retaining	standing
bitat Management - Woodland	2	All areas	Coppicing, pollarding	Expand woodland ride and glades using work parties and contractors		4.7 9.2	0	MW								TCV/GG MW/C	TCV/GG MW/C	TCV/GG MW/C	TCV/GG MW/C	
	2	Gilman Rd	Path/cycleway	Complete tree work	A5-F8	4.7	0	ARB/MW								MW	MW	MW	MW	
sst code: Treeworks 2655	1	All areas	Programmed works	Tree section: Carry out safety related tree works		4.7	4,282	ARB/MW	ARB	ARB	ARB	ARB	ARB	ARB	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	
	1	All areas	Emergency works	Carry out safety related tree works		4.7	0	ARB/MW							C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	
	2	All areas	Woodland Management Scheme	Investigate viability for Mousehold		4.7	0	MW	MW	MW	MW									

Ensure that the importance of Mousehold Heath as a historic landscape is protected. Objectives are to retain and conserve key landscape elements such as open heathland, hills and hollows, archaeological and historical features along with historical buildings, memorials and protected scheduled ancient monuments.

toric Building and Landscape	1	St. William's Chapel Site	Maintain site	Clear encroaching vegetation to agreed	J4/K4	4.9	0	MW					TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG
nagement				plan TCV GG work parties									MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	1	Pitch & Putt hub board	Interpretation sign	Design & install	J4/K4	4.9	1,500	MW			MW	MW					
	3	Tram Track	Historic routes	Open up	I6/J5-6/K5	4.9	0	MW					TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG	TCV/GG
							1						MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	The Pavillion	Maintenance and Improvements	Monitor lease agreement and repair proposals, Firebreak maintenance	G7	10.1iii	0	MW/A&CM									
	1	Fountain Ground Bandstand	Repair and Maintenance	Monitor condition	H8	10.1 iv	0	MW									
	1	Mottram Memorial	Repair and Maintenance	Monitor condition	F14	10.1 v	0	MW									
	1	World War II commemorative plaque	Repair and Maintenance	Monitor condition	F9	10.1v	0	MW									

Visitor Management	2	Whole site	School visits	Organised visits & activities		4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW			MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Off site	School talks	Talks & activities to schools		4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW			MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Whole site	Public events	Organise & run year round programme		4.10	0	MW	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
	1	Whole site		Produce site info notices prior to works commencing		4.10	0	MW					MW		MW	MW	MW			
	3	Way marked trail	Way marked posts	Maintain and repair as required		4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW									
	1	Selected areas		Maintain ad repair as required TCV GG work parties	MW	4.10	0	NGP/MW	TCV/GG MW											
	2	Whole site	Easy access	Continue to review easy access provision & propose improvements	Various	4.10	0	MW			MW	MW								
	1	Off site	Web Site and leaflets	Update leaflets and city council M'hold web pages		4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW									
	2	Whole site		Deliver annual programme of guided walks/activities	Various	4.10	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	1	Whole site	Litter	Litter pick, monitor contractor	Various	4.10	0	MW	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С
	1	Whole site	Fly-tipping	Remove fly-tipping as it occurs	Various	4.10	0	MW	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С	С

Ensure that main pathway networks are maintained and repaired for public health and safety and emergency vehicle access including disable access routes, trails, courses, signs, furnishings, interpretation panels, on site car parks, toilet and sports facilities.

Visitor Infrastructure	2	All Paths	Paths	Cut back either side as necessary		4.11	0	MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW	C/MW						
	2	All Paths	Paths	Level/fill as necessary		4.11	0	MW			MW	MW	MW							
	1	St. James' Hill		Cut back encroaching scrub TCV GG work parties		4.11	0	MW								MW	MW			
	2	Cavalry Track	Path	Trim back as necessary	F13/G12-13	4.11	0	MW				MW			MW					
	1	Fountain Ground	Bandstand/Changing Rms	Electrical safety testing	F9	4.11	0	MW			MW									
	2	Pavilion area	Visitor point	Examine feasibility/progress	G8	4.11	0	MW											MW	MW
	2	Pavilion area	Pavilion access track	Maintain to safe standard	G8	4.11	0	MW											MW	MW
	1	Britannia Rd car park	Car park	Essential maintenance as required	G12-13/H13	4.11	2,000	MW	С	С	С								MW	MW
	1	Pitch & Putt car park	Car park	Essential maintenance as required	J5	4.11	1,000	MW	С	С	С								MW	MW
	1	Gurney Road and Gilman Road car parks including the Ice Cream Van concession	Car parks	Maintain as necessary		4.11	1,000	MW	С	С	С	С	С	С						
	3	Whole site	Interpretation stations	Renew and update when necessary		4.11	0	MW		MW										
	3	Selected locations	Welcome to M'hold signs	Review potential new signs		4.11	0	MW		MW										
	2	Various	Benches	Replace/repair as necessary		4.11	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Various	Signs	Replace/repair as necessary		4.11	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	Various		Replace, maintain,repair and renew as required	G12-13/H13	4.11	9,000	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	3	Car parks		Review durable surfaces giving priority to Britannia Road		4.11	0	MW									MW	MW		
	3	Areas with BMX activity	ŭ	Monitor & review measures to resolve unauthorised BMX activities		4.11	0	MW		MW			MW							
	1	Whole site	Emergency works	Emergency repairs contingency	1	4.11	2,267	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW

Review management on a regular basis

Review & monitoring	1	Off site	Management Plan	Review & revise plan		5.1	0	MW			MW			MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
		Off site	Conservators Meeting			5.1	0	co	MHC			MHC			MHC			MHC		
		Off site	Cons Working Group Mtg			5.1	0	СО			MHC			МНС			МНС			MHC
	2	Whole site	Itinerant	Organise site visit to review work plan progress & priorities for next financial year		5.1	0	CO/MW												
	1	Off site	Annual Work Programme	Drafted and agreed by Conservators		5.1	0	MW									MW	MW		
	2	Heathland Areas	Heathland Regeneration	Monitor heathland regeneration	Selected Sqs	5.1	0	MW				MW	MW	MW						
In order to determine whether managemen	t is having	an appropriate affect on the	site's biodiversity, it is impo	ortant that the site is monitored on an o	ngoing basis.															
Surveying & recording	2	All	Common Bird Census	Carry out weekly during season		5.1	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW						1		
	2	All	Butterfly transect	Complete 26 week transect		5.1	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW						
	2	All	Biological surveys	Survey & record Fauna and Flora		5.1	0	MW/D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D					D
	2	All	Miscellaneous species	Collate records		5.1	0	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
	2	All	Dragonfly survey	Monitor weekly throughout season		5.1	0	MW		MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW		1			
	2	All	Annual report	Collate information & produce report		5.1	0	MW	MW	PH							1			
	1	Heathland areas	Heathland Management	Implement Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement		4.5	0	MW	MW	MW	MW									
Supplies and Sevices				•																
Equipment and Tools Repairs 3371	1	All	Site management works	Purchasing	NA	All	450	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
Equipment and Tools Purchase 3370	1	All	Site management works	Repairs and maintenance	NA	All	450	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
Advertising and Promotion (3910)	1	All	Service	leaflets/guided walks/reports	N/A	All	960	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
Protective clothing 3550	1	All	Service	Health and Safety clothing. Training of volunteers, purchasing new tools and	NA	All	1,195	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
		1	I	equipment.	1	1	ı	1	I	1	ı	1		I	I	I		1		

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KEY; MHC Mousehold Heath Conservators
D Mousehold Defenders

C Contractor

ARB Arboriculture section
CO Committee Officer
GG Green Gym

TCV The Conservation Volunteers
NGP Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership
A&CM Asset & City Management
MW Mousehold Wardens