Report for Resolution

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators

13 January 2012

Item

Report of Head of local neighbourhood services

5

Subject Annual work programme

Purpose

To propose to Conservators the draft work programme for 2012/13

Recommendations

That the Conservators comment on and approve the draft work programme for 2012/13.

Financial Consequences

Any costs that arise from this report will be met from existing budgets, or external funding.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority Safe & Healthy Neighbourhoods

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

Mousehold Heath management plan 2008-2013, and annual work programme 2012/13.

Background

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

As in previous years, the draft work programme has been produced in a spreadsheet format to show the following:

- Each proposed action has been listed under one of nine thematic headings, together with the relevant management plan objective and location details.
- The actions have been prioritised as follows: 1 = highest priority, 2 = medium priority, 3 = lowest priority. Priorities may need to change during the year depending on circumstances.
- Tree works, and items included in the grounds maintenance contract or as grounds maintenance day works are identified separately and costs provided where available. Projects, including those which are one off, are identified separately. It should be noted that many of the actions will be carried out by volunteers, or by City Council staff as part of their normal duties, so these items are not separately costed.
- The lead person(s) or organisation for each action is identified. The coloured chart depicts the proposed date range for the action and the individuals and/or organisations involved.

Rational

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 volunteer work parties takes up a considerable amount of staff time, and this has only proved possible due to a second Mousehold warden being employed.
- 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, has enabled many smaller tasks to be undertaken at lower cost and more efficiently.
- It is hoped to continue to expand the amount of external funding available

for management works at Mousehold. For example, in 2012, it is proposed, subject to the views of the Conservators, to enter part of the site into the government's Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme, which will replace the Countryside Stewardship Scheme that has been in place on a small area of Mousehold since 2002. The HLS scheme should also be able to fund one-off habitat management projects.

In addition to regular work, several specific projects or one-off works are proposed in the 2012/13 work programme. These include:

- Feasibility study for a new wildlife pond. The existing Vinegar Pond and the very small pond dug nearby in 2003 are utilised by spawning frogs, but otherwise they are of very limited value to wildlife. A new, purpose-built pond, possibly on a site just to the north of the Pavilion, has been suggested. This could have considerable conservation value as well as offering an additional educational resource for visitors. A feasibility study involving a site survey and soil analysis would first be required; estimated cost would be £1,000. The cost of the pond itself, should it be decided to proceed, would depend on the lining method used but would probably be £7,000 10,000. If possible, external funding would be sought to cover at least a proportion of the cost.
- Earth Heritage Trail the Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership (NGP) has already obtained funding for geological interpretation at Mousehold, and some small-scale works to expose and conserve some of the best geological exposures. The latter will also benefit insects associated with these habitats, such as solitary bees and wasps; several uncommon species of these occur at Mousehold Heath. The types of interpretation media and site works to be funded will be agreed between the NGP and the Mousehold Heath Conservators. It is envisaged that the entire cost of the project will be covered by the NGP's grant.
- Heathland management: regular heathland management is carried out mainly by volunteers and the Mousehold Heath wardens, but the use of specialist machinery in 2010 and 2011 has enabled new areas of heathland to be brought back into active management. It is proposed to use this machinery again in 2012/13, both for cutting and collecting vegetation and for removing the build up of humus that has prevented the regeneration of heather and other heathland plants. The estimated cost of this work is £7,000.
- Some of the site 'furniture' at Mousehold, notably bollards and roadside fencing preventing unauthorised vehicle access to the heath, is in need of replacement. Several of the historic cast metal signposts and way-markers also need refurbishment. The cost of these replacement and repair works for 2012/13 would be £5,000 – 7,000, depending on the number involved.

Туре	Obj.	Location Name	Item	Action	Management Plan	Pr	Contract	Projects	Grounds	Trees	Lead	APR MAY	JUN JUL A	JG SEP (CT NOV DE	EC JAN FEB
					Map 5 Aerial Map				Maintenance Dayworks							
					Location											'
Habitat Management - Water		Vinegar Pond	Pond	Monitor condition	E4	1					D/MW	D/MW				
Habitat Management - Heath		Nth of Zak's (or other location) Heathland areas	New pond	Investigate feasibility of new pond	G7 TBA	2			4,000		PH MW				PH PI	
		Heathland areas	Gorse management Scrub clearance	Cut/collect gorse areas on rotation Cut scrub	E13-14/F13-14/G13-	1			4,000		MW			+++	D/BTC	
	4.5	Heathland areas	Scrapes	Remove topsoil from selected areas to	14/H14 TBA	1		3,000			MW			+	MW M	w mw mw
	4.5	St. James' Hill	Scrub clearance	encourage heathland regeneration Cut back scrub	E13-14/F13-14/ G12-	2					MW				D/BTC	V/MW
	4.5	All Heathland areas	Control scrub regrowth	Control regrowth from previously cut scrub	14/H13-14 D3-4/E3-5/F3-5/G3-	1					MW				D/MW/BTCV	,
					5&7/H4-5&7/I4-5/J6- 7/K6-7/L6											
		Heathland areas Playing field adj pitch & putt	Bracken control GNDP project	Cut/bruise bracken in open areas Monitor/manage heathland project area	G4-5/H5/I5 K6/L6/M6	1					MW PH/MW	PH/MV	MW/D/BTC	V		
Habitat Management - Grassland			Grassland management	Cut areas & remove arisings (Cons.Cut 5)	C5-6/D5-6	2	Yes				MW			С		
		The Anthills	Grassland management	Cut areas & remove arisings (Cons.Cut 5)	G8/H8	2	Yes				MW			С		
	4.6	The Anthills	Grassland management	Control any encroaching scrub	G8/H8	2					MW				MW/D	MW/D
			Scrub management	Control, or coppice areas on rotation	E14/F12-14/G14	2					MW				C C C	
Habitat Management - Woodland		Long Valley Gilman Rd	Coppicing Path/cycleway	Expand woodland glade Complete tree work (if not done 2010/11)	E6 A5-F8	2					MW IM/MW		++	++	MW/D	MW/D
		All areas	Programmed works	Carry out safety related tree works	V7-I 0	1				4 25/	IM/MW		++	++	/MW C/N	/W
		All areas	Emergency works	Carry out safety related tree works	+	1				7,234	IM/MW		++	+ !	/MW C/N	
		All areas	Woodland Grant Scheme	Investigate viability for Mousehold		2					PH	PH PH	PH	 		
Historic Landscape Management		St. William's Chapel Site	Maintain site	Clear encroaching vegetation to agreed plan	J4/K4	1					MW				MW MW M	W MW MW
	4.9	St. William's Chapel Site	Interpretation sign	Design & install	J4/K4	2					MW		N	w ww		
		Tram Track	Historic routes	Open up	I6/J5-6/K5	3					D/MW				D D D	
Visitor Management		Whole site	School visits	Organised visits & activities		2					MW	MW MW				W MW MW
		Off site	School talks	Talks & activities to schools		2					MW	MW MW				w mw mw
		Whole site	Public events	Organise & run year round programme		2					D/MW		D D I		D D D	D D D
		Whole site	Interpretation Plan	Develop interpretation plan recommendations		2					PH/MW		H/MW PH/			
		Whole site	Site management notices	Produce site info notices prior to works commencing		1					MW		M	W	MW MW M\	^
		Orienteering Trail route	Orienteering Trail	Replace trail posts/review upgrade		3					MW	NH/NO				'
	4.10	Selected areas	Geological interpretation	Design & implement	Various	1		External funding			NGP	PH/MW	D PH/M	MW/D	PH/MW/D	PH/MW.
		Whole site	Easy access	Continue to review easy access provision & propose improvements	Various	2					MW		MW MW			
		Off site	Web Site	Update city council M'hold pages		1					MW	PH/MV				
	4.10	Whole site	Guided walks programme	Deliver annual programme of guided walks/activities	Various	2					MW	MW MW	MW MW M	W MW	/IW MW M	w mw mw
		Whole site	Litter	Litter pick	Various	1	Yes				MW	C C	C C	C C	C C C	C C
		Whole site	Fly-tipping	Remove fly-tipping as it occurs	Various	1			2,800		MW	C C	C C	СС	CCC	CC
Visitor Infrastructure		All Paths	Paths	Cut back either side as necessary		2	Yes	0.000			MW	СС	CC	C	\rightarrow	
		All Paths St. James' Hill	Paths Easy access track	Level/fill as necessary Cut back encroaching scrub		2		3,000			MW MW		C C		MW M	w
		Cavalry Track	Path	Trim back as necessary	F13/G12-13	2					MW		MW	 	MW III	
		Fountain Ground	Changing Rooms	Oversee commissioning/management of	G9	1		To advise			A&CM			أحراء		
				new building												
		Fountain Ground	Bandstand/Changing Rms	Electrical safety testing	F9	1		↓			MW		MW	\bot	$\bot\bot$	
		Pavilion area	Visitor point	Examine feasibility/progress	G8	2					PH		$\dashv \vdash$	+	+	PH
		Pavilion area Britannia Rd car park	Pavilion access track Car park	Maintain to safe standard Essential maintenance as required	G8 G12-13/H13	2					PH MW	CC		++	++	MW
		Pitch & Putt car park	Car park	Essential maintenance as required	J5	1					MW	C C		++	++	MW
		Pavilion/Gilman Rd car parks	Car parks	Maintain as necessary	-	1					MW	СС	C C	СС		
		Whole site	Access hubs	Continue development of 'hubs' to enter the site (link to Interpretation Plan)		2					PH/MW	PH/MV				
		Selected locations Various	Welcome to M'hold signs Benches	Review potential new signs Replace/repair as necessary		3					PH/MW MW	PH/MV MW MW		W MW	WW WW	W MW MW
		Various	Signs	Replace/repair as necessary		2					MW	MW MW	MW MW N	w Mw	MW MW M	W MW MW
		Various	Bollards	Replace/renew as required	G12-13/H13	2					MW	MW MW	MW MW N	w Mw	/W MW M	W MW MW
	4.11	Car parks	Car park surfacing	Review durable surfaces		3					PH/A&CN				M	w mw
	4.11	Areas with BMX activity	BMX biking	Monitor & review measures to resolve unauthorised BMX activities		2					PH/MW	PH/WS		I/WS		
		<u> </u>			1 -	1		2,000		1	MW	MW MW	MW MW N	W MW	JW MW M	w ww ww
		Whole site	Emergency works	Emergency repairs contingency				2,000					عرستاست			
Review & monitoring	5.10	Off site	Management Plan	Emergency repairs contingency Review & revise plan		1		2,000			PH		PH			H PH PH
Review & monitoring	5.10 5.10	Off site Off site	Management Plan Conservators Meeting			1		2,000					PH			H PH PH
Review & monitoring	5.10 5.10 5.10	Off site	Management Plan			1 2		2,000					PH			H PH PH

58	5.10 Off site	Annual Work Programme	Drafted and agreed by Conservators		1		PH				PH P	?H
9	5.10 Heathland Areas	Heathland Regeneration	Monitor heathland regeneration	Selected Sqs	2		PH/MW		PH/WS			
)	5.10 St James' Hill	Bank regeneration	Monitor vegetation on area cleared in 2008	E14/F14/G14	2		PH/MW	P	I/WS			
Surveying & recording	5.10 All	Common Bird Census	Carry out weekly during season		2		MW	MW MW	MW MW			
	5.10 All	Butterfly transect	Complete 26 week transect		2		MW	MW MW	WW WW WW	MW		
	5.10 All	Fungi survey	Survey & record fungi		2		MW/D			/IW/ D		
	5.10 All	Miscellaneous species	Collate records		2		MW/PH	MW MW	MW MW	MW MW I	W MW N	IW MW
	5.10 All	Dragonfly survey	Monitor weekly throughout season		2		MW	MW	MW MW	MW MW		
	5.10 All	Annual report	Collate information & produce report		2		MW/PH	MW PH				
	4.5 Heathland areas	Heathland Management	Apply for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)		1		PH	PH/MW				
	4.9 Various	Geological conservation	Identify, agree & implement works	Various	1	External	NGP	NGP/MW	D	NGP	/MW/D	
						funding						
	4.10 Whole site	Events/activities	Organise public events	Various	2		D	D D	D D D	D D	D D !	D D
	10.1iii Pavilion	Pavilion building	Monitor repair proposals	G7	2		A&CM					
	4.11 Valley Drive/Gilman Rd	Connect2 cycle project	Input to plans	Valley Dr/Gilman Rd	1		LT					

KEY; Obj: Management Plan Objective Pr: Priority

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NOG NGP

Mousehold Heath Conservators Mousehold Defenders & other volunteers

Contractor
Norwich City Council
Mousehold Wardens
Mousehold Defenders
Norfolk Orienteering Group
Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership

HWYS Highways A&PM Asset & City Management

Landscape Team Imogen Mole Paul Holley LT IM PH



Map 5: Aerial view of Mousehold Heath with Location Grid

