

Mousehold Heath Conservators

Date: **Friday, 17 March 2017**

Time: **14:00**

Venue: **Mancroft room**

City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

Committee members:

Councillor Bradford
Councillor Brociek-Coulton
Councillor Lubbock
Councillor Maxwell
Councillor Price
Councillor Raby
Councillor Sands (M)
Councillor Thomas (Vi)
Councillor Woollard
Clare Cohen, Mousehold Heath Defenders
Matthew Davies, Norwich Fringe Project
John Trevelyan, The Norwich Society

For further information please contact:

Committee officer: Andy Futter
t: (01603) 212099
e: andyfutter@norwich.gov.uk

Democratic services
City Hall
Norwich
NR2 1NH

www.norwich.gov.uk

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Agenda

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| 1 | Apologies

To receive apologies for absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of interest

(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting) | |
| 3 | Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public (notice to be given to committee officer in advance of the meeting in accordance with appendix 1 of the council's constitution) | |
| 4 | Minutes
To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2017 | 5 - 10 |
| 5 | Budget monitoring statement (to follow)
Purpose - To provide an update on the budget monitoring position for the Mousehold Heath Conservators revenue budget 2016 - 17 | |
| 6 | Heritage Lottery Fund Earth heritage and history project bid (verbal update)
Purpose - To note the verbal update on the Heritage Lottery Fund Earth heritage and history project bid | |
| 7 | Mousehold Heath management plan 2018-2022 review process
Purpose - To agree the timescales and key stages for the Mousehold Heath management plan review 2018 - 2023 and to consider the option of revising the format to support a Green Flag Award application to be made in January 2018. | 11 - 16 |
| 8 | Mousehold Heath update
Purpose - To provide an update on recent activities on Mousehold Heath. | 17 - 22 |
| 9 | Management sub group report - Mousehold Heath Conservators sub group notes (to follow)
Purpose - To update the Conservators on the work undertaken by the management sub group since the last meeting | |

10 Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting dates 2017 - 18

Purpose - to note the Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting dates for the new civic year as follows:-

Friday 16 June 2017

Friday 15 September 2017

Friday 19 January 2018

Friday 16 March 2018

11 Exclusion of the public

Purpose - Consideration of exclusion of the public.

***12 NorwichNorse (Environment) service provision on
Mousehold Heath (para 3)**

- This report is not for publication because it would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as in para 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Date of publication: **Friday, 10 March 2017**

Mousehold Heath Conservators**14:15 to 15:30****20 January 2017**

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Price (vice chair), Bradford, Brociek-Coulton, Raby, Sands (M), Thomas (Vi) and Woollard; Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillor Lubbock and Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

1. Public questions/petitions

Ms Michele Raychaudhuri, Gertrude Road, asked the following question:

“I recently attended a geology walk on the Heath lead by Tim Holt-Wilson. After further conversation he said that in 2012-13 he had submitted the outlines of a proposal to the HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) for a community project to explore and celebrate the historic brick industry of Norwich, and in particular the Heath. At that time, he had consulted and gained indications of support from various local organisations, including yourselves.

His proposal had several strands, including an archaeological dig to unearth one of the kilns on the Heath; a history project exploring the written and oral evidence for the Norwich brick industry; a community art and technical project to build a working kiln and fire examples of locally-sourced brick earth; a geological project to identify outcrops of potential brick earth in the city and create a digital terrain map of the Heath.

I am keen to build on the work Tim has already done, and now develop the proposal into a fully funded HLF project. To have a chance of success with the HLF the project would need to have a community group in the driving seat. Back in 2013 the Defenders were interested in the idea, but someone was needed to work closely with Tim through the Feasibility Study and Project Plan phases, which would have meant three months’ intensive work. This was not able to happen then so the project was shelved. I think it is now time to dust it down and take it forward – with your support and that of the Defenders. Tim and I would like to work on the project, which may mean some kick-starter fundraising for the Feasibility Study, perhaps through crowd funding, charitable or other sources.

I would like to know if the Conservators are still willing to support such a venture?”

Simon Meek, the parks and open spaces manager, replied on behalf of the committee as follows:

“Thank you for submitting the details of what is an interesting proposal.

Approval to support the bid in principal and the allocation of resources will require approval at a Mousehold Conservators meeting. It would be worthwhile if a detailed proposal could be brought to a management sub-group meeting, to fully understand what is proposed, the desired outcomes for the project and the resources required (staff and financial). This will enable a report to be tabled for consideration and a decision, at a future Mousehold Conservators meeting.”

The parks and open spaces manager said that he would arrange to meet with Ms Raychaudhuri prior to the subgroup meeting to provide some guidance on what should be in the proposal.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2016, subject to amending the list of members present by deleting Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe) and recording his apologies; and deleting John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society) (listed as present); Nigel Hales and will Stewart (Mousehold Heath Wardens) who were not in attendance, from the list of also present; and Councillor Price from the list of apologies.

4. Budget and Precept 2017-18

(Neil Wright, service accountant, attended the meeting for this item.)

The chair introduced the report and, together with the vice chair, assured the Conservators that the subgroup had thoroughly discussed the proposed budget and precept in detail. There had been an increase in the precept in general staffing costings and corporate recharges. The ‘operational’ elements of the budget relating to the management work on the heath have been maintained at 2016-17 levels.. The subgroup had identified that there might be potential to make savings and suggested that as part of the review of the grounds maintenance contract and the Mousehold Heath Management Plan 2018-2023, there should be a specific review of litter picking; and, as there were fewer bookings for the football pitch, consideration should be given to the justification of maintaining the pitch to Football Association standard or reducing the standard of maintenance to provide a facility for informal use. The subgroup also considered that there could be more efficient use of the premises on the Fountain Ground and that there was potential for income generation if it was let out for community use.

The parks and open spaces manager said that the reduction in football pitch bookings was part of a general trend across the city council’s parks because schools now hired out football pitches at a lower cost. He referred to the risk management section in the report and explained that the Conservators’ reserves were expected to

amount to £3,499, which represented 1.5 percent of the proposed budgeted expenditure. The level of reserves had previously been identified as 5 percent and it was proposed over the next three years to build up the level of reserves to £11,000.

During discussion the parks and open spaces manager referred to Appendix A and explained the movements under the budget headings, which had been done to enable more effective and efficient budget management. In reply to a question, he explained that, under the supplies and services heading, the £6,000 for projects was to fund project costs from one code rather than splitting it into other budget codes as in previous years. A member commented that the pension deficit would eventually be removed from the budget in future years.

Discussion ensued in which the vice chair commented on the exceptional value that the wardens brought to the service. Conservators commented on the wardens being pleased that they had been provided with a chain saw and that this enabled them to deliver a service, quickly and efficiently, without impacting on their other work. It was noted that there was provision in the budget for equipment and tools. In reply to a question about the benefit of providing additional equipment to enable more work to be done directly by the wardens, the parks and open manager explained that those aspects of site management that the wardens could take on with the most gain without a large impact on their day to day duties had been taken. The parks and open spaces manager also said that the wardens ensured that the most value was achieved out of the budget as possible; the delivery of the grounds maintenance contract on site was monitored to ensure the contracted services were being delivered; and, the wardens were always looking to identify improved ways of working and had the Conservator's interests at the forefront of everything that they did.

RESOLVED, having considered the report of the chief finance officer and noting the comments from the subgroup, to approve the Mousehold Heath Conservators' budget for 2017-18 (as set out in Appendix A of the report) and place a precept on Norwich City Council for the sum of £221,293.

5. Annual Work Programme 2017-18

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report and pointed out a correction to paragraph 1 in that "2015-16" should be deleted and replaced with "2016-17" as the reference should be to the 2016-17 works programme. He explained that while the operational budget had remained the same, more work had been delivered because of the wardens working with volunteers.

The chair congratulated the wardens and volunteers for their work to clear the heath to enable it to revert back to heathland. It had been pleasing to see the butterflies and moths on the heath. The parks and open areas manager said that the Conservators also should be recognised for having the vision and courage to decide to remove trees to get back this valuable habitat.

The vice chair commented on the work programme and said that the heath clearance and maintenance of the heathland was creating a legacy and preserving the bio-diversity intrinsic to this natural habitat. He also said that it was important to safeguard the mature trees in the wooded areas and have a maintenance plan to maintain and replace them.

The chair thanked the officers for putting together such a well thought out work programme.

RESOLVED to approve the draft work programme for 2017-18.

6. Mousehold Heath Update

During discussion the parks and open spaces manager answered questions. The chair and vice chair commended the officers for their proactive approach taken to assist a homeless person who had been camping on the heath. The concern was that he could light open fires and, that unless this was addressed quickly, others would be attracted to form a camp. The wardens had known who to contact and refer the man to a range of organisations where help was available to assist his situation.

The Conservators noted that there had been 30,000 volunteer work hours on the heath over the last 9 years. This reflected a lot of work that would not have been achieved if reliant on the budget available. The Conservators also noted the wide range of events that had been hosted in the last period.

Councillor Sands referred to the national “Clean for the Queen” event that had been held as part of the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations and said that he believed that this would become a national event. The parks and open spaces manager said that he would take this up as part of the work programme and said that it would raise awareness of community involvement and keeping the heath litter free.

RESOLVED to note the report.

7. Mousehold Heath Grounds Maintenance Contract

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report and explained that following discussions with the subgroup this was an interim report and that he intended to bring a more detailed report, with a breakdown of the cost to the next meeting. The plans would be provided in colour with the next report.

In reply to a comment from the chair, the parks and open spaces manager explained that the costs for litter picking and emptying litter bins, included on costs as well as the salary of the litter picker and the costs associated with the removal of the waste from the heath.

The vice chair welcomed the opportunity to look in detail at the strategic aims and objectives and the maintenance contract going forward. It was important that the chair and Conservators had an opportunity to question the cost of elements of the contract provided in partnership with NorwichNorse (Environment) Ltd. He cautioned that as some savings could turn out to be false, it was important to consider the full detail.

RESOLVED to note:

- (1) the contents of the interim report and that there will be a further detailed report to the next meeting:
- (2) that a review of the aims and objectives and what the joint venture delivers on Mousehold Heath, will be incorporated into the Mousehold Heath Management Plan 2018-2023 planning process.

8. Pat Siano, Memorial

The chair introduced the report. The Conservators were in agreement that it was appropriate to place a plaque on the bandstand to commemorate the contribution that Pat Siano had made to Mousehold Heath as a member and chair of Mousehold Heath Defenders and as a member and vice chair of Mousehold Heath Conservators.

The parks and open spaces manager said that the Defenders had requested that the Conservators gave permission for the plaque to be placed at the band stand and for permission to hold a thanks giving service there. He explained that the arrangements for the thanks giving service were a private matter for the family in consultation with the Defenders. He advised against adding conditions to the consent to allow the family and Defenders flexibility in making their arrangements.

Clare Cohen said that it was proposed to hold the thanksgiving service on Sunday, 23 April 2017.

During discussion, it was noted that the Defenders would be making an application to the city council for a small community grant.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) record the Conservators' gratitude to Pat Siano for her work to support the conservation of Mousehold Heath, as a Mousehold Heath Defender and as a Conservator;
- (2) approve the installation of a plaque at the Fountain Ground bandstand in remembrance of Pat Siano;
- (3) agree to a thanksgiving service for Pat Siano to be held at the band stand.

9. Date of next meeting

RESOLVED to note that the next meeting will be held in the Mancroft room at City Hall at 14:00 on Friday, 17 March 2017.

CHAIR

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
17 March 2017
Report of Head of citywide services
Subject Mousehold Heath 2018 – 22 management plan review

Item

7

Purpose

To agree the timescales and key stages for the Mousehold Heath management plan review 2018 - 2023 and to consider the option of revising the format to support a Green Flag Award application to be made in January 2018.

Recommendation

- 1) To ask the parks and open spaces manager to submit a Green Flag award application by January 2018
- 2) To agree a revised management plan format to support a Green Flag application; and
- 3) To agree the proposed timescale and key decision making points in appendix 1

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a safe, clean and low carbon city.

Financial implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will have or will be met from approved budgetary provision.

Contact officer

Simon Meek - Parks and open spaces manager

01603 212403

Background documents

None

Report

Management plan review

1. In June 2008 Mousehold Conservators endorsed the Mousehold Heath management plan covering the period 2008 to 2018.
2. The 2008 – 2018 management is due for review during the 2017-18 Civic year, and a new plan endorsed by the Conservators to be in place from 1 April 2018.
3. The purpose of the management plan is to; enable the Conservators to manage the site effectively; to ensure continuity of management; to identify the management required to meet their objectives; to provide a framework for decision making; to identify budget requirements; support external funding applications and to develop work programmes. This is done taking into consideration the environmental, cultural and historical information, which collectively identify the importance of Mousehold Heath as an open space within the city.
4. The management plan review is a process and will require a number of steps to be taken. To ensure that the plan is developed and approved by the 31 March 2018 the process would be broken down into four key stages, with defined outcomes and work packages for each stage. The completion date for each key stage would coincide with one of the four Conservators meetings in the Civic year 2017-18.
5. The endorsement of the document at each key stage will provide a solid foundation upon which the next stage of development work can be based. This will minimise the risk of any reworking, which may occur if a completed draft document is produced for consideration. It will also enable the Conservators to play a full part in the development of the plan through their involvement at each stage, via the Management sub-group and the conservators.
6. The proposed stages are detailed in Appendix 1.

Green Flag Award

7. The Green Flag Award is the national benchmark for parks and green spaces in the UK. It was launched in 1996 to recognise quality parks and green spaces in the country.
8. Applications are submitted by the end of January each year. A draft management plan could be submitted at that point with the endorsed version to follow.
9. Green Flag Award applications are judged against eight key criteria. If management practice changes are in progress but not yet fully implemented, transitional phases will be acknowledged and viewed positively. Applications are submitted by the end of January each year. A draft management plan could be submitted at that point with the endorsed version to follow.

10. The judges consider that different types of parks and open spaces have different kinds of offer and need to be managed and developed taking into account varying opportunities and constraints.
11. The criteria used to assess a site are:
- A welcoming place
 - Healthy, safe and secure
 - Clean and well maintained
 - Sustainability
 - Conservation and heritage
 - Community involvement
 - Marketing
 - Management
12. Assessment of the application involves a desktop assessment of the management plan and a judges' visit to the site. The scores from the two assessments are then amalgamated to produce an overall score.
13. There is a benchmark score below which a Green Flag Award will not be awarded. Each year the benchmark score needs to be achieved or Green Flag status will be withdrawn.
14. The outcome of the application is usually known in June/July time when there is a national press release and applicants are notified. If a site is successful there is a condition that the site must fly the Green Flag.
15. Details about sites which have won the award and the application process can be found on the Green Flag Award website. www.greenflagaward.org.uk
16. The cost of an application in 2016/17 was £365 excluding VAT
17. The way in which the site is managed by the Conservators is in line with Green Flag's eight criteria that reflect a well managed site.
18. The timing of the management plan review provides an opportunity to revise the management format to support an application, should the Conservators wish to submit an application.
19. A successful application would be independent national recognition of Mousehold Heath as a quality open space. It would also be recognition of the work the Mousehold Conservators and all those involved with the site do to protect, conserve and enhance the site for the people of Norwich and visitors to the city.

Appendix 1: Mousehold Heath management plan review

The simplified steps for producing a management plan are:

1. Where are we now?
 - a. Intro
 - b. Context
 - c. Site description
2. Where do we want to get to?
 - a. Vision
 - b. Aims and objectives
3. How will we get there
 - a. Action plan
 - b. Finance and resources
4. How will we know when we get there?
 - a. Monitor and review

The proposed stages for the development of the Mousehold Heath management plan 2018 – 2023 are:

STAGE 1

Outcomes: Review and update of factual information contained in the 2013 – 18 management plan and Vision and objectives defined and approved by Conservators.

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager, covering:

1. General information
2. Environmental information
3. Cultural and historic information
4. Management constraints
5. Management procedures (Habitat, historic, amenity)
6. Maps and plans
7. Species lists and survey data

Work carried out by the Management sub-group and brought to the Conservators meeting for discussion and approval.

1. Vision defined
2. Objectives defined

APPROVAL: June 2017 Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting

STAGE 2

Outcomes: Development of management prescriptions and projects based on Vision and objectives approved at the end of stage 1. 1st draft management plan produced and consultation process identified, both approved by Conservators.

Work to be undertaken by the Management sub-group and brought to the Conservators meeting for discussion and approval.

1. Identify management prescriptions to achieve objectives
2. Identify projects and project specifications for each management prescription
3. Agree consultation process for stage 3

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Produce draft maps for project locations as required.
2. Source photographs to illustrate the management plan.
3. Pull together information from stages 1 and 2 to produce first draft of the management plan with communications team (simple word document not desktop published).

APPROVAL: September 2017 Mousehold heath Conservators meeting.

STAGE 3

Outcomes: Stakeholders consulted. Final draft management plan produced. 2018-19 annual work programme produced. Final draft management plan and annual work programme approved by Conservators.

Work to be undertaken by the Management sub-group and brought to the Conservators meeting for discussion and approval.

1. Stakeholder consultation
2. Review stakeholder consultation.
3. Revise 1st draft management plan to produce Final draft management plan.
4. Annual work programme for 2018-19 produced and based on Final draft management plan.
5. Management plan distribution methods and number of hard copies required identified.

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Feedback to each stakeholder on the outcome of the matter(s) they raised.

APPROVAL: January 2017 Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting

STAGE 4

Mousehold Heath management plan finished copy produced. Management plan adopted.

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Final minor amends made following January 2018 Conservators.

2. Finished document produced by communications team
3. Mousehold Heath management plan 2018 – 2023 submitted to March conservators for approval and adoption.

APPROVAL: March 2018 Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting

STAGE 5

Outcome: Mousehold Heath management plan distributed

Work to be undertaken by the Mousehold wardens and Parks and open spaces manager.

1. Hard copies distributed.
2. PDF produced and Norwich City Council website updated.
3. Distributed by other mechanisms identified at Stage 3.

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
17 March 2017
Report of Head of citywide services
Subject Mousehold Heath update

Item

8

Purpose

To provide an update on recent activities on Mousehold Heath.

Recommendation

To note the work undertaken in the last quarter to meet the management plan objectives.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a safe, clean and low carbon city.

Financial implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will have or will be met from approved budgetary provision

Contact officer

Simon Meek Parks and Open Spaces Manager	01603 212403
Will Stewart: Mousehold warden	01603 213310
Nigel Hales: Mousehold warden	01603 213310

Background documents

None

Report

Infrastructure management

1. Encroaching vegetation on parts of the disabled access route leading to the Mottram Memorial has been cleared and encroaching scrub and bramble was removed with volunteer help. The surrounding grassland was cut by a cut and collect machine to continue to reduce soil nutrient levels.

Tree management

2. Major tree works were undertaken by NorwichNorse Environment to remove overhanging branches from the telegraph cables running from Mousehold Avenue to the pavilion. Inspections of trees along Gurney Road, around the boundary of the pavilion and the toilets identified a number of trees that needed work carrying out in accordance with the tree safety policy.
3. Work to clear the cycle route from the junction of Mousehold Avenue to the entrance of Gilman Road was carried out by the Mousehold Wardens and the new Mousehold Heath volunteer group. Overhanging branches were removed from Elm and Lime trees bordering the cycle/pathway.
4. Improvements were made to open up the area adjacent to the public car park on Gurney Road. Scrub was removed with volunteer help, improving the view of the pavilion, enhancing the habitat for biodiversity and improving access for the public.
5. Storm 'Doris' resulted in the city council's 'storm procedure' being put in place to co-ordinate with NorwichNorse Environment to collate incoming damage reports and prioritise the deployment of tree teams based on risk prioritisation.
6. In excess of 65 trees on the heath were sustained structural damage by the storm. NorwichNorse Environmental dealt with any priority work out of hours when it directly affected a public highway, property or electricity supplies. Two large Beech trees came down at the top of Beech drive, resulting in properties along Mons Avenue being without power and incurring some damage to garden fencing.
7. The Mousehold Wardens have undertaken work across the site, to unblock paths and make trees and branches safe. To date emergency work has been completed on 15 windblown and damaged trees that posed an unacceptable level of risk, to make them safe. There are still in excess of 50 low risk trees which require further clean up and remedial work to be completed.

Natural Area Management

8. A range of habitat and site management tasks carried out by Mousehold wardens, volunteers and contractors have been undertaken in the last quarter, to help deliver the management plan priorities.

Woodland management:

9. Work to restore a section of woodland adjacent to Gilman Road by clearing dead and overgrown vegetation was continued. This work has been carried out to increase community access to a formally impenetrable area and improve biodiversity.

Heathland management

10. Bracken, gorse and saplings invading areas of heathland not in good condition have been removed to enable dwarf heathland plants such as heather to flourish.
11. Humus stripping, using a small digger, in bracken covered areas has continued, to encourage heather seeds in the dormant seedbank to germinate. This work is required by the Higher Level Stewardship agreement that is in place with Natural England.

Grassland management

12. Areas of grassland have been cut, raked and grass removed. Encroaching scrub was removed by volunteers using bow saws, loppers and brushcutters.

Emergency vehicle access

13. Vegetation that encroached onto access tracks around the heath has been cut back by volunteers, wardens and a contractor using a tractor-mounted Rytec mower.

Litter management

14. A number of areas formerly used for camping have been cleaned and rubbish removed by the Mousehold wardens with the assistance from the Norwich Norse Environmental litter picker as part of his daily work. Litter management was also supported on a voluntary basis by a member of the Mousehold Heath Defenders.

Access works

15. Pathway maintenance works have been undertaken by the Mousehold Heath Defenders, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Assist Trust, City College group and other volunteers from the Gilman Road and Wingfield area.
16. Improvements for public access to the site of St. Williams Chapel have been undertaken by the Mousehold Defenders, including the removal of vegetation from the soil mounds marking its boundary, revealing all four corner stones. These works were followed up with the TCV clearing vegetation with brush cutters opening up the areas within the external and internal boundaries of the site as set out in the management plan objectives.

Volunteers

17. A total of 1184 volunteer work hours has been undertaken on site in the last quarter by the following groups:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- Mousehold Heath Defenders
- The Assist Trust
- An Easton College and City College work placement students.
- City College Duke of Edinburgh award scheme group.
- George White School students
- Amey corporate community action day
- Many volunteers from the community.

18. In late 2016 The Green Gym volunteer group disbanded. The group have provided an opportunity for local people to get involved in conservation management work on a number of sites in the city. Mousehold Heath is one of the sites the group worked on regularly.
19. The loss of the group removed an opportunity for people to be active in the natural environment and along with the associated health benefits. There was also an impact on the delivery of management works through the loss of the group.
20. The Mousehold wardens identified an opportunity to support the development of a new volunteer group, to enable local people to become involved with the work on the heath, increase their understanding and enjoyment of the site, to benefit from getting outdoors and active and to contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the management plan.
21. In January 2017 the Mousehold Heath Volunteer Group was formed. The group undertake two practical tasks a month, supervised by the Mousehold wardens.
22. Since the group were formed they have made significant contribution to woodland and grassland management work. Debris left by Storm Doris has been cleared and vegetation cleared.
23. The opportunity to work closely with the Friends of Ketts Heights and share equipment and skills across both sites will be explored. If both groups feel there is a worthwhile benefit to be gained from such an arrangement a report will be brought to the Conservators for approval setting out the basis on which the partnership will work.
24. The Mousehold Wardens have organised and supervised over 31,000 hours of volunteer work on the heath in the past 9 years. These works have significantly contributed to meeting objectives set out in the management plan and Higher Level Stewardship agreement.
25. It has also provided an opportunity for the community to become involved with the management of the heath, to increase their understanding of the work of the conservators, the importance of the heath and to engender a sense of ownership and pride in the space.

Events

26. A range of events to increase understanding, involvement and enjoyment of the site, have been organised or hosted on the heath in the last period.

- A number of practical environmental education sessions for George White School student groups, involving over 40 children, were supervised by the Mousehold Wardens.
- A number of Forest School activities have taken place on the site.
- The Mousehold Heath Defenders have organised a Winter Solstice celebration and an event to mark the changing seasons.
- Amey corporate community action did heathland and path management work.

