

Notes from Mousehold Heath Working Group

5 December 2014

14:10 – 16:05 Westwick Room City Hall

Present:

Cllr Bradford
Cllr Little
Cllr Price

Chair
Vice Chair

Lenny Stamp
Nigel Hales
Will Stewart
Andy Futter

Neighbourhood and community manager
Mousehold Heath Warden
Mousehold Heath Warden
Committee Officer, Norwich City Council

1. WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE

Will Stewart updated on the following points:

- work was ongoing regarding the hole in one of the clay pipes. The task would be completed by outside contractors using a robot to trim the tree roots. He confirmed that the work would be complete week beginning 8 December.
- works on flood alleviation, the updated cycle path (and subsequent road changes) would be complete by Wednesday 10 December.
- two successful walks had taken place – both sold out – in relation to the earth heritage days.
- a new tree survey had been started on the heath, identifying seventy dead, dying or dangerous trees near to public paths. One hundred and fifty tree safety jobs had been carried out. A survey would be carried out every six months.
- higher level stewardship felling was ongoing.

Nigel Hales raised concerns regarding the longevity of the Mottram Memorial as it was already starting to show signs of wear. This would need a review and the possible consideration of different options.

He added that since 8 September, volunteers have worked 976 hours on the heath.

2. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015-16

Lenny Stamp explained that there would be little change to the work programme for 2015-16. A clear plan would be developed for the full conservators meeting in January.

3. CHANGES TO GRASS CUTTING AND CONSERVATION CUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR GILMAN ROAD AREA.

Nigel Hales said that there had been changes to the contract regarding the Desert site. This used to be cut in October but would now be cut in July. Also, cutting of vegetation had been removed from the contract. Surplus from the reduced maintenance contract cost centre would be moved to the general maintenance cost centre to enable a flexible use on priority projects. This action was agreed.

4. BUDGET REPORT UPDATE

Lenny Stamp reported that there were no major issues. At the current spend it looked like there would be a small saving.

5. WOODLAND PLAN

Will Stewart said that he anticipated the Woodland Grant Scheme would be announced in March 2015.

6. ST.WILLIAMS CHAPEL INTERPRETATION PANEL UPDATE

Nigel Hales explained that there was little progress to report. The main hold up was with partners gaining required approvals. The sign would be installed by archaeologists.

7. HEATHLAND MITIGATION ADJACENT TO THE RANGERS HOUSE MHW

Nigel Hales said that the JCB being used to install a path would be used to strip the area to encourage heather to flower.

8. GURNEY ROAD DRAINAGE UPDATE LS

Lenny Stamp said that work should be completed by the following Wednesday.

9. AOB (INC. SPITALFIELDS)

Ben Price was keen to protect the area from development. Paul Holley was liaising with Norfolk Wildlife to look into protection of the space.

Lenny Stamp said at the itinerant meeting, it was suggested that an alternative natural surface for Britannia Road was investigated. NPS suggested that encapsulated shingle could cost £123,000. It was agreed that the cost was not

within the Conservators budget so it was agreed to not take this further and continue with the current programme.

Nigel Hales suggested consideration be given to using income from sports pitches to contribute towards maintenance on changing rooms. David Bradford and Stephen Little considered this to be a sensible suggestion.

Date of next meeting: Friday 30-01-15 Committee room, City Hall, 2.00pm