

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
6 March 2015
Report of Head of local neighbourhood services
Subject Mousehold Heath update

Item

6

Purpose

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

Recommendation

That Conservators comment on current activities that have been undertaken on Mousehold Heath

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority City of character and culture

Financial implications

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

Contact officers

Lenny Stamp Communities and neighbourhood manager	01603 213218
Will Stewart Mousehold warden	01603 213310
Nigel Hales Mousehold warden	01603 213310

Background documents

None

Report

Management works

Asset management

A number of new wooden bollards have been installed to the front of the public car park in front of the pavilion on Gurney Road, in line with the aims and objectives of infrastructure management covered in the management plan (section four, 4.11). This will be followed up by more replacements at the beginning of the new financial year 2015-16.

Three new benches were installed on Gilman Road Open Space in line with the infrastructure management covered in the management plan (section four, 4.11)

Tree and natural area management

Dead, dying, dangerous and windblown trees and branches near footpaths have been made safe by the Mousehold wardens, including branches blocking main pathways.

Heathland and grassland management has been undertaken by Mousehold wardens, volunteers and contractors, to restore and improve the condition of existing habitats in line with the site's Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement.

Access works

Branches overhanging the public footpath and highway at Heartsease Lane have been cut back improving access for the public and grounds maintenance machinery needed to carry out grass cutting along the verge.

Promotion

A consent application has been sent off to English Heritage for the installation of the interpretation panel for St. Williams Chapel, this should hopefully take place the end part of April.

One thousand Earth Heritage leaflets have been produced to hand out at public events.

Volunteers

There have been a total of 1526 volunteer hours worked on the site in the last quarter.

These have been completed by:

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- Norwich Community Green Gym
- The Mousehold Heath Defenders
- The Assist Trust
- Hartford House Engage Group
- A work placement student
- Volunteers from the community.

These works have significantly contributed to the implementation of objectives set out in the Management Plan, along with increasing community involvement in the many projects being undertaken on the site.

Events

A range of events have been organised or hosted on the heath in the last period, these being:

- A number of Forest School environmental education activities.
- The Mousehold Defenders have undertaken several weekend tasks these include improving public access by cutting back overhanging vegetation from pathways.
- A walk for members of the Norwich Society was led by a Mousehold warden, to discuss historic features and site management.
- Fungi foray with local expert Tony Leech
- Armistice Day service arranged by the Mousehold Defenders held on 11-11-2014 at the war memorial Gurney Road.
- Several Wild4wellies environmental activities have taken place.
- Moth survey evenings.
- Bat walk and survey
- Norfolk Women's Trefoil Guild walk
- Two community wildlife watch walks
- A Christmas thank you meal, held in Britannia Road Café, to thank the many volunteers for their time, hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Gurney Road Sign

Damaged car park and toilet sign Fountain Ground opposite "Zaks" car park

The broken sign was raised at the previous full meeting by a member of the public requesting that the sign indicating car park and toilet facilities to be replaced. After initial discussion with highways team it was concluded that:

- the Conservators were responsible for replacement
- the Conservators agree style of sign
- Highways would design, arrange manufacture and erection on behalf of the Conservators

Highways produced a sample style and layout which conforms to the national road sign standard which is appended to this report.

Replacement Mousehold Heath car park sign required

(opposite Zaks on Gurney Road)

- Extant pole may be used
- Costs to be recharged to Mousehold Conservators via Lenny Stamp
- City to design, procure and install on their behalf



Broken sign to be replaced



PLEASE USE A WHITE ON BROWN DISABLED SYMBOL

Double sided sign required

Please consider appropriate size of sign

Symbols:

- Walk in deciduous woodland
- Car park
- Toilets
- Disabled facilities

NB we would not mention ZAKS as this business name could change over the years