



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Mousehold Heath Conservators

Committee date: 20/01/2023

Report title: Toilet Provision at Mousehold Heath

Portfolio: Councillor Giles, Cabinet member for community wellbeing

Report from: Head of environment services

Wards: Catton Grove and Crome

Purpose

To consider and agree on the preferred approach to toilet refurbishment at Mousehold Heath

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Option 1 is selected as the preferred option for upgraded toilet facilities at Mousehold Heath, and,
- (2) the Conservator's capital budget is amended to reflect the level of required expenditure.

Policy framework

The Council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report meets the sustainable and healthy city corporate priority.

This report addresses Deliver a Capital Investment Programme in our parks that will improve visitor experience, maintain our heritage assets and improve community cohesion. strategic action in the Corporate Plan.

The report helps to meet the Mousehold Heath management plan objective(s):

A: To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.

Report details

Background

1. At its meeting of 17 June 2022, Mousehold Heath Conservators considered a number of options for the refurbishment of the toilets at [Gurney Road car park](#). At this meeting, the conservators resolved to ask:
 - (a) the head of environment services to provide a quote on option four as detailed within the report;
 - (b) the head of environment services to provide a quote on including a changing spaces facility alongside option four as detailed within the report;
 - (c) the head of environment services to provide clarity on which body was responsible for covering the costs of works at the toilets.
2. Option four was to provide a mixed gender layout including baby changing and disabled access. The works were to include:
 - (a) The closure of the Women's toilet block converting it into a secure tool and equipment store for the wardens.
 - (b) The conversion of the Men's toilet block into mixed gender including baby changing facilities.
 - (c) Refurbishment of the Disabled toilet.
3. This report provides an update on progress to date and a recommendation on the preferred refurbishment option, having regard to cost and functionality.
4. Since June 2022, the council's property services have been preparing specifications and engaging with contractors to provide costed options for the refurbishment of the toilets at Gurney Road. This work has identified the most practical solution that will meet the Conservators' objectives, whilst being aware of the limited budget available.

Options

5. The proposed options are as follows (further information on the two options is provided at Appendix 1).

(a) Option 1

Refurbishment of the existing DDA unisex toilet facility located adjacent to the main entrance of Zak's Restaurant. To incorporate hoist and baby changing facility if existing size will accommodate

Total Cost £36,000

(b) Option 2

Closing the toilet facility and transferring toilet provision to the changing facilities at Fountain Ground recreation Field

Total Cost £4,000

6. Having considered the respective merits of the options, it is recommended that the Conservators agree to Option 1, for the following reasons:
- (a) The facilities would be located next to a car park, making them accessible for all visitors;
 - (b) The proposals would deliver the conservators aspirations with regards to disabled changing facilities, and
 - (c) The proposals deliver a significant improvement to the facilities currently offered at Mousehold Heath.

Consultation

7. There has been no specific consultation on this proposal other than discussion with the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

Implications

Financial and resources

8. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.
9. Agreement to implement Option 1 would require a capital budget of £31,000 to be allocated from existing Capital reserves of £104,092. It is recommended that this is incorporated into a capital expenditure budget for 2023/24 and reflected in the Council's capital programme 2023/24.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	The preferred option will ensure that Mousehold Heath provides facilities that are accessible for all visitors, regardless of disability
Health, social and economic impact	The provision of accessible toilets will help to remove barriers to visiting the Heath for those with mobility difficulties or other challenges, and encourage access to and activity in the outdoors
Crime and disorder	Public toilets can be a locus for anti social behaviour, and any new facility will require monitoring by council staff
Children and adults safeguarding	No impact
Environmental impact	The provision of new facilities will increase energy consumption, which will need to be incorporated into the council's carbon reporting

Appendices: Appendix 1, Options appraisal financial and technical information

Contact officer: Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Name: Susan Moore

Telephone number: 01603 989488

Email address: susanmoore@norwich.gov.uk



If you would like this agenda in an alternative format, such as a larger or smaller font, audio or Braille, or in a different language, please contact the committee officer above.

Appendix 1 – Options appraisal financial and technical information

Description of option	Detailed costs	Total cost	Recommendation
Option 1 Refurbishment of the existing DDA unisex toilet facility located adjacent to the main entrance of Zak's Restaurant. To incorporate hoist and baby changing facility if existing size will accommodate	a. Installation of a portable/mobile hoist unit – Estimated cost £3000 b. Upgrading internal facilities, including – Estimated cost £10,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulation to internal walls and plaster boarding, • Application of a wall cladding system • Anti-slip waterproof flooring • Provision of a suspended grid ceiling system incorporating lighting and a non-maintained unit in the event of a power failure. • DDA assisted call alarm system • Provision of hot water supply via water heater. • Plumbing modifications to re locate wash hand basin – hot and cold-water supply. • Hand drier. • Baby changing bed. c. refurbishing the adjacent 2 men's toilet cubicles into 2 separate unisex units accessed by separate doorways, including hand washing facilities within each cubicle - Estimated cost £15000. d. External repairs and decorations to the external façade of the toilet block. – Estimated cost £3000	£36,000	Accept

Description of option	Detailed costs	Total cost	Recommendation
	e. Installation of new electrical supply for the new hoist, hot water, lighting, alarm dda pull cord assistance system, hand drier, external lighting – Estimated cost £5,000		
Option 2 Closing the toilet facility at Zak's and transferring toilet provision to the changing facilities at Fountain Ground Recreation Field	a. Utilise the existing referee's toilet and shower facilities – Estimated cost £4000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • converting the shower into another toilet facility with cubicle screen and door • modifications to foul water drainage • Utilise existing wash hand facilities for the two proposed cubicles. • Remove entrance door from lobby b. existing DDA accessible toilet unit to be made available to public c. Existing changing and shower facilities to be retained, but not made available to public.	£4,000	Reject