



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Mousehold Heath Conservators

Committee date: 14/03/2025

Report title: Mousehold Conservators Subgroup meeting update and recommendations for works

Portfolio: Councillor Hampton, Deputy leader and cabinet member for a climate responsive Norwich

Report from: Head of environment services

Wards: Catton Grove and Crome

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To provide an update on the items discussed at the Subgroup Meeting on Friday 14 February 2025

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Conservators note the contents of the report and any recommendations from each item.

To consider:

- 1) To consider the use of the Capital Reserves to fund a scoping survey for the suitability and location for a pedestrian crossing on Gurney Road
- 2) To consider the works to the Fountains Ground Band Stand

Policy framework

The Council's 2024-29 community-led plan outlines five priorities, which are:

- A prosperous Norwich.
- A fairer Norwich.
- A climate responsive Norwich.
- A future-proof Norwich.
- An open and modern council.

This report supports the delivery of *A Fairer Norwich* and '*A climate responsive Norwich*'

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.

Report details

1. 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.
 - B) To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.
 - C) To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.
 - D) To manage Mousehold Heath in a way that has a positive impact on the environment.
 - E) To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath.
 - F) To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.
 - G) To provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in all aspect of our work.
 - H) To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and a sense of pride.

1. **Pavilion building – planning-ahead external repainting and decorative repairs**

The consultant has completed the report, and I am working with Mark Brzeczek, from Property Services to put a programme of work together with costings. This will be presented at the next conservators meeting.

2. **Mottram Memorial replacement plaque**

The installation of the plaque has been completed and Nigel Hales is currently working with the City Council's comms team to produce a QR Code for the plaque, which will be installed in the new financial year.

3. **Refurbished Toilets**

The Service agreement has been signed by Zaks and a purchase order has been raised.

I can also confirm that we will stop paying NCSL to open and close the toilets, with this funding being used to pay Zaks towards the cost of opening and closing the toilets.

The toilets will be opened to the public from Monday 3 March 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Brzeczek Property Services for project managing the refurbishment of the gents' toilets. Mark was able to get the cost of the work in at £29,893.12 under his estimated budget of £30,566.16 and a contingency sum of £6,000.

I would also like to thank Jon Bale and his team from Norwich City Services Ltd who carried out the refurbishment work to a high standard.

4. **Former Ladies' Toilets Mousehold Heath Zak's – future Zaks mobile concession**

I have been working with property services on behalf of the Conservators to negotiate terms with Zaks on the lease and rent.

Now that the former gents' toilets have been opened, I will be able to look into the ladies' toilets.

5. New directional sign to the toilets

The subgroup has agreed on a green background sign, with a toilet direction sign included, to replace the existing white fire lane sign.

The new replacement sign will be installed in the next financial year, as the wardens' budgets have almost reached their expenditure limits for this financial year.

6. Biodiversity trail leaflet

Will Stewart is working with Tim Holt-Wilson who is producing the text for the leaflet. A timeline of June 2025 to have the leaflet produced by has been agreed by Will and Tim. Will is liaising with the Council's comms team who will design and produce the leaflet. The subgroup recommended that a QR Code was included in the leaflet.

7. Gurney Road Island Crossing

At the subgroup meeting it was discussed if the Ranger House capital fund could be used to pay for the scoping surveying to assess the suitability and best location for a road crossing on Gurney Road.

It was agreed to raise this at the next full conservators meeting.

The cost of the scoping survey would be £7,000

It was asked at the subgroup meeting how long the scoping survey for a crossing on Gurney Road would be valid for. I have emailed Kevin Allen at Norfolk County Council who has confirmed that a scoping survey would remain valid for five years if there were no significant changes in the area. If a school or large housing development opened a year after the study, there would be justification to update the study with new survey information.

8. Fountains Ground Band Stand

Nigel Hales has been looking into the refurbishment of the Fountains Band Stand. NCSL (non-property building services) have provided the following quote:

- To clear the debris stuck under the roof mesh £800
- Repainting of ceiling & rainwater goods £5000-£7000

Consultation

9. None

Implications

Financial and resources

10. 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 Community Led Plan 2024-29, We are Norwich, and budget.

11. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources at this time.

12. Legal

None

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	None
Health, social and economic impact	None
Crime and disorder	None
Children and adults safeguarding	The Wardens follow Norwich City Council's procedures.
Environmental impact	None

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Financial	None	
Operational	None	
Legal	None	

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