

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
19 September 2014
Report of Head of local neighbourhood services
Subject Mousehold Heath update

Item

5

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

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Will Stewart Mousehold warden	01603 213310
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Background documents

None

Report

1. Management works

- Overgrown paths leading from the Pitch and Putt Car Park has been cut back by members of Norwich Community Green Gym, allowing easy access to the site.
- Two large areas of fly-tipping along Gilman Road were moved by Mousehold wardens.
- A large hole that developed at the base of St. James Hill was made secure and reported to be a collapsed sewerage pipe. Anglian Water has been notified.
- The miss-placed memorial plaque from Geoffrey Goreham's bench has been returned and is safe in the warden's office.
- Earth Heritage Trail interest points have been maintained by a Mousehold warden and volunteers.
- The Cavalry Track has been maintained by a Mousehold warden by cutting back encroaching vegetation.
- Ten trees and branches near footpaths have been made safe by the Mousehold wardens, including a large windblown birch tree blocking the Long Valley, and a large windblown birch tree which fell across Gurney Road in high winds.
- The Mousehold wardens have been working closely with PCSO's and Police Officers to stop a motorcyclist riding on the heath and recent occurrences of campers.
- Contact is maintained with the council's area contract development officer to ensure all relevant contracts are working effectively and to standard. Where issues have arisen these have been resolved.
- Ecological surveys including plant, bumble bee, bird, butterfly, and dragonfly have been completed by members of the community and Mousehold wardens across the site.
- Two new plant surveys have been undertaken by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders.

2. Volunteers

There has been a total of 1017 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
- A City College Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme group
- The Assist Trust
- A work placement student and
- 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.

3. Events

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

- The Mousehold Heath Fair organised by the Mousehold Heath Defenders, attracted an estimated 500 members of the community to the Fountain Ground.
- Eid al Fitr prayers to mark the end of Ramadan on Fountain Ground.
- A school holiday Playdays event organised by Norwich City Council Events Team took place on the Fountain Ground in July.
- Five events from the guided walk programme have been completed increasing understanding and enjoyment of the site.
- An environmental education activities evening for Sprowston Beavers group were organised and led by Mousehold wardens.
- Additional guided walks for Norwich MIND and Norwich Family History Group have been led by Mousehold wardens.
- A number of Forest School and Wild4 environmental education activities have taken place.
- Two Norwich HEART Heritage walks have been organised for the heath in mid-September.
- A number of bee and plant surveys have been completed on St. James Hill by members of Mousehold Heath Defenders and a Mousehold warden.
- Two new plant surveys have been undertaken by members of the Mousehold Heath Defenders

4. Annual work programme

Conservators requested at their last meeting an update on the implementation of the annual work programme. This is attached as appendices to the report.