

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
Operations Manager Report
September 2023
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- Since our last R and A meeting, the HETC Grounds Team have carried out 4 burials - 3 full burials, 1 full burial (reopen) and 1 interment of Ashes.
- Many of the Lavender bushes at the Cemetery have become old and leggy and started to fall apart. If you visit the Cemetery, you may notice that they are gradually being removed and we are looking to replace with younger plants.
- The wildflower area has now been cut and raked clear of cuttings. It is highly beneficial to remove cuttings from wildflower areas as this helps to reduce the nutrients that go back into the soil, wildflowers grow best in low quality soil.
- 3 of our staff will be under taking Excavator/ Grave preparation training this month, this will give us more resilience and ensure we can continue to carry out burials to a high standard.
- Graves are dug throughout the year, sometimes in very challenging conditions. HETC staff always deliver to a high standard. This is an incredible service that we provide at the most difficult of times.

2. Allotments

- There are currently 0 empty plots and a waiting list of 43,15 of which are requests for second plots.
- We no longer take second plot requests until such time as we have spare vacant plots.
- There is an issue in the container store room, there appears to be an unidentified leak that is causing a damp issue, we are investigating.

3. Bowling Green

- The season ends in a couple of weeks at which time we will begin our maintenance works, this includes scarification, aeration, application of 5 tonne of specialist surface dressing and reseeded. All this work is completed by the HETC Grounds team.
- The clubs lease expiries in 2024 and lease negotiations have been ongoing. It is hoped that this can be concluded in time for next year's season.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- No sessions were held last month.
- This month the CV session will take place again in Wildern Local Nature Reserve. The session will focus on the continued removal of Invasive non-native plants such as Bamboo and Laurel, we will also look at removing some other garden escapees such as Pyracantha and Elaeagnus.
- If you wish to attend a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

5. Cricket

- The Cricket season is now over for 2023 and we will soon begin our end of season maintenance, this includes scarification, aeration, application of 7.5 tonne of specialist surface dressing and reseeding. All this work is completed by the HETC Grounds team.

6. Football

- The football season is now underway, this year we have are hosting Hedge End Town's first team and Hedge End United U13's and U14's teams.
- During the football season we carry out regular maintenance to the pitches, including weekly cuts to 35-45mm, slitting with the tractor, chain harrowing and general surface repairs.

7. Graffiti and Vandilism

- One of the Lifebuoy stolen from Dowds Farm was located on a Pylon just off Maunsell Way. Fortunately SSE promptly removed it and returned it to the office.



- The main door to Taplin Pavilion was kicked in this month. We have boarded it up and the Police were informed.



- We have had an ongoing issue with damage to the swings at St. Johns Rec. We replaced them following initial damage, but within 2 weeks they had been damaged again. Currently the swings have been temporarily removed. The issue has been reported to the Police.



- We still have some graffiti issues, but we continue to remove all instances as we find them.



8. Local Nature Reserve

- We are dealing with an encroachment issue from a property at Chalice Court. Hopefully this can be resolved without formal action.
- Friends of Wildern Local Nature Reserve continue in their amazing efforts to record flora and fauna within the reserve. Their species count is now in excess 1300 different species which is quite outstanding. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743>

9. Paddling Pool

- The paddling pool closes for this season on 17th September, at which point we will start the process of putting it to bed for the winter.
- From my point of view, this was the best season since I started working for HETC. The systems are working well, the processes are smooth, staff are confident in what they are doing, and our lab results came back perfect each time. In addition we had a good supply of chlorine this year with no shortages.

10. Play Areas

- No issues to report.

11. Open Spaces

- The Ground staff have been busy with grass cutting, highway clearance, paddling pool and general maintenance tasks.
- A new Lifebuoy has been fitted at Mescott Pond.



- Following the upgrade to the Tamarisk footpath opposite Wildern School carried out by EBC (on behalf of HCC) several years ago, there has been an issue with flooding in one section. This month EBC returned and installed a ditch to try and alleviate the problem. We will continue to monitor.



- There is still an ongoing issue with dog fouling in the new Rodaway Play Area. Very unpleasant to deal with and both frustrating and disappointing that there are people out there that think this is ok.

12. Other news

- Ross started this month as Grounds Team Leader, he will be working alongside Ken Hiscock helping to supervising the Grounds Team. Ross has joined us from Abri were he previously worked for over 10 years as part of their Grounds Maintenance team.
- Cyril (Senior Groundsperson) retired last month after 33 years at Hedge End Town Council. We had a gathering at the Council Offices with current and former staff along with a few of our Counsellors. We presented Cyril with a Leatherman multi-tool. We wish Cyril all the very best for the future.



- We are currently 1 team member down and this does have an impact on the service.

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If there are any specific items that you would like more information on or would like me to include any other areas, please let me know.

Many thanks
Brett Athow
Operations Manager