

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
Operations Manager Report
January 2024
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- There have been no burials since the last meeting.
- 3 burials are booked so far for January.
- 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

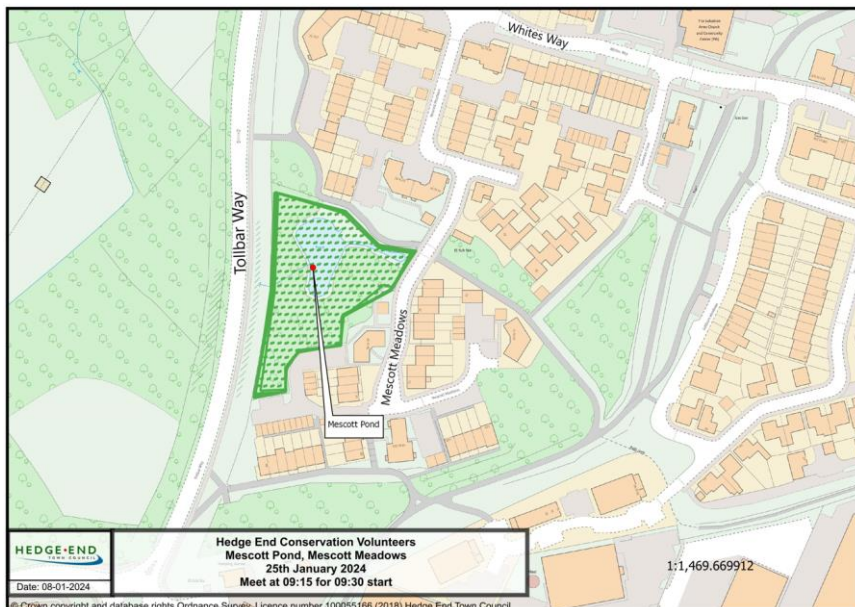
- There are currently 0 empty plots and a waiting list of 48, 15 of which are requests for second plots.
- Due to the lack of availability, we no longer accept requests for second plots.

3. Bowling Green

- No updates.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- January's session will take place at Mescott pond, with tasks including small tree removal, bramble clearance, ditch clearance, creation of a new small pond area and building log/ habitat piles.



- If you wish to attend a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

5. Cricket

- The season will resume in May 2024.

6. Football

- Berrywood Fields is due to transfer to the Town Council in April 2024, although EBC will continue to maintain the site until the end of the football season (May 2024). We have begun preparations to ensure that we have the correct resources in place for the 2024 season.
- The Rodaway pitches will continue to be cut as weather permits throughout the winter.

7. Graffiti and Vandilism

- Dog poo remains an issue in play areas and unfortunately this has become a problem again at Greta Park Basketball Court.
- I'm pleased to say there has been very few instances of either graffiti or vandalism this month.

8. Local Nature Reserve

- 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 of 1400 different species since they began recording in 2018 which is outstanding.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743>

9. Paddling Pool

- Closed for the season – no issues

10. Play Areas

- No issues

11. Open Spaces

- The team remain busy with winter maintenance. The days are counting down till the bird nesting season, so we are concentrating on hedge maintenance and other works that will cease from 31st March.
- A large Crack Willow fell down during the high winds in the woodland to the rear of Whitebeam Road, this has now been cleared.



- Tree removal at Rodaway – One of the large Oak bordering Rodaway car park will be removed over the coming months. It has been dying for a number of years and we have tried to

rejuvenate it with careful pruning, however the main stem is now decaying so it will be taken down leaving about 2m of stem for wildlife.



- 2 new trees have been planted at Turnpike, funded through an HCC grant, these are to replace decaying bollards and will help with site security.



- The Town Centre Christmas tree has been removed, it's been chipped up and will be used to mulch trees in spring.



12. Other news

- Rubbish continues to be fly tipped at the Rodaway recycling compound, adding extra burden to the Groundstaff and extra waste to arrange disposal of. This is especially bad directly after Christmas.

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