

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMITTEE BRIEF
April 2022
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- 5 interments have been undertaken since my last report, 2 full burial and 3 interments of Ashes.
- We received feedback from one of our Councillors regarding reports of excess waste build up following removal of some of the bins at the start of the year. It has taken some time to get the waste removal right, and there was an excess over a couple of weekends, so in response we have increased the bin emptying and added a weekend empty.
I'm feeling reasonably confident this is now under control; we will continue to monitor the situation and if litter on the site proves to be more than the single bin can cope with, we can investigate installing a second bin.
- We have planted an Ornamental Flowering Cherry tree at the Cemetery through a memorial donation in the location agreed at last months R and A. We are waiting for the plaque to be delivered which the family will install.



- Wildflowers in the Cemetery - Primrose, Bluebells, daisies and gorse to name a few.



2. Allotments

- There are currently 4 vacant plots and a waiting list of 44, 13 of those are requests for second plots. The vacant plots are expected to be occupied quickly.
- We have begun mowing and strimming the site.

3. Bowling Green

- The Bowling season is due to start on 9th April.
- Cyril has worked hard over the winter months and the green is looking really good.
- The concrete edgers have now been repaired, however this is only a temporary fix and not a solution.
- The Green will be mowed twice a week through the season maintaining an average blade height of between 3 and 5mm.
- Mike has been staining and painting the exterior of the Club house to help protect the external timbers and keep the building looking good.



4. Conservation Volunteers

- This month's session took place in Home Farm Woodland. The volunteers worked hard digging up INNS (invasive non-native species) including Rhododendron and Laurel. These species are not ideal in the woodland as they rapidly spread and crowd out all the native flora.



5. Football

- The Rodaway pitches are still being damaged by horses.
- Complaints were received this month regarding litter left at Greta following weekend football – this has been addressed with the team.

6. Local Nature Reserve

- Brett is in discussion with an Environmental Consultant regarding potential improvements to a particular habitat within the reserve as mitigation/offsetting for a local development. Initially this will involve carrying out a botanical survey and a condition assessment, which will allow them to assess whether there is potential to improve the site. If the site is suitable then they will draw up a management plan and we can begin negotiation as to how it is implemented.

This is really promising and if it works out, may be a model we can use in the future to fund environmental improvements within the reserve.

- 'Friends of Wildern Local Nature Reserve' continue their monitoring of species. I'd highly recommend joining their Facebook group for updates and some amazing photography.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743/>

7. Paddling Pool

- We are aiming to open the pool on the weekend of 21th May.
- The new chemical dosing system is booked for installation in early May, it is hoped that this will make the pool easier to operate and more reliable.
- We have begun to clean up and prepare for next month's opening including resealing the Pumphouse floor with a fresh coat of paint, installing some new bins and we have started cleaning the pool wetpour surfacing.



8. Open Spaces

a) Aspen Close

- No updates

b) Beattie Rise

- Repairs have been carried out to the eroded and subsided grass surface of the MUGA. It will be out of action for the next month or so to allow the seed to germinate and soil to consolidate.



c) Dowds Farm

- Repairs have now been carried out by Caloo and we hope it will be the last of the snags! Repairs included replacement of the spinning rocker, welding the cracked struts on the aerial runway and replacement of rope stirrups.



d) Drummond Road

- No updates

e) Grazing Fields

- The grazing agreement has not been renewed for Grazing Field 3 as of April 1st, this follows continued discussion regarding lack of appropriate stock fencing, rubbish on site, use of motorcycles on the ground and multiple escaped horses. The field is in the process of being cleared and once in an acceptable condition will be re let.

f) Greta Park

- The boiler that supplies the changing room showers has broken down, we have been advised that it is a very old and inefficient boiler, and we are unlikely to get replacement parts. We have taken the decision to not repair/ replace at this time as the future use of Greta as a sports facility is up for discussion. Replacement boiler is likely to be over £3000. To put in context the annual income generated from Greta football is around £1900.

g) Locke Road

- No updates

h) Nelsons Garden

- No updates

i) Norman Rodaway

- No updates

j) St. Johns Rec.

- Repairs have been carried out to the Aerial Runway surface and basket swing which are sunken and excessively worn. They will be out of action for the next month or so to allow the seed to germinate and soil to consolidate.



k) Tennis Courts

- No updates

l) Turnpike Way

- Roof tiles damaged by youths on the roof again. This has been repaired.

m) Westward Road

- Repairs have been carried out to the MUGA grass surface which had subsided and eroded over the years. It will be out of action for the next month or so to allow the seed to germinate and soil to consolidate.



n) Woodhouse Lane

- No updates

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