

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Operations Manager Report**  
April 2023  
Recreation and Amenities

### **1. Albert Road Cemetery**

- March 2023 was our busiest year for burials since we took over grave preparation in 2015. Our team carried out 9 burials, prior to that the most we had completed in one month was 6. The total number of burials between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 was 42.
- Our team carry out the grave preparation to a very high standard, they are very respectful and at times have to work under challenging conditions.
- We now start our Spring summer maintenance at the Cemetery, this means fortnightly mowing and strimming, as well as general gardening and horticulture. This also includes removing dead flowers, packaging, oasis and broken/ windblown ornaments.

### **2. Allotments**

- Agreements are currently being renewed for the next 12 months, as such I am not in a position to report back on numbers of empty plots.

### **3. Bowling Green**

- The Bowling Green reopens this month.
- The Bowling Green is looking very good. The grass will now be cut twice a week and maintained to a height of 3mm.

### **4. Conservation Volunteers**

- Last months session took place at Gully Mead within the Wildern Local Nature Reserve. Volunteers and staff spent time clearing accumulated rubbish and debris as well as creation of an informal path.
- This months volunteer session took place at Mescott Pond in Dowds Farm. Volunteers and staff were tasked with digging out the outlet stream from the pond that runs under the road to the SSSI site in Moorgreen Meadows and the usual litter clearance.



## 5. Cricket

- Repairs to the artificial wicket have now been completed.
- Repairs have been ordered for the remaining practice lanes artificial surface, this should be completed in late June, and we are looking at any interim measures we can carry out now, that may allow for its continued use until repairs have been completed.

## 6. Football

- No issues to report.
- We aim to mow the pitches weekly for the duration of the season to a height of between 25-35mm.

## 7. Graffiti and Vandilism

- Greta Pavilion was targeted this month and required repainting to remove the offensive wording. As always, we report significant damage to the Police.



- We continue to remove as much graffiti as possible from HETC sites, although this takes up significant staff time, we do not want graffiti to be the 'norm' for Hedge End. If you are aware of any on HETC land, then please let me know.

## 8. Local Nature Reserve

- No issues to report this month.

## 9. Paddling Pool

- The wetpour surfacing contractor has now been approved and works should be completed by May 2023 in good time for the summer season.





## 10. Play Areas

- No issues

## 11. Open Spaces

- There is still an ongoing issue with dog fouling in Greta Park Play area, and now this is also happening at Rodaway. Very unpleasant to deal with and both frustrating and disappointing that there are people out there that think this is ok.
- Grass cutting has begun in a limited way as the sites are still very wet. We will gradually roll this out to all areas as conditions allow.
- The majority of Crack Willows have now been removed from Beattie Rise, there is one more clump left that will hopefully be removed in late summer. The area will be left to naturally regenerate over the summer.



## 12. Other news

- Vehicle trackers have now been installed on all HETC vehicles including tractors and the most recent ride-on mower.
- Works are due to take place at the Old School House Car park to address some surface issues prior to parking enforcement starting in June.



- The leylandii have now been removed from Drummond car park and replacement planting completed with a Prunus 'Tai Haku' (Great white cherry), a small/ medium sized tree with wonderful spring blossom.



This report is just a snapshot of the works completed each month.

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