

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

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- 2 interments have been undertaken since my last report, 1 full burial(re-opening) and 1 interments of Ashes.
- The graves are always prepared to a high standard by our Groundstaff in all weathers and challenging conditions.
- By way of an update from last month, we intend to remove the Eastern Hemlock on the roundabout in the next couple of weeks.

2. Allotments

- There are currently 0 empty plots and a waiting list of 42, 12 of those are requests for second plots.
- The team has been busy clearing old stock fencing and recoppicing the area between Kanes Field and Spring Field. As part of the work we have opened up a new path between the 2 fields to allow safer access for our mower.

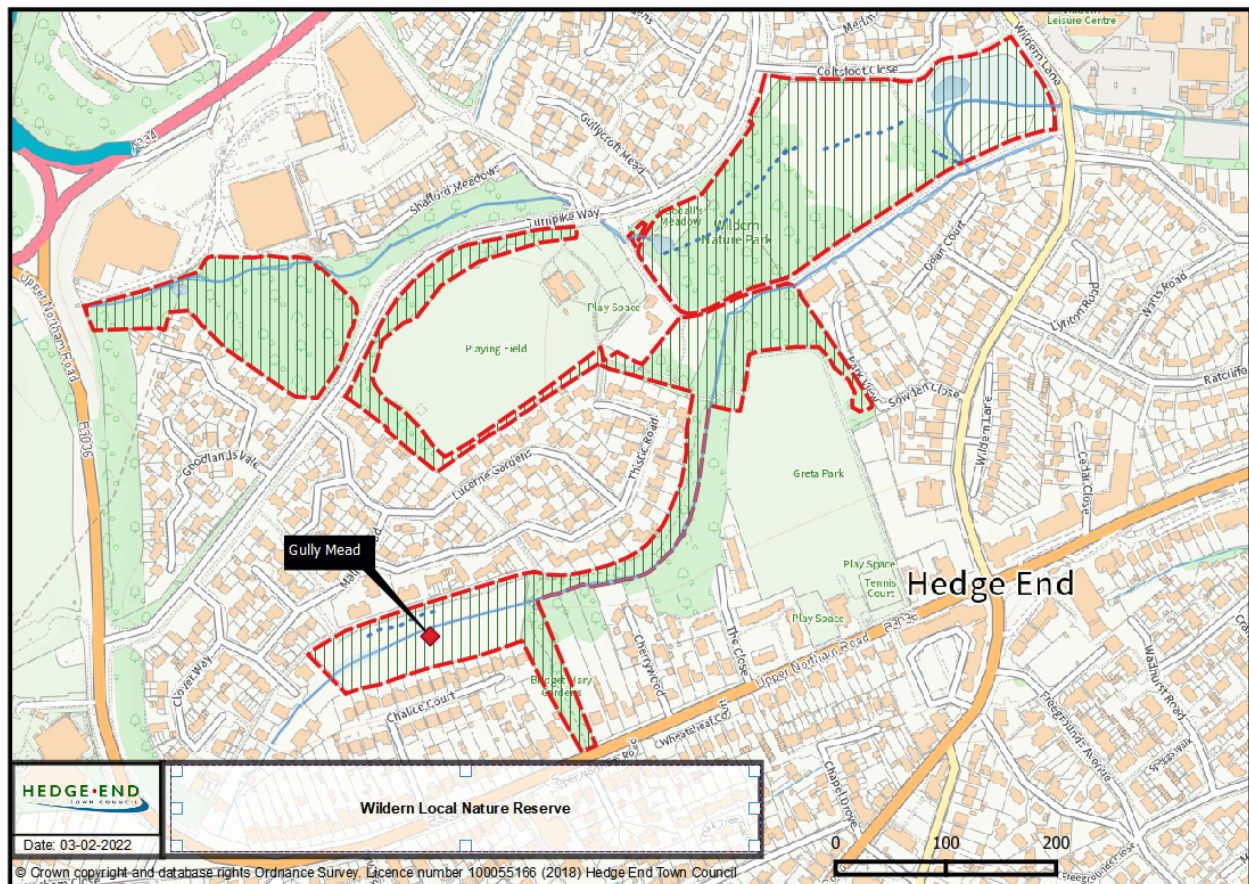


3. Bowling Green

- We are looking at creative ways to repair the concrete edgers that I have previously reported as needing replacement. The cost to replace the entire greens edgers is £30,000 and to replace just 1 side of edger would be £10,000. We are going to attempt to replace a small section using paving slabs, if it goes well, we should be able to replace all the damaged units this way at a fraction of the cost. I will update next month.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- This month's session took place at Gully Mead, this is an area of wet meadow within Wildern Local Nature Reserve. The task was to remove encroaching brambles and Willows from the meadow area. The results were impressive, and we managed to clear a much larger area than expected. Many thanks to all the volunteers that attended.



- Next months session is still to be confirmed.

5. Football

- Still issues with horse damage on pitches 3 & 4 at Rodaway.
- Pitches 1,2,3 & 4 are in play at Rodaway.
- Pitch 1 is in play at Greta Park.
- Aeration works to the pitches have been completed this week.



6. Local Nature Reserve

- A large Silver birch fell across the rear fence of a property on Goodlands Vale from the woodland at Hogsty Corner, fortunately there was no damage and the tree has now been cleared.
- The wooden walkway in Bridget Mary Gardens has received some repairs, it had become very mossy and slippery. Chicken wire has been used to help provide a safe footing.



- '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

- The Paddling Pool is now closed till 2022.
- The new chemical dosing system is booked for installation on 16th May.
- We are hoping to open the pool on the weekend of 21th May.

8. Open Spaces

a) Aspen Close

- No updates

b) Dowds Farm

- Works in the woodland adjacent Wellstead School have now been completed. A large amount of fly-tipping and rubbish was removed from the site. Selective scrub, brambles and sapling trees have been thinned out. This area is will now receive ongoing maintenance to ensure it remains safe to the public and to encourage a more diverse woodland habitat.



- Reeds that were transplanted into the Dowds Pond inlet stream to help reduce silt have taken very well and appear to be doing a good job. 2 sections have established, these not only help slow the water flow (reducing erosion), but they also filter out debris before it reaches the pond.



c) Drummond Road

- No updates

d) Grazing Fields

- No updates

e) Greta Park

- No updates

f) Locke Road

- No updates

g) Nelsons Garden

- No updates
- h) Norman Rodaway**
- No updates
- i) St. Johns Rec.**
- No updates
- j) Tennis Courts**
- No updates
- k) Turnpike Way**
- No updates
- l) Westward Road**
- No updates
- m) Woodhouse Lane**
- No updates

9. Other

a) Dowds Farm Junior Park Run

- I asked the organisers if they could provide some feedback for R and A on the Sunday morning events - *'We are loving running the event, and have seen a real community build around the event. There is a very strong core team of volunteers who come whatever the weather to be able to put events on and it has been so heart warming watching so many children come back week after week. From those that love running and are super eager, to those that have been doing parkrun as part of adopting a healthier lifestyle for their kids. The event has strong connections with the Hedge End Running Club who often support it too.'*

We are so grateful to all at HETC for their continued support with our event - if you come down to visit at any point, say hello to the RD who is one of the fantastic core team that make Dowds Farm junior parkrun possible. '

- More information can be found at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/dowdsfarm-juniors/>

b) Hedges

- We now draw near to bird nesting season, so we are carrying out the last bits of hedge cutting. It has been a really successful season of work; the team have worked really hard. If you have any last minute hedging requests then please let me know ASAP.

c) The Old School House

- The garden area has had old stumps removed and the ground levelled in preparation for sowing grass seed in late February.



d) Staff

- No updates

e) Tamarisk to Wildern Cycle path

- Update - The streetlamp is scheduled for removal over the coming weeks and EBC have confirmed that the dip in the path will be repaired too.



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