

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

**1. Albert Road Cemetery**

- We have prepared 2 interments since my last report, a full burial and an interment of Ashes.
- 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.
- During 2022, our team prepared 21 full burials and 16 interment of Ashes.

**2. Allotments**

- Currently there are no empty plots and a waiting list of 42, of which 14 are requests for second plots.

**3. Bowling Green**

- No issues to report.

**4. Conservation Volunteers**

- No CV session took place during January.

**5. Cricket**

- Repairs to the artificial wicket are booked in for the end of February. The repairs include some minor patching, levelling and restretching the surface.

**6. Football**

- The pitches are holding up well, they haven't been heavily used through January and the drier weather has helped them to recover from the excessive rain at the end of 2022. We are hopeful that all 3 pitches will be playable again.

**7. Graffiti and Vandalism**

- The wetpour surfacing at Greta Park has been damaged by a fire in the play area. This has been scheduled for repair by HETC staff.
- 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**

- We are currently seeking quotes for the wetpour surface repairs.

## 10. Play Areas

- No issues

## 11. Open Spaces

- There is an ongoing issue with dog fouling in Greta Park Play Area and Basketball Court. The Basketball Court has been locked at night to combat the issue, but unfortunately the problem has shifted to the Play Area. It really is disgusting, the individual responsible clearly has no morals and is happy to leave their dogs faeces, this is very unpleasant for our Groundstaff who have to go in and clear it daily.
- We are continuing the coppicing works at Dowds Farm and have taken this opportunity to start removing the hundreds of tree guard tubes that were installed when the area was originally developed.



- Grass cutting could start this month if the weather stays mild.
- Tree planting – HCC are planting 15 trees in Woodhouse Lane Open Space as mitigation for the trees mistakenly felled as part of the Botley By-pass. The planting is due to start on 9<sup>th</sup> February and will be a mix of native and ornamental trees.
- The team have been out to all the new trees planted within the last 5 years to remulch around the base of the trees. We use our own mulch that is a by-product of chipping branches and vegetation. Why do we mulch? Mulching reduces the need to water, provides valuable nutrients, restricts the growth of competing vegetation and looks nice.



- New hedging has been ordered for along the road side at Dowds Farm to continue the work we started in 2021, the hedges will eventually replace the aging knee rail fencing and will provide security for the site. 750 native whips will be planted with species including Oak, Beech, Hornbeam, Hawthorn and Guelder Rose. This has been funded through CPRE Hampshire Community Hedge Fund.
- This year's Green Flag application has been sent in and the results will be posted in late summer.
- The lifebuoys at Dowds Farm Pond have now been repaired following their vandalism as reported last 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