

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
Operations Manager Report
January 2023
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- We have prepared 1 interment since my last report, a full burial.
- 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.

2. Allotments

- Currently there are no empty plots and a waiting list of 39, of which 14 are requests for second plots.

3. Bowling Green

- No issues to report. The bowling Green looks exceptional for the time of year.



4. Conservation Volunteers

- Last months session was held at Wildern Moor in the Local Nature Reserve. The moor is a bio-diversity hotspot with flora including various Orchids and Purple Moor Grass. We graze cattle 3 out of 4 years on the site, but this isn't enough to stop invasion by unwanted trees and brambles, and if unmanaged the area would eventually become woodland. Whilst woodland can be a wonderful habitat, it does not encourage the rich variety of wildlife that the wet moorland currently enjoys. The volunteers spent a very cold morning removing sapling trees and reducing the clumps of brambles. We are very lucky to have a dedicated group of Volunteers who devote their time every month to help conservation work in Hedge End.



5. Cricket

- No issues to report – The cricket season is due to start towards the end of April.

6. Football

- The pitches are very water logged, but we have managed to keep pitch 2 playable. The pitches are assessed each week, unfortunately if the heavy rain continues we will have to cancel some of the weekend sessions.

7. Graffiti and Vandalism

- The Rodaway Pavilion was subject to a significant attack over the Christmas period, our maintenance staff (Mike) did a fine job cleaning it up.



- There was also racist graffiti on the bins at Dowds Farm open space, this has also been cleaned up.
- 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 seeking quotes for the surface repairs.

10. Play Areas

- As reported last month we had a few 'snags' to iron out at Rodaway Play area. I am pleased to report that most of the issues have now been resolved, these included concrete staining on the tarmac footpath, edging not finished on the surfacing and bolts missing from the fencing.

11. Open Spaces

- Greta Park changing room doors have been repeatedly kicked in and the changing rooms accessed with no significant damage so far. We are investigating ways to secure the site.



- We have been carrying out coppice work adjacent Dowds Farm Car Park; selected trees are retained to allow them to flourish into specimen trees. In this small area we have retained several Oak and Alder, the rest will be allowed to regrow as scrub.



- Norman Rodaway football fields are again being damaged by horses.



- The Dowds Farm Life buoys were thrown into the pond during the very cold weather and 2 of the stands were damaged.



- Grass cutting is now finished for the year and will likely resume in March.
- Hedges - The team are working hard cutting hedges across HETC land and continue the progress on reclaiming historically unmanaged or neglected areas. Please let me know if there are specific areas that you feel need some extra work.

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