

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

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- Since last R and A the Grounds Team have carried out 1 interment of Ashes and 1 full burial.
- Interestingly May and June are historically the quietest months of the year for burials and this year has fitted that pattern.
- Graves are dug throughout the year, sometimes in very challenging conditions. HETC staff always deliver to a high standard. This is an incredible service that we provide at the most difficult of times.

2. Allotments

- There are currently 0 empty plots and a waiting list of 60, 15 of which are requests for second plots. We will no longer be taking second plot requests until such time as we have spare vacant plots.
- Following last month's inspections, reinspection's took place this month resulting in 7 final warning letters being issued.

3. Bowling Green

- No issues to report.
- Preliminary discussions are being held with the club regarding the lease renewal in March 2024.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- No sessions were held last month.
- This month the CV session will take place in Wildern Local Nature Reserve. The session will focus on removal of Invasive non-native plants such as Bamboo and Laurel, we will also look at removing some other garden escapees such as Pyracantha and Elaeagnus.
- If you wish to attend a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

5. Cricket

- The new surfacing for the practice net has been installed and we are waiting on delivery of some steel cable before we reattach the nets. The practice net should be up and running within the week.

6. Football

- No issues to report.

7. Graffiti and Vandlism

- This month we have had 3 bin fires within open spaces and 2 fires within Wildern Local Nature Reserve. During last weekend someone had a fire on Woodhouse Skate ramp which has damaged the surface and will require specialist repair.
- The life Buoy at Mescott pond was destroyed by fire. Hampshire F&R attended.



- The bridge at the bottom of Greta Park was once again vandalised, this has been repaired by HETC staff.



- However I am pleased to report reduced graffiti incidents overall.

8. Local Nature Reserve

- No issues to report this month.
- The Bio-blitz will be taking place this weekend (15th) at the Reserve. A Gazebo will be set up near Coltsfoot Pond, several experts will be on site and we hope to identify some new species. The aim is a low key approach this time and if it is a success we may expand on it next year.
- Friends of Wildern Local Nature Reserve continue in their amazing efforts to record flora and fauna within the reserve. Their species count is now in excess 1300 different species which is quite outstanding. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743>

9. Paddling Pool

- I'm pleased with this season so far. More staff are now involved in running the pool and we have streamlined our processes to hopefully make daily maintenance simpler.
- The pool is checked at least 4 times during the day to ensure levels are correct and the pool is running safely.

10. Play Areas

- The gate at Drummond Play area has been damaged. We are investigating whether it is repairable or if it needs replacing.



11. Open Spaces

- The Ground staff have been busy with grass cutting, highway clearance, paddling pool and general maintenance tasks.
- Dead fish at Dowds Pond – we have been aware of significant numbers of dead fish at Dowds pond. The Ops Manager has been in discussion with the EA who advised that they believe it is likely contamination from the storm drain. Unfortunately we have no control over what goes into the drains. We planted reeds around the outlet a few years ago to help filter pollutants and catch larger silt particles so the incident could potentially have been worse. We continue to monitor the situation.



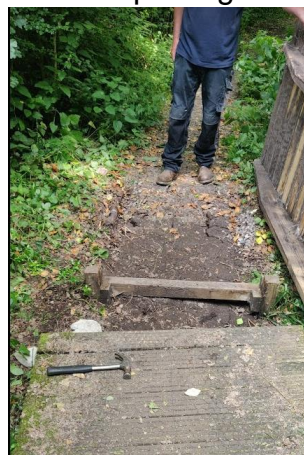
- The bench at the War Memorial has had a refurbishment. The old bolts had almost completely rusted away, and the slates were hanging off. Ken painstakingly removed the old timber and carefully chiselled out the old, rusted bolts. The old timber was still sound, so he rubbed down and treated the slates and replaced all the bolts. The final effect is a huge improvement.



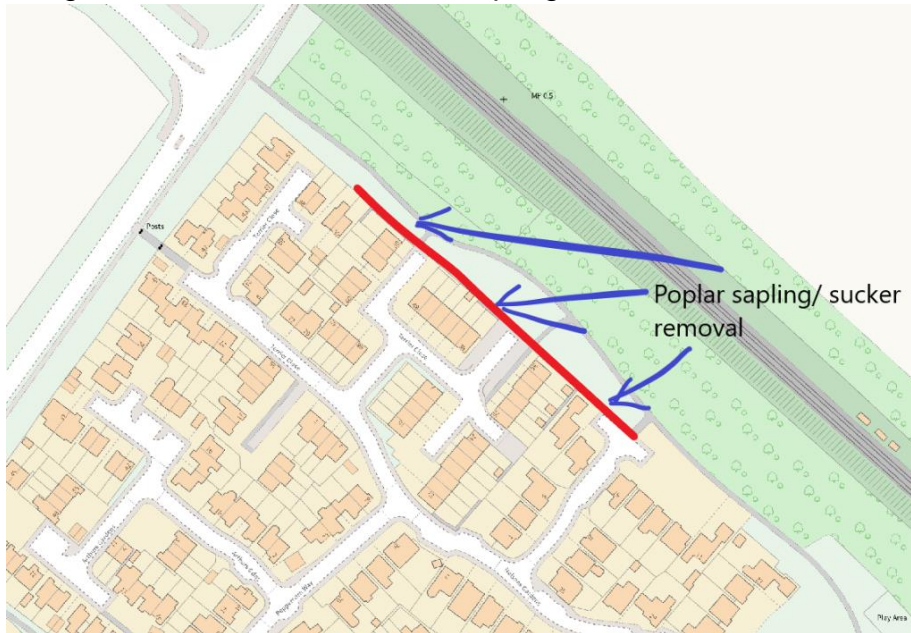
- Some replacement bins have been installed at Beattie Rise open space.



- The new double height gate has now been installed at Greta Park.
- The Allotment taps have been re-lagged, renumbered and several of the old rotted posts replaced.
- The boardwalk in Bridget Mary Gardens has been repaired. The ramp on one end had become detached. The boardwalk is likely to need replacing within 5 years.



- We will start to remove Poplar saplings/ suckers growing near fences, paths and properties over the coming months along Nelsons Gardens and Terrier Close. The saplings/ suckers are quite prolific and grow rapidly making them a real nuisance to manage, even when we cut them down, they simply resprout with triple the stems. Our aim is to clear specific areas then manage them as grass until such time as the sapling/ suckers cease.



- There is still an ongoing issue with dog fouling in the new Rodaway Play Area. Very unpleasant to deal with and both frustrating and disappointing that there are people out there that think this is ok.

12. Other news

- Please remember that we are missing a key member of staff, and this has an impact on how we are maintaining the grounds.

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