

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

## **1. Albert Road Cemetery**

- During May our Grounds Team carried out 2 full burials.
- 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.
- The Wildflower meadow near the entrance is looking wonderful again this year. It was buzzing with insects on my visit earlier this week.

## **2. Allotments**

- There are currently 0 empty plots and a waiting list of 58, 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.
- Plot inspections took place last week resulting in 19 warning letters.
- The toilet cubicle had a mini refurb during May, this included replacing the cracked sink, repainting and a good clean up.

## **3. Bowling Green**

- The Bowling Green is looking good despite dry weather.
- Hedge End Bowling Club lease expires as of March 2024, preliminary discussions have begun to negotiate a new lease.
- The last lease was lacking in some detail, which has made it difficult to establish certain responsibilities and boundaries, for instance the existing lease says that HETC are responsible for the maintenance of the green, without any measure of exactly what that includes.

## **4. Conservation Volunteers**

- Last month's session took place at Wildern Moor within Wildern Local Nature Reserve. Tasks
- This month's volunteer session is still to be confirmed.

## **5. Cricket**

- Cricket season is well under way. The cricket pitch is looking reasonable, but the dry weather is taking its toll.
- The new surfacing for the practice net is due for installation on 29<sup>th</sup> June, after that we will reinstall the old net. Some very good news is that EBC have agreed to fully fund this work.

## **6. Football**

- No issues to report.

- Hampshire FA have agreed to carry out pitch inspections at Rodaway to aid with future grant applications. There is currently funding available to help raise the standard of Grassroots football. I will be meeting them this week and will report back on any progress.

## 7. Graffiti and Vandlism

- Graffiti overall has been better this period, but we still have isolated issues as pictured below:



- 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.
- 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 1270 different species which is quite outstanding. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743>

## 9. Paddling Pool

- The new wetpour surfacing has now been laid and the damaged fencing replaced. We have worked incredibly hard to get the pool up and running.
- We are in the process of training more staff to give as much resilience as possible through the Paddling Pool season.

## A brief history of St. Johns Paddling pool in pictures

- 2002 – original design



- 2009





- 2014



- 2023



## 10. Play Areas

- ROSPA inspections were carried out in late May. This is an independent assessment of the safety of the play areas and equipment and provides feedback on repairs/modifications required.

## 11. Open Spaces

- 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.
- Grass cutting has been in full swing and is slowing down now due to the dry weather.
- We have begun the mammoth task of watering all the trees we have planted over the last 5 years. This is a significant amount of water and staff time, but otherwise the trees would die. I'm actually really disappointed that the Lime trees at Dowds Farm along Wellstead Way still require water after all this time, it shows just how dry the ground is.

## 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.
- Parking enforcement is now live at the Old School House and so far, it has been very successful. No tickets have been issued and the car park has remained free of unauthorised vehicles.

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