

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

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- 4 interments have been undertaken since my last report, 3 full burial (2 of which were reopenings) and 1 interments of Ashes.
- The graves are always prepared to a high standard by our Groundstaff in all weathers and challenging conditions.
- The tree that I reported on last month and was due for removal fell apart during the recent strong winds, it beat us by 3 days!



2. Allotments

- There are currently 3 vacant plots and a waiting list of 41, 12 of those are requests for second plots. The vacant plots are expected to be occupied quickly.

3. Bowling Green

- Repairs have taken place to the greens concrete edgers, this has been a creative solution and achieved using materials salvaged from our Depot stores at virtually no cost to the council. We can continue to make repairs, but they are not a fix and a more permanent solution will be required eventually.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- There was no volunteer session in February due to a shortfall in staff.
- The March session is due to take place in Home Farm Woodland. Work will primarily focus on removal of undesirable invasive non-native species – Rhododendron ponticum, Cherry Laurel and Portuguese Laurel, but will also include path clearance and litter picking.

- Should anyone wish to attend, please ensure you have registered with Carolyn before the event.



5. Football

- Pitches 1 & 2 are currently in play at Rodaway.
- Pitch 1 is in play at Greta Park.

6. Local Nature Reserve

- 2 Trees were removed following the recent storms; a large Poplar that had become destabilised at the root and was leaning towards a property, and an Alder that had snapped off at the base and was hung in an adjacent tree.



- '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.
- We are hoping to open the pool on the weekend of 21th May.

8. Open Spaces

a) Aspen Close

- A large dead Willow has been removed this week from the woodland. The tree was over 22 meters tall but has been dead now for over a year. Most of the timber will remain on site to help support the local ecosystem.

b) Dowds Farm

- Play Area – awaiting various repairs from the installer including replacement of the rotating carousel, repair to the framework of the aerial runway and various small parts that need repair.
- A large Maple was brought down by the recent storms. The tree was cleared by HETC and now only the stump remains, this will be left to decay providing a home for a wide variety of flora and fauna.



- Woodland Trust trees have been planted by HETC staff along Wellstead Way to form a hedge that will act as a replacement for the current knee rail fencing. The aim is that as the knee rail fencing decays and is removed the hedge will form a new impassable boundary and help prevent unauthorised access to the open space.



c) Drummond Road

- No updates

d) Grazing Fields

- We have had reports of unauthorised motorcycle use on Grazing Field 3, this is currently being investigated.

e) Greta Park

- Minor roof damage from storms. Awaiting repairs.

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

- Roof tiles damaged by youths on the roof. Awaiting repairs.

l) Westward Road

- No updates

m) Woodhouse Lane

- No updates

9. Other

a) Hedges

- The hedging season is now over and the vast majority of works have been completed. Overall HETC staff have pruned an estimated 2.5 to 3 miles of hedging over the winter period.

b) Staff

- Mick Wheatly, who has been a caretaker at HETC for over 12 years has left for a change of career, we wish him the very best for his future.

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