

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
Operations Manager Report
November 2022
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- Only 1 interment of Ashes has been undertaken since my last report. However, overall October was the busiest month of the year so far with 6 burials (4 x full burial and 2 x 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.
- Based the information I have available, HETCs Ground staff have now prepared 108 Ashes plots and 132 full burials since 2015

2. Allotments

- Currently there are no empty plots and a waiting list of 41, of which 13 are requests for second plots.
- Due to the warm wet weather, we are still cutting the grass at the allotments.

3. Bowling Green

- No update

4. Conservation Volunteers

- Last months session took place at Mescott Pond in the Dowds Farm area. We have been gradually transforming this area to make it more accessible to the public whilst managing the land to try and increase the plant diversity thus improving the overall biodiversity. Unfortunately the areas had been vandalised with lifebuoys removed and tied into the trees, fencing damaged and holes/ ramps dug into the paths, so this session included repairs as well as scrub removal, fencing and litter picking.
- This month we are opening the conservation session up to the whole community with a woodland planting event at Dowds Farm. Around 450 whips will be planted as part of the Queens Green Canopy originally to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, but now in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

PLANT A TREE WITH US

10am, Thursday, 24th November 2022 at Dowd's Farm

Limited parking spaces available in the car park at Wellstead Way. Planting will be near the play area. No need to book, just register on the day.

Chair of Hedge End Town Council, Cllr. Cliff Morris invites you to join us in planting a Community Woodland in memory of Queen Elizabeth II in her Platinum Jubilee year. Trees donated by the Woodland Trust

www.hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

- We usually miss out December's session, but this year we thought we would try having one earlier in the month on the 15th December. We will be heading back into the Local Nature Reserve working in our biodiversity hotspot Wildern Moor. The moor is a wet meadow that is an important and unusual habitat for such an urban area; notable species include Purple Moor Grass and several Orchid species. The session will take place on the 24th November with tasks including bramble reduction, sapling tree removal and pruning as well as litter picking. It is important that we control encroaching vegetation on the meadow sites, otherwise we risk losing the rich habitats.

5. Cricket

- I have been looking into the extent of repairs required to the cricket net surfacing at Turnpike. Investigations have so far highlighted significant damage by the ingress of roots from adjacent trees as well as surfacing issues. We had hoped a quick fix would be possible, but this is seemingly less likely and that substantial repairs may be required if it is to be retained. I will provide further updates when I have more to share.

6. Football

- The football season is progressing well, and the new teams seem to be settling in. Our staff continue with the ongoing maintenance which includes patch repairs, seeding, cutting and white lining.

7. Graffiti and Vandalism

- Overall the graffiti levels have dropped slightly again this month, likely due to the dark evenings and wet weather. I firmly believe that if we do not keep on top of it then it will increase and become the 'norm' so we remain vigilant and remove as much graffiti as possible from HETC land. If you see any on Hedge End TC land please report it to the office, ideally with a photograph.

8. Local Nature Reserve

- No updates

9. Paddling Pool

- No update

10. Play Areas

- Play area repairs continue – this month we have been renewing grass surfacing around sites at Turnpike, Dowds and St. Johns Rec.





11. Open Spaces

- Rodaway Play Area installation – The play area is progressing well, however unfortunately the contractor has been the victim of theft on 2 occasions with 2 x Dumpers stolen on 2 separate occasions (£9,000 per vehicle).



- Grass cutting - Following the unprecedented drought conditions, the grass is growing again thanks to the rain so our teams will be back out on mowers.
- 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.
- Drummond bund removal and Beattie Rise (ex) Pond – The earth moving and pond filling part of this project is now completed. The total volume of soil relocated is estimated to be in excess of 3,000 tonnes. The project ran very smoothly and efficiently. The area at the front of Drummond has been levelled and seeded and the fencing is due to begin later this week. The pond area has been levelled and sculpted to match the surroundings; we do not intend to do anything more with this site until next year, and once the ground has settled, we can look at how best to use the site, potentially with more tree planting to enhance the wooded area and seeding to increase the usable open space.



- Merlin Gardens Pond restoration – following on from last months restoration work, I'm pleased to see the pond is finally filling up, not only that but the ground flora is already starting to grow. The work will continue next year as an when resource allows, and I am hopeful that over the next few years the site will become a wonderful local amenity for residents and wildlife.



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