

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

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- 5 interments have been undertaken since my last report, 2 full burial, 1 full burial second interments and 2 interment of Ashes.
- We are continuing our levelling work within the cemetery grounds. This includes new plots and older plots as well as other areas that are uneven. We have made great strides and the site is becoming increasingly accessible.
- 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 41, of which 13 are requests for second plots.

3. Bowling Green

- This year's season has ended, and renovation work has begun which includes aeration, 5 tonne of top dressing, fungicide application and reseeded with specialist grass. This work is all carried out by our Groundstaff.
- We are in discussion with Southern Water to try and resolve several contraventions of the above ground water points, this includes adding an overflow to the irrigation tank and removing a tap.



4. Conservation Volunteers

- Last month's session was at Coltsfoot Pond again to carry on the improvement works, which included removal of invasive plants (Parrots Feather, New Zealand Pigmyweed and Blue Pickerel), pairing back of the Reedmace so it was not so dominant, silt was dug out and many years' worth of accumulated rubbish removed.
- This month's session (weather permitting) will be back at Mescott pond in Dowds Farm where we will be looking to continue the conservation and improvement works including pruning, litter picking, fencing and

- 27th October at 9:15am, all are welcome but please register with Carolyn prior to the session officemanager@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

5. Cricket

- The Cricket square maintenance has been underway, with top dressing, scarifying and reseeding.



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 Vandlism

- The Depot yard was broken into over the last weekend; the fence was bent to allow access and orange plastic barriers removed and set fire to. Overall the damage was fairly minimal but it is really frustrating.
- A bin was set on fire yet again at Turnpike Play Area, it was an old bin and has now been removed.
- Overall the graffiti levels have dropped slightly this month.

8. Local Nature Reserve

- I visited Wildern School this month with Terry Crow and Andy Bins (representatives of FoWLNLR), we met with the Deputy Head to discuss ways of dealing with ASB specifically on the Reserve. It was an encouraging meeting and one outcome is that they have agreed to share some of the reserves stories during their assemblies, starting with Eels and their incredible story of how they reach Hedge End from the Sargasso Sea in the hopes that this may install some interest, pride and ownership, we also discussed the possibility of pupils helping in conservation work in the future.

9. Paddling Pool

- No update

10. Open Spaces

- Rodaway Play Area installation - Following several delays, we are hopeful that works will start at the end of October.
- 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.
- Woodhouse Lane Skatepark repairs - Works are booked in for mid October to carry out repairs, this includes repairs to the damaged concrete, some welding and repainting ramps with anti-slip paint.
- Drummond bund removal and Beattie Rise (ex) Pond photos.



- Merlin Gardens Pond restoration – the unprecedented dry weather gave us an opportunity to remove invasive willows and dig out the pond to increase depth and remove accumulated silt. We used the timber to create log piles and dug out roots and piled them up to create habitat. Overall the feedback has been very positive. The pond is quite old, and various old bottles and jars were found during the works including Horlicks, Bovril and shipman's paste jars all dating back to early 1900.



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