

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Operations Manager Report**  
February 2024  
Recreation and Amenities

**1. Albert Road Cemetery**

- There have been 6 burials since the last meeting, 2 interment of Ashes, 3 Full burial (reopen) and 1 new Full burial.
- January'24 was the busiest since HETC started preparing graves (2015).
- 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 HETC provide at the most difficult of times.

**2. Allotments**

- There are currently 0 empty plots and a waiting list of 35.
- There are 15 requests for additional plots on the waiting list, however as the council no longer offer second plots, I will not include this number in future reports.

**3. Bowling Green**

- The lease negotiations with Hedge End Bowling Club are still on track for April 1<sup>st</sup> handover. HETC will continue its usual maintenance until this time.

**4. Conservation Volunteers**

- January's session took place at Mescott pond, with tasks including small tree removal, bramble clearance, ditch clearance, creation of a new small pond area, removal of old planting tube and litter collection. 6 volunteers joined HETC staff to carry out conservation work, with the aim of enhancing this once neglected area. It was fantastic that a Kingfisher was seen during the session taking fish from the pond.





- February's volunteer session will take place at Coltsfoot Pond. Tasks will include coppicing, invasive plant removal, general pruning and some small tree felling. The session will take place at 09:30 on 29th February.
- If you wish to join a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

## 5. Cricket

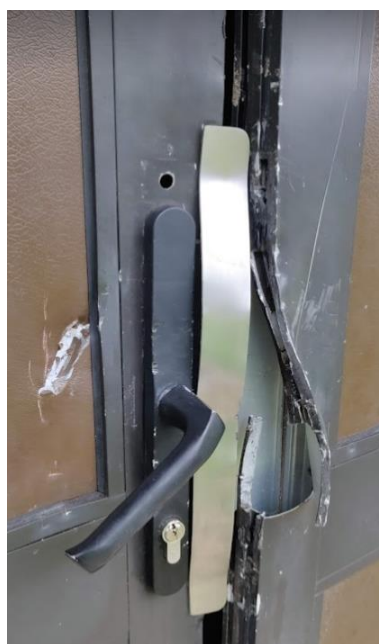
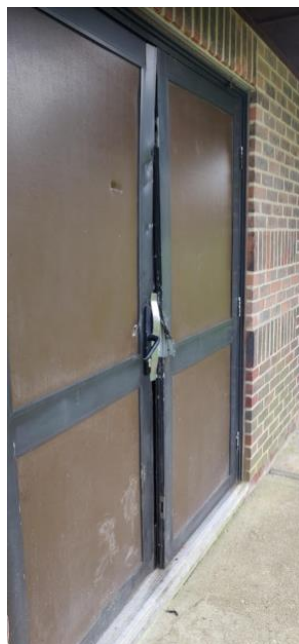
- The season will resume in May 2024.
- Top dressing will be put down on the Cricket Square next month provided that we get a reasonable dry period.

## 6. Football

- Berrywood Fields is due to transfer to the Town Council in April 2024, although EBC will continue to maintain the site until the end of the football season (May 2024).
- We have begun preparations to ensure that there are have the correct resources in place for the 2024 season.
- The Rodaway pitches will continue to be cut as weather permits throughout the winter.

## 7. Graffiti and Vandlism

- There was an attempted break-in again at Turnpike Pavilion, this time causing significant damage to the doors. Entry was not gained, and I am hopeful that they opened the door enough to see that the store is empty. Temporary repairs have been made and the store is secure.



- A fire was started in Drummond Play Area bin, fortunately there was no significant damage or injury.
- The gutter downpipe has been pulled off the building at Rodaway Pavilion.
- The life buoys at Dowds Pond have been retrieved from the water at least 3 times this month, as someone rightly pointed out ‘they won’t be able to save lives from there’.
- A shopping trolley was retrieved from Coltsfoot Pond within the Local Nature Reserve
- I’m pleased to say there has been very few instances of graffiti.

## 8. Local Nature Reserve

- 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 of 1700 different species since they began recording in 2018 which is outstanding.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743>

## 9. Paddling Pool

- Closed for the season – no issues

## 10. Play Areas

- Repairs are ongoing across all 11 play areas; this month we have been focusing on replacing worn links and shackles.
- The roundabout at Westward Road has had all its wooden platforms replaced.



- Replacement toddler swings at Locke Road.





## 11. Open Spaces

- The team continue their work across the town, cutting hedges as well as reinstating verges.



- Turnpike – Willow trees along the front of Turnpike OS have been identified as at risk of stem/branch failure and have been programmed in for coppicing. The survey has been included with the meeting documents.
- Following the decision at last month's meeting, the small area of damaged fence has been removed from Terrier Close open space.



- Invasive Poplar saplings/ suckers continue to be removed from the rear of Terrier Close/ Nelsons Gardens.

## 12. Other news

- The 4 x Plane trees have now been removed from The Old School House and pavement repairs completed. The replacement trees have been ordered and will be planted this month.



- Rubbish continues to be fly tipped at the Rodaway recycling compound, adding extra burden to the Groundstaff and extra waste to arrange disposal of.

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