

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
Operations Manager Report
April 2024
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- There have been 7 interment of Ashes since last month's R and A.
- 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 40.

3. Bowling Green

- The new lease for transfer of Hedge End Bowling Club was unfortunately not ready in time for 1st April, however the process should be completed over the coming weeks. In the meantime HETC will continue with management of the green and building services.
- This month the mowing has brought the grass height down to around 4.5-5mm, the surface has been scarified and fertiliser applied, it is looking really good.



4. Conservation Volunteers

- Due to reduced staff numbers and weather conditions the planned March volunteer session was cancelled.
- April's Conservation volunteers will take place at 09:15 on 25th April at Home Farm woodland, the focus of the work will be removal of invasive and undesirable non-native species including Rhododendron and Laurel species
- 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
- We aim to cut the square weekly to a height of 12-16mm as weather permits, and it will be rolled till early May to produce a firm compacted surface.

6. Football

- Berrywood Fields has not yet transferred, but we are hopeful this will be imminent.
- EBC have arranged for repair work to take place in late April, so we are hopeful the pitches will be in good condition ready for the new season.
- This month we have applied fertiliser to pitch 1 at Rodaway and will continue with our weekly maintenance as weather permits.

7. Graffiti and Vandilism

- 2 freshly planted trees were destroyed and bulbs ripped out of the ground at Drummond Community Centre. This is always really disappointing and disheartening, we put a lot of time and effort into tree planting.



- The noticeboard at Turnpike has been graffitied twice this month, both times immediately cleaned off.



- We react quickly to graffiti and clean it off as soon as we can, overall I'm convinced this significantly reduces the overall number of attacks. It is important that we don't let graffiti become normal.

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 1500 different species since they began recording in 2018 which is outstanding.

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

9. Paddling Pool

- The Paddling Pool will reopen in late May. By next R and A we should have begun the preparation work for the new season. This will include cleaning, calibration, chemical procurement, updating health and safety documentation and general maintenance.

10. Play Areas

- No issues to report

11. Updates

- Eroded soil has been regraded at Woodhouse skate park to cover exposed concrete edges and try to improve the drainage.



- Following February's meeting, the work to install a ditch and mound to restrict vehicle access to the open space at Stubbs Drove has begun, unfortunately the wet weather made the site inaccessible, so work will resume over the coming weeks.
- The team removed large amounts of fly tipping from the land immediately adjacent The Bungalow and have cleared the area to make it less desirable for further dumping. Debris included lots of old fencing, a slide and other domestic rubbish.



- A large Oak tree fell during the recent high winds from the EBC owned woodland at Greta Park. There was no damage and the HETC team cleared the debris from the open space.



- A bench at Beattie Rise receives a fresh coat of paint.



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