

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

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- There have been 6 burials since the last meeting, 3 interment of Ashes and 3 Full burial.
- February'24 was the busiest for that month 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 38.
- Repairs have been completed this month to fix pot holes and erosion of the entrances and roads into the allotments



3. Bowling Green

- The lease negotiations with Hedge End Bowling Club are still on track for April 1st handover. HETC will continue its usual maintenance until this time.
- This month we reduce the mower cut from 12mm down to 9-10mm, this will be gradually lowered until May when we will be aiming for about 4-5mm.
- Moss control will be carried out as well as spring fertiliser.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- February's session was cancelled due to the weather.
- March Conservation volunteers will take place at 09:30 on 28th March and the site is still to be confirmed.
- If you wish to join a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

5. Cricket

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

- The Berrywood Fields football pitches are 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).
- I visited the pitches recently and was dismayed at how badly they have deteriorated. I understand EBC are arranging for the end of season renovation so I'm hopeful they will be in better condition ready for the handover, I am meeting the project lead this week to have a walk round and look at any potential issues.
- We have begun preparations to ensure that there are 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 Vandalism

- Other than a couple of small bin fires at Drummond Play Area, it has been a good month with little damage or 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 1500 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

- No issues to report

11. Updates

- February was the last month for major hedge cutting work as we now head into the bird nesting season.
- Merlin Gardens Pond restoration works continue – this month the team cleared an overgrown section of scrub on the southern side of the pond, allowing a clear view from the footpath.



- County Councillor grant funding has been secured to carry out footpath improvements at Willow Close, thanks to Councillor Tonya Craig for supporting this project. The works will be completed over the coming months.
- Turnpike – The Willow trees along the front of Turnpike OS have now been removed, there is still some clear up work which should be finished before the end of the month. Overall the impact is quite minor and will blend in quickly once growth begins.
- We managed to clear the outlet at Dowds Farm Pond which had become blocked as a result of the high volumes of rain; for a short time the pond water depth increased by about 1m. A passing Cormorant was making the most of the situation.



- Work continued in Dowds clearing verges and cutting back overgrown vegetation.





Following removal of the 4 Plane trees from the Old School House, 5 new trees have been planted at St. Johns Recreation Ground.



- The new dual height barrier has been installed at Woodhouse Lane. The old barrier is still in place but will be removed following completion of additional works to secure the site.



- 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