HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL

Operations Manager Report

June 2024

Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- The team have carried out 4 burials since last R and A, 2 interment of Ashes, 1 Full burial and 1 reopening.
- 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.
- At this time of year the grounds team aim to mow and strim the cemetery every 2 weeks, as well as day to day activities such as sweeping the roads/ paths, litter picking and general maintenance of the shrub beds.

2. Allotments

- Currently there is 1 vacant plot and waiting list of 30.
- At this time of year the Groundstaff carry out mowing and strimming every 2 - 3 weeks or as required.

3. Bowling Green

- The new lease for transfer of Hedge End Bowling Club has still not happened, but should be completed over the coming weeks. In the meantime HETC will continue with management of the green and building services.
- The green requires 2 cuts a week at this time of year, to maintain a grass height of around 5mm. In addition the team carefully cut and remove any broad leaved weeds.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- Mays volunteer session was postponed due to staff availability and will now take place on 13th June at 09:30. The session will focus on removal of invasive/ undesirable non-native species (Bamboo, Laurel, Pyracantha, Elaeagnus) from the woodland to the rear of Thistle Close known as Woodland Walk.
- If you wish to join a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

5. Cricket

- The Cricket season is now in full swing, and the pitch is looking good.
- 14 matches were played in May and 16 matches are booked in for June.
- The cricket square is cut twice weekly to a height of 12-18mm, the pitch is cut to 3mm and the outfield is cut to between 12 – 20mm.

6. Football

- The football season is now finished, it starts again late August/ early September.
- Berrywood Fields has not yet transferred, but we are hopeful this will be imminent.
- Rodaway football - Hedge End Utd have returned the signed partnership SLA and we should find out soon if the pitch improvement grant application submitted to the Football Foundation is successful.

7. Graffiti and Vandalism

- Generally a quiet month in terms of damage to HETC assets and graffiti, with very little reported issues.
- The life rings have been thrown into Dowds Pond about 3 times per week over the last month.
- A small group of youths dressed in Wildern school uniform were reported to be trying to set fire to grass cuttings at Greta Park, 2 of the Grounds Team spoke to them and they moved on swiftly!
- The lock on one of the Public Toilet cubicle doors was damaged and had to be replaced.
- Litter continues to be an issue across the town, this was from this weeks litter pick at Dowds pond (along with 2 of the life buoys).

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 is now open for the 2024 season, it will open every day 10am -18:00 until early September.
- It takes a significant amount of work to get the facility up and running each year, and this year we had to make some last minute repairs to the main reservoir as it had sprung a leak.
- Before we open, a sample of the water is sent for lab microbiological analysis, this checks for contaminants such as Legionella, Pseudomonas and other nasty bacteria. This test is repeated monthly for the duration of the season.
- The pool is checked at least 4 times per day to ensure the Chlorine levels are within acceptable boundaries, that the ph. level is correct, that both pumps are operating as they should be and to check outlets etc.

- Staff are all given refresher training and new staff get a full induction.
- Both the facilities team and the Grounds team help with the day to day running of the pool.

10. Play Areas

- The multi-play unit at Nelsons Gardens Play area has now been removed.
- The annual ROSPA inspection was completed earlier this month, and the Grounds Team will start on a program of repair over the summer.
- The new rubber surfacing for the Multi-Play at Dowds Farm Play Area has been ordered and the installation should begin in the coming weeks.

11. Updates

- The Grounds Team are busy mowing, strimming and pruning at this time of year. Particular attention is paid to areas that the team 'reclaimed' over the winter.

- Brambles growing out of hedges are an issue with the recent weather, they sporadically grow across footpaths faster than we can get to them. If you see any (on HETC land) please feel free to send me an email (with map or photo) and we'll get them cut back ASAP.

- The Wildflower areas (Mini meadows) are in full bloom across HETC sites.

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