HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL

Operations Manager Report

July 2024

Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- The team have carried out 2 burials since last R and A, 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 0 vacant plots and waiting list of 33.
- 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 is imminent and should be completed very soon. 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

- June's volunteer session took place in the Woodland Walk within the Local Nature Reserve. Volunteers tackled invasive bamboo which is a non-native invasive species. This is tough work as the roots need digging out and they form a dense impenetrable mass of roots.
- July's volunteer session will be in Hogsty Corner, located on the western side of Wildern Local Nature Reserve. The area we will be working is a site with Purple Moor Grass, and the aim will be to re-coppice Willow and other vegetation that have started to crowd out this priority habitat.
- 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.
- 18 matches were played in June and 12 matches are currently booked in for July.
- 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 10mm – 20mm.

6. Football

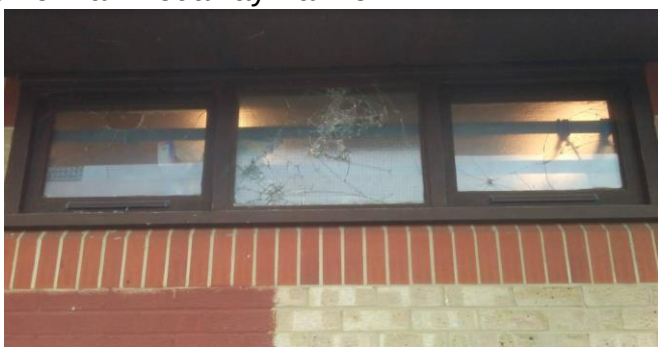
- The football season starts again in late August/ early September.
- Berrywood Fields has not yet transferred, but we are hopeful this will be imminent.
- Good news! Both Rodaway grants have been accepted and we have ordered the Quadraplay, (this is a tractor mounted grooming tool that aerates, rakes and brushes in one pass). We are hopeful to get some of the maintenance works completed at Rodaway before the start of the season.

7. Graffiti and Vandalism

- Graffiti incidents are currently very low. We continue to clear all graffiti as quick as possible, and I am hopeful that our fast response is stopping this becoming 'normal'.
- We put notices on the life buoys at Dowds Farm reminding people that they are there to save lives, and I'm pleased to say we have only had 1 life buoy thrown into the pond this month.
- The bridge at Greta Park has been significantly damaged twice this month, the second attack happened the day after we had repaired the bridge following the first attack. Fortunately a local resident photographed the group and details have been passed on to Wildern School and the Police. These mindless attacks are both expensive and disheartening.

- There was a fire in the Play Area at Beattie Rise, causing damage to the safety surfacing.

- The fence has been damaged in 2 separate incidents at Nelsons Garden Play Area.
- 3 x Broken windows at Norman Rodaway Pavilion.



- A broken window at Drummond Community Centre

- A really lovely newly planted Beech Tree was snapped off at Rodaway. We posted this to Social Media and Snows car dealership contacted the council and have kindly offered to replace the tree.

8. Local Nature Reserve

- Wildern Nature Friends 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 season is going well, and when the sun is shining attracts large numbers.
- A lot goes on in the background to keep the pool running safely. The pool and plant room are monitored throughout the day. We carry out daily litter picking, empty the bins, clean the pool and weekly grass mowing.
- The pool is checked at least 4 times per day to ensure the Chlorine levels and Ph levels are correct, that both pumps are operating as they should be and to check the plant and pool are working correctly.
- The disinfection plant uses Chlorine to keep the water clean, and a Dry Acid to maintain the correct ph. balance.
- The facilities team and the Grounds team help with the day to day running of the pool.

10. Play Areas

- There was an unfortunate accident at Westward Road Play Area, a child caught their hand in the Play Area gate. The gate has been removed as a precaution and we are seeking advice on the best gate solution for this site.
- The new rubber surfacing for the Multi-Play at Dowds Farm Play Area has been installed and looks great.

11. Updates

- The Grounds Team are busy mowing, strimming and pruning at this time of year. Whilst hedging work generally doesn't start until 1st August, we still have to keep paths and roads clear, so there is lots of work dealing with the worst areas.
- Scottish and Southern Energy will be carrying out routine line clearance at 2 HETC sites over the next couple of months:
  Dowds Farm – Line clearance of the main HV line that spans the open space. The majority of the work will be coppicing Willows and also removing some undesirable poplar saplings.

Hogsty Corner – Line clearance between SCS and Goodlands Vale, again this is mostly Willow coppicing.

- 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.

For consideration

- The defibrillator at Hedge End Bowling Green has been used twice this year by Snowdrop Place Care Home, they do not have their own machine.
- Each time a defib is used the pads and accessory packs need replacing. The batteries last for 4 years and may withstand a couple of uses in that time.
- Costs:
  New battery - £205
  New pads - £56
  Accessory pack (gloves, scissors etc.) – £20
- Whilst the defibrillator is available for anyone to use, it does seem a little unreasonable that a business is making use of the unit without contributing to its upkeep.
- Should the Council approach Snowdrop Place and ask for a contribution towards its upkeep and replacement parts?

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