HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL

Operations Manager Report

September 2024

Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- The team have carried out 6 burials since last R and A; 1 Full burial and 5 interment of Ashes.
- 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 team are focusing on hedge cutting and maintenance of the shrub beds, which includes pruning Lavender flower stalks to ensure they don't go leggy.

2. Allotments

- Currently there 0 vacant plots and waiting list of 39.
- We continue to mow the Allotments, we also cut the boundary hedge and should complete some of the coppicing work along the central stream before the new year.

3. Bowling Green

- I'm please to report that the new lease has been signed and responsibility has transferred. The Bowling Club have taken over all management of the pavilion and green, so this is the final time I will be reporting on this site. All grass cutting and maintenance will now be delivered by the club. The Town Council will continue to maintain the external Beech hedge and defibrillator attached to the outside of the pavilion.

4. Conservation Volunteers

- July's volunteer session took place in Hogsty Corner, located on the western side of Wildern Local Nature Reserve. The group spent the morning re-coppicing Willow and other vegetation that have started to crowd out the Purple Moor Grass.
- 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 over, and remedial works will start over the coming weeks. Ideally, we will scarify (remove the moss and thatch), aerate and then add a top dressing of Surrey loam, although this is weather depending.

6. Football

- The reasignment of the lease for Berrywood Fields has yet to be finalised, however I am pleased to report that as of 1st September HETC have taken over management of Berrywood Fields.
- This season, HETC are host to 4 teams, with a 5th still to be confirmed:

  Berrywood Fields
  - Hedge End Rangers
  - Shirley Tornados

  Rodaway

  - Hedge End Utd
  - Hedge End Town
  - Possible additional team TBC.
- The Quadraply Multi-groom tool for the tractor has now arrived. This was 75% grant funded by the football foundation and allows us to complete essential maintenance in 1 pass; aerate, brush, roll and rake.
- Overview of Berrywood Fields:
  - The facility has 3 football pitches, 1no. Senior 11v11, 2 x Junior 11v11 and there is also a 4th pitch (marked in blue within one of the junior pitches) Junior 7v7.
  - The changing rooms and toilets are located within Deer Park Sports Centre in the grounds of Deer Park School. These are shared facilities with other users of the site.
  - Under a community use agreement, the changing facilities are available with pitch hire for up to 2 matches per day per pitch (weekends only).
  - HETC manage the pitches and surrounding area (Marked red in the map below). HETC do not manage the 3G pitch or any of the land within the school grounds(marked blue in the map below).

7. Graffiti and Vandalism

- Overall damage and graffiti have been far less than previous months. We still ensure that ALL graffiti is removed swiftly from HETC property.
- One day I may put together a collage of all the graffiti images from around Hedge End that I have gathered over the years! It would certainly make for an interesting/ divisive piece of art!

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 pool season has finished for 2024, unfortunately the final week really was a complete washout due to the weather.
- Overall this has been a successful season with very little downtime or issues, which is a great relief. Maintaining the pool takes hard work and coordination to keep it safe.
- We cater to hundreds of families throughout the summer, and they put absolute faith in the Town Council to keep water is clean, bug/ bacteria free, that chemicals are dosed correctly, and that the area is kept free of litter and glass etc.
- The Facilities, Grounds and Office staff all help, and it is this carefully coordinated teamwork that keeps this facility running.

10. Play Areas

- No updates.

11. Updates

- At last R and A, members requested that we contact Snowdrop Place regarding their use of the Woodhouse Lane Defibrillator and ask for a contribution towards the units' consumable items (Battery, pads etc.) as a result of their repeated use. I did manage to speak to their manager who asked for the request via email. To date I have not had any response. I have sent a chaser email and will continue to follow this up. I will provide updates as and when I get some feedback.
- Taplin Pavilion has now been demolished, all services have been removed and the ground has been levelled.

- The team are really busy at this time of year with football maintenance, hedging, path clearance, grass cutting, general repairs and landscaping.

- We are still trying to recruit for a vacant Grounds person post, as such we have to prioritise works. Please let me know if there are any specific areas that you feel need prioritising.
- We begin to cut the Wildflower areas (Mini meadows) from early September. It is vital that wild flowers are able to complete their full lifecycle – i.e. grow, flower and set seed. This replenishes the seed bank and allows populations to be maintained cost-free and indefinitely. Cutting too early and too frequently swiftly eliminates many species, reducing diversity.
- The EBC glass bins have now been removed from Rodaway. We will monitor how this impacts the recycling bay, we are anticipating that glass may still be dumped at the site.
- Infrequent collections mean that Rodaway recycle bay is continually stacked up with rubbish and overspill from the recycle bins.

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