HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL

Operations Manager Report

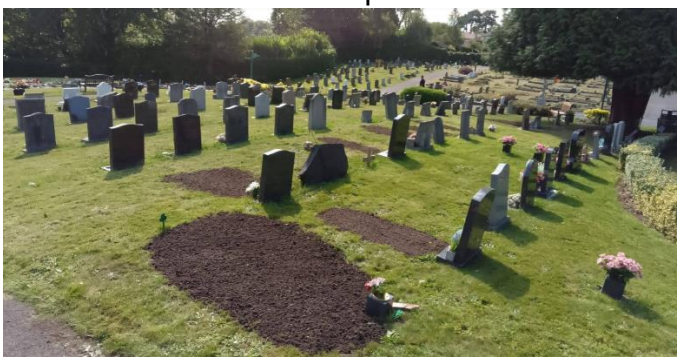
October 2024

Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- The team have carried out 1 interment of Ashes since last 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.
- During September the shrub beds were weeded and mulched and the euonymus hedge has been pruned.

- The team continues its ongoing work of levelling sunken graves, filling potholes, and levelling plots that are at least six months old. This effort, which has been ongoing for the past four years, has greatly improved the site's accessibility and safety. An estimated 30 tonnes of soil have been used in the process.



- We hope to begin hedging work around the Cemetery during October.

2. Allotments

- Currently there 0 vacant plots and waiting list of 38.
- Mowing continues into October, as well as strimming and hedge trimming.

3. Conservation Volunteers

- October's session will take place within Wildern Moor. Activities will include sapling tree removal and raking out strimmed grass as part of our fen restoration works. Wellies essential!
- If you wish to join a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

4. Cricket

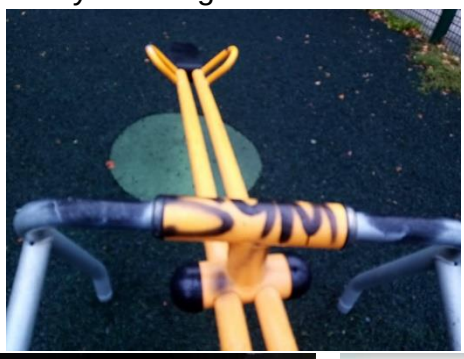
- No issues to report.

5. Football

- Shirley Tornadoes have pulled out of their pitch hire at Berrywood Fields, so we are trying to find another team to use pitch 3 for the season.
- HETCs Grounds Team have been maintaining Berrywood Fields for over a month and overall the transition from EBC has been relatively seamless. The pitches look good and the level of play is being managed.

6. Graffiti and Vandalism

- Unfortunately damage and graffiti continue including:
    - New fire door at Drummond – offensive graffiti scratched into paintwork
    - Wall outside Rodaway cage – offensive graffiti
    - Padlocks at Rodway (cage, storage, ref room) – broken off and damaged.
    - Doors at Turnpike Pavilion - offensive graffiti
    - Skate Ramps – 2 incidents of very offensive graffiti
    - Football shelters at Rodaway - offensive graffiti including swastikas.
    - Rodaway Play Area - offensive graffiti over children's play equipment.
    - New Drummond Play Area sign – vandalised.



- Earlier this month, a member of the Facilities team encountered two youths vandalising the Turnpike Pavilion by spray-painting the building. Despite his presence they continued their actions. When he asked them to stop, they threatened to spray him with the paint before leaving the scene.
- We still ensure that ALL graffiti is removed swiftly from HETC property.
- Every significant incident is reported to the Police via their online 101 website.

7. 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

8. Paddling Pool

- No issues to report.

9. Play Areas

- No updates.

10. Updates

- Snowdrop Place Defibrillator – As yet I have not had a response following Councillors request that I send another email regarding ongoing use of the community Defibrillator at Woodhouse Lane.
- The 'No Fishing sign' has been restored at Dowds Farm Pond.

- Hedge Trimming, grass cutting, football pitch maintenance, play area maintenance, tree mulching and burials are the teams focus during this time of year. Over the next few weeks we can add leaf clearance to the tasks.

- We are in the process of interviewing potential groundstaff to replace Zak who left several months ago. I'm hopeful by next R and A we will have a full team again.

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