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

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- The team have had a busy month with eight burials since the last R and A. Three Full depth burials, three half depth second burials and two interment of ashes.
- 2024 has been the busiest year for interments since the Grounds team took over grave preparation in 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.
- We finally have the 2024 Green Flag Judges feedback - '*Worthy of Green flag status. Very well maintained and presented small cemetery. Well done to those that look after it.'.*
- The Cemetery tree works agreed at Octobers R and A meeting have now been completed. The trees were densely planted, so some have been removed to allow the remaining trees to thrive.

Before

After

- We have also planted Daffodils along the entrance road and within the roundabout.

2. Allotments

- Currently there 0 vacant plots and waiting list of 41.
- The grounds maintenance on this site will be reduced as the weather gets colder and wetter.

3. Conservation Volunteers

- December's session will take place in Wildern Moor with tasks including removal of invasive tree species, litter picking and pruning.
- Wildern Moor is an important site for biodiversity and is a unique habitat in Hedge End and the surrounding area.
- If you wish to join a CV session, please ensure you register with the office prior to attending.

4. Cricket

- The season resumes in May 2025.
- We continue to maintain the cricket square throughout the winter.

5. Football

- Horse riding on Rodaway football pitches continues to be an issue. This month we installed a bollard and a sign at the point they enter clearly stating ‘No Horses’, unfortunately within a few days the bollard had been ripped out of the ground and the sign destroyed.
- In addition there had clearly been even more horse activity on the pitch than usual causing significant damage to the surface, I assume this was in direct response to the bollard.
- There has also been a caravan dumped on the HETC side of the Right of Way that has windows smashed and appears to be filled with cardboard and horse debris (straw, muck etc). We will put a notice on the caravan, but likely this will have to be removed at a cost to the council.
- We have reinstalled 2 bollards.

- The Grounds Team are still busy maintaining the football pitches, this will continue (as weather allows) right through the winter.
- Weekly tasks include grass cutting, line marking, soil repairs, seeding and this month we added a specialist fertiliser to all 3 pitches at Berrywood that should provide nutrients for winter/ spring.

6. Graffiti and Vandalism

- Overall a quiet month for damage and graffiti:
    - Graffiti on the Gents door in the Town Centre toilets.
    - Graffiti on the Multi-climb unit at Rodaway.

All instances of graffiti are removed as soon as possible.

- This month we are also tackling Open space bins, which are often targeted with graffiti, but not reported.

- 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 1700 different species since they began recording in 2018 which is outstanding. https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743

8. Paddling Pool

- No issues to report. The pool reopens in May 2025.

9. Play Areas

- No updates.

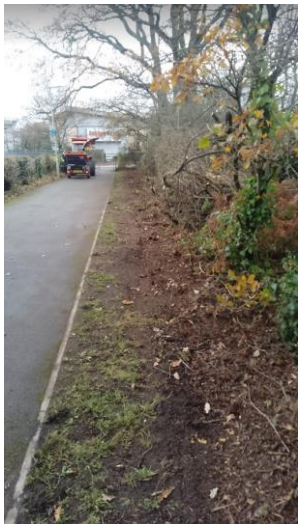
10. Updates

- I'm really pleased to share that we have managed to secure 29 trees through the Hampshire Forest Partnership. The trees include 16 Elm trees that have been specifically bred to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease (DED). The Elm was once a dominant tree on the UK's landscape, as quintessential as the Oak is perceived as today. DED decimated the Elm populations across the country, and there are very few areas where you can still find mature specimens outside of Brighton and Hove. Whilst the trees we are planting are not English Elm; they are quite similar, and it means that mature Elms may once again be a familiar site in Hedge End.

- The clothing bins at Rodaway have now all been removed. The concrete pad will now be lifted and the fencing moved so it becomes part of the open space.
- 10 trees have been supplied by EBC to mitigate tree removal for the upcoming cycle path at the rear of Nelsons Garden, these will be planted over the coming month, and I will share photos in my next report.
- New hedging has been planted along the fence line between Hedge End Social Club and St. Johns Rec. The plants were given by The Woodland Trust as part of their 'Free trees for Schools and Communities' scheme. It is hoped that the hedging will provide screening from the car park, enhancing the overall ambience of the recreation ground.
- Last month, Snows Car Dealership donated funds to the council for the purchase of a Beech tree, replacing one that was vandalised earlier this year at the Norman Rodaway Pavilion car park. The replacement tree is a fastigiate form of our native Beech (Fagus sylvatica 'Anniek') and has now been planted.

- A replacement tree has also been planted at The Drummond Community Centre to replace the entrance Birch that was damaged earlier in the year.

- The Grounds team will be focusing on tree planting, hedge cutting and football maintenance over the coming month.



- The Town Council maintain many kilometres of hedgerows. If a TC hedgerow near you hasn't been trimmed yet, please rest assured—it will be completed by spring

11. Christmas Lights

- Unfortunately the festive light display in the town centre has not lived up to expectations as in previous years.
- Several of the lamp column motifs still haven’t been installed and others failed to come on during the light switch on, additionally the column motifs have been randomly illuminated during the day.
- We have written to the contractor requesting an explanation and compensation.

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