HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
Operations Manager Report
February 2025
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery
- No interments took place in January.
- So far this month, the team has conducted two interments of ashes, with seven more interments scheduled for the remainder of February and into March.
- In the past year, the team carried out a total of 45 interments, comprising 16 full burials (including reopenings) and 29 interments of ashes surpassing the previous highest annual total of 37 interments.
- Since HETC Groundstaff took over grave digging, the team has completed 137 full burials and 110 interments of ashes.
- Graves are prepared year-round, often under challenging conditions. HETC staff consistently maintain high standards, providing an invaluable service during difficult times.
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2. Allotments
- Currently there 0 vacant plots and waiting list of 49.
- Whilst 49 seems a high figure, it is important to note that 48 of those have been on the waiting list for less than a year.
- According to the BBC, the average UK waiting time for an allotment in 2021 was two years and eight months, this rose to 17 years in the London Borough of Camden - which has the longest waiting list in the country.
- The Allotment agreement is currently under review.

3. Conservation Volunteers
- No CV session took place in January.
- February's session is still to be confirmed.
- 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
- 2 sets of new portable Goal posts are due to arrive at Rodaway this week thanks to funding from Tonia Craig through the County Councillor grant scheme and the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme. The new posts are safer for the teams to use as they do not require assembly every week and they will allow us to move the pitches around the site reducing wear and tear and ensuring that waterlogged areas are avoided, this should mean less matches called off due to the weather.
- Maintenance to the Rodaway pitches will begin on 17th Feb weather permitting, funded from the Football Foundations Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. The works are primarily to improve

drainage with deep ground aeration and sand. The works will take place over 2-3 days and during this time parking spaces will be limited.

- Weekly tasks across both football sites include grass cutting, line marking, soil repairs and seeding.

6. Graffiti and Vandalism

- Very little damage or graffiti this month.
- A bench was lifted out of the ground at Rodaway. This has been reinstalled by the Grounds Team.

- Some low level graffiti on the TC toilets.
- All instances of graffiti are removed as soon as possible. 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

- New wetpour surfacing around the basket swing at Dowds Farm Play Area.

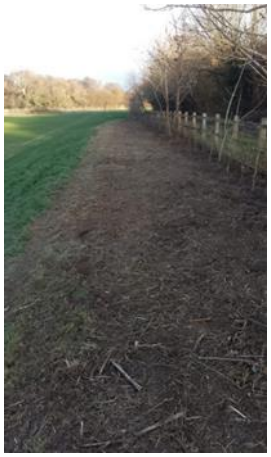
- New nets have been installed at Beattie Rise Play Area.

10. Updates

- New Ford Transit Tipper Truck - The newly acquired Ford Transit tipper truck is now in service across the town. It has been sign-written for highway use and branded with the council's logo. The tipping bed facilitates easier waste unloading and has been modified with aluminium panelling and doors, enabling towing and direct wood chipping into the truck.

- Tree Planting - In January, 16 Resista© Elms were planted across the Town Council's open spaces, alongside 13 native trees granted by the Hampshire Forest Partnership. The upcoming Gazette will feature an article on the importance of these Elms.
- Bridget Mary Gardens Bench Upgrade - A new bench has been installed to replace an aging wooden one. Additionally, the single plank bench further down the path has been refurbished.

- Rodaway Site Improvements - The clothing bins at Rodaway have been removed, the concrete pad lifted, and fencing reinstated with dragons' teeth.
- Berrywood Fields - The team has been clearing brambles and replanting a hedge along the western boundary.



- A significant quantity of used Nitrous oxide canisters was found at the Norman Rodaway car park. This has been reported to the police, and the canisters disposed of safely.

- The verges around Fawn Cresent and the surrounding roads are now under the management of the Town Council. Work begins this month to prune back brambles and reinstate verges.
- Path Edging - Path edging work is being completed across council sites, so far the team have completed Turnpike, and have made a start at Dowds Farm.

- 2000 Centre Roof Repairs - Repairs to the 2000 Centre roof are progressing well, with Botley Roofing making significant headway as the new roof takes shape.

- The Town Council maintains many kilometres of hedgerows. If a Town Council-managed hedgerow near you has yet to be trimmed, rest assured that all scheduled work will be completed by spring.

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