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

1. Albert Road Cemetery
- Since the last Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting, the team has carried out three burials. These comprised two full-depth interments and one second interment in an existing plot.
- Our staff work hard year-round, often in tough conditions, to maintain high standards and provide an essential service during difficult times.

2. Allotments
- There are currently two vacant plots, with 46 people on the waiting list.
- At this time of year, the team's primary tasks include grass cutting, strimming, and minor hedge maintenance.
- The first allotment inspections are scheduled for 11 June. These inspections ensure that plots are being actively used and appropriately cultivated, with no unauthorised structures or safety concerns such as damaged fencing or unstable sheds.
- There has been a small incident of Fly-Tipping in the stream running through the site. An email has been sent to all plot holders, and we will keep a close eye on any further issues.

3. Conservation Volunteers
- No Conservation Volunteer session took place in May.
- June's session is expected to take place at Woodstock Ecology Park, with the date to be confirmed nearer the time.
- Anyone wishing to take part in a CV session must register with the office in advance.

4. Cricket
- The cricket season is now entering its second month, and the pitch is holding up well despite an extremely dry start to the year.
- The pitch is currently maintained on a weekly cutting schedule. Grass height is kept between 15–18mm on the outfield and 12–18mm on the square.

- Heavy rolling is also carried out as weather conditions permit, to support pitch quality throughout the season.

5. Football

- The football season is now closed, and whilst renovation works have been booked in, the dry weather has meant this is now likely to be postponed. Weather conditions need to be right, or seed will not germinate, and aeration equipment will not be able to penetrate the ground.

6. Graffiti, ASB and Vandalism

- The rear fire door window has been smashed at Drummond Community Centre – this has been reported to the Police.

- Greta Park Pavilion kitchen has suffered an attempted break-in – this has been reported to the Police.
- The notice board at Drummond Community Centre has been damaged. In this instance we think it may have been hit by a delivery lorry or similar. A new board has been rebuilt by Ken using parts from several old units.

- Repeated incidents of obscene graffiti in the public toilets. This has been painted over by our maintenance team.

- The new goal posts at Rodaway have been damaged; one of the supporting bars are bent and one of the wheels has splayed.

- 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 1900 different species since they began recording in 2018 which is outstanding. https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743

8. Paddling Pool

- The Paddling pool season is off to a good start. No major issues to report. The HETC team are ensuring that the site remains clean and safe.
- So far this year we have no issues with chlorine supply, and it is looking good for the rest of the season so far.
- The first microbiological test came back with a clean bill of health. Lab tests are carried out once a month to ensure the pool remains clear of various pathogens such as legionella, E-coli and Pseudomonas.

9. Play Areas

- Locke Road and Nelsons Gardens new Play Areas are on order, and we expect them to be installed through July and August although we are still waiting for an exact start date.
- The grounds team have started to complete works identified in this years RoSPA Play Area inspections, this will continue over the coming weeks.

10. Updates

- **Watering –** Despite a few small downpours, the ground is still very dry and tree watering will continue for the forseeable future.

- **Greta Park** - A new metal bench commemorating the King's Coronation has been installed by the Grounds Team at the front of the Basketball Court. The design matches the adjacent Queen Jubilee bench.

- **Woodstock Ecology Park** – Work has begun to try and bring this site up to standard and already the improvements can be seen. Work in this area over the next few months will include:
    - Creation of hedge adjacent the highway footpath by trimming back and down existing trees and shrubs.
    - Clearing the growth and debris from the highway footpath.
    - Clearing out the former pond area.
    - Clearing footpaths through the site.
    - Removing encroaching trees.
    - Removal of dead Ash trees (Ash Dieback)

Before:

After:

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