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

1. Albert Road Cemetery
- Since the last Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting, the team has carried out two burials, both interments of ashes, with a further two scheduled for later in July.
- The results of this year's Green Flag Award will be announced on 15th July.
- Our staff continue to work diligently year-round, often in challenging conditions, to uphold high standards and deliver an essential service during difficult times.

2. Allotments
- There are currently two vacant plots, with 53 people on the waiting list.
- We continue our program of grass cutting and strimming, the grass is still growing at this site despite the hot weather.
- Allotment holders have been reminded to use water considerately, with a possible hosepipe ban on the horizon due to worsening drought conditions.
- Allotment inspections were completed last month, resulting in 29 warning letters. These covered a range of issues, including over-height trees, encroaching vegetation, lack of cultivation, and unsafe structures.

3. Conservation Volunteers
- The most recent Conservation Volunteers session took place at Woodstock Close Ecology Park. It was a productive day, with staff and volunteers working together to dig out the pond, prune overgrown vegetation, remove invasive plants, and carry out a litter pick.
- A big thank you to all involved—the site has improved significantly since the Town Council took over its management and is now a pleasant, wildlife-rich space, particularly enjoyed by butterflies.
- Anyone wishing to participate in a Conservation Volunteers session must register with the office in advance.

4. Cricket
- No issues to report.

- 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

- Planned renovation work has been postponed due to the very dry weather. Weather conditions need to be right, or seed will not germinate, and aeration equipment will not be able to penetrate the ground.
- A local team was found using Rodaway Pitch 1 for unauthorised training sessions. Following our approach, the team responded positively and agreed to cease using the site without permission.

6. Graffiti, ASB and Vandalism

- Repeated small fires have been lit at Woodhouse open space. The bin bags are being removed and used as fuel.

- Garden waste fly-tipping remains an issue at Woodstock Close Ecology Park. The site is being monitored, and signage has been installed. A leaflet drop to local residents will be considered if the problem persists.

- Life rings continue to be regularly thrown into Dowds Farm Pond.
- 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. The current list is approaching 2000 different species since they began recording in 2018 which is outstanding. https://www.facebook.com/groups/2030431683870743

8. Paddling Pool

- The paddling pool has been operating smoothly, with no major issues to report.
- The facility has seen high usage during the recent hot and dry weather.
- Chlorine supplies remain stable, with no concerns reported to date.
- June's microbiological test results came back clear, confirming the pool is free of pathogens such as Legionella, E. coli, and Pseudomonas. These lab tests are conducted monthly to ensure continued safety and compliance.

9. Play Areas

- Nelsons Gardens new Play Area installation is due to start 07/07/2025. Whilst the contractors are still on site for the Cycle path works, we have been working with them to ensure the play area install can go ahead.
- Locke Roads new Play Area installation is due to start mid-July, but the play area itself will close from 16th July for repairs to the gravel footpath and to allow the team to salvage any spare parts that can be used on other sites.
- The grounds team continue to carry out repair 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** – Burnett's Family Funfair opened this week on 3rd July and will close on Sunday 6th July.
- **Nelsons Gardens Cycle path** – The cycle path works are near completion. The project led by Eastleigh Borough Council should be open very soon. We visited the site this week and it looks very good. The HETC team are working alongside the contractors to cut the grass and hedges to ensure it is ready for the site fencing to be removed.

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