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

1. Albert Road Cemetery
- Since July's Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting, the team has carried out six burials; four interments of ashes and two full burials.
- Maintenance at this time of year will include hedge cutting, grass cutting and strimming, shrub bead maintenance such as weeding or pruning Lavenders and path edging.
- 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 is currently 1 vacant plot, with 59 on the waiting list.
- There was a sewage leak from a manhole in Springfield Allotment on Sunday 31st August; the Duty officer visited the site and contacted Southern Water, who arrived promptly and cleared the blockage.
- Maintenance at this time of year includes grass cutting and hedge trimming.

3. Conservation Volunteers
- The next session will take place at Wildern Moor and tasks will include tree sapling removal, brambling and raking.
- Anyone wishing to participate in a Conservation Volunteers session must register with the office in advance.

Cricket
- The season has now finished until May 2026.
- The pitch quality has not been as good this year, as the dry weather has made any repair works almost impossible, additionally we have been unable use our turf groomer as the ground has been too dry and the grass has barely grown all year.
- Weather permitting, we will carry out renovation works during September which includes scarifying, aeration and top dressing with Surrey Loam. Surrey loam is a high-quality clay loam specifically formulated for cricket pitch maintenance, its balanced clay content and strong binding qualities help to produce firm, fast, and consistent wickets.
- The pitch will continue to be mown as weather and ground conditions allow.

4. Football
- The new season has kicked off with Hedge End Town FC's first match at Rodaway.
- This year we are hosting four team.
    - Rodaway – Hedge End Utd and Hedge End Town.
    - Berrywood Fields – Hedge End Rangers and Unity FC.

- Three unauthorised Hampshire football teams have caught using Rodaway so far this year. In each instance a harshly worded email has been sent to the clubs committee members requesting that use of the facilities stops immediately, this appears to have worked effectively. .
- The Grounds Team have been very busy preparing the pitches for play.

- The planned summer pitch renovation works were postponed due to the drought conditions, and we will look at what remedial work can be completed mid-season at both sites.

5. Graffiti, ASB and Vandalism

- Graffiti at the Dowds teen shelter – cleared by HETC team.
- Graffiti at Turnpike Pavilion – cleared by HETC team.
- Graffiti at Rodaway football dugout.

- Almost all the new planted trees at Woodhouse Lane open space have been snapped off – this was a repeated and targeted attack happening over a period of about 10 days. Each instance was reported to the Police.

- 2 new planted trees have been snapped off at Greta Park – this has been reported to the Police.

- Whilst the trees being damaged is appalling, there is hope. We generally plant species now that can tolerate being damaged, and it is possible that some, or all these trees will regrow. I will try to provide an update next spring/ summer.
- There are still ongoing issues with litter at all sites.
- All instances of graffiti are removed as soon as possible. Every significant incident is reported to the Police via their online 101 website.

6. 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

7. Paddling Pool

- The paddling pool season has been very good this year. The facility has been busy all through summer and the system has been reliable.
- Following the bank holiday weekend, significant damage was found to the surfacing around one of the filter inlets on the pool floor, most likely due to wear and tear, and we are not attributing it to vandalism. Unfortunately, this has required closure of the pool whilst we wait for

repair. The repairs require completely dry conditions as the specialist surfacing will not bond and set if there is moisture present. Updates will follow.

8. Play Areas

- The new **Locke Road** play area has been successfully delivered by HETC. The feedback from residents has been very positive with people praising the new fences that have created a site within the open space and the design, it has been busy every time I have visited. Benches and bins will be added over the coming weeks. The site passed its post installation independent safety inspection.

- Nelsons Gardens new Play Area has also been completed. The new location works well and overall the feedback has been positive. As promised, we haven't installed any benches, and this can be reviewed at a later date to identify if benches would benefit the site. This site has also passed its post install inspection.

- Both sites now need plenty of rain so the disturbed soil can consolidate, and the grass seed can establish.

9. Updates

- **Premature Autumn –** 2025 was the warmest summer on record, and the spring was the driest for 100 years**.** The stress of the drought conditions and extreme heat can create early leaf fall, which is happening this year. As a result, we have already started leaf blowing and clearing from some sites such as play areas.
- **Greta Park** – Burnett's Family Funfair once again visited the Town Centre in July. I'm pleased to say that they left the site in good condition with no reported incidents or complaints.
- **Nelsons Gardens Cycle path** – The footpath is now fully operational complete with lighting. EBC have completed the works to a good standard and left the site in a reasonable condition. The dry conditions haven't aided the grass regrowing, but I am confident that now the rains have come the grass will come back very soon.
- **Grounds Team** - Lots of hedge cutting and grass cutting for the team during September.

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