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

1. Albert Road Cemetery
- Since the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting in November, the team has carried out two interments of ashes.
- 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 0 vacant plot, with 58 on the waiting list.
- Maintenance at this time of year continues including grass cutting and hedge trimming.

3. Conservation Volunteers
- There was no Conservation Volunteer session in November.
- Anyone wishing to participate in a Conservation Volunteers session must register with the office in advance.

Cricket
- No issues to report.

4. Football
- No issues to report.

5. Graffiti, ASB and Vandalism
- No significant graffiti or vandalism to report.
- Although this is a strange one - Someone kept pulling up individual plants from a newly planted hedge at Locke Road. It happened first whilst the team were off site for lunch, when they returned about 20 plants had been pulled up and placed neatly on the ground. These were replanted, but the same thing happened again twice. We put a polite sign up asking that the plants are left alone and it hasn't happened again.
- 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 over 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 now finished for 2025, and the pool will open again in summer 2026.

8. Play Areas

- New Bins have been installed at Locke Road and Nelsons Garden Play Areas. The bins were installed by HETC Grounds Team.

9. Updates

- **Locke Road –** A new hedge has been planted by the team at the front of Locke Road Play Area. The hedge was supplied for free as part of their 'Free trees for schools and communities' project. Once established, the hedge will be maintained at about waist height.

- **Home Farm –** A large Oak tree is due for removal in January. TPO planning consent has been granted and a contractor booked. The tree is at the rear of some of the adjacent properties and a crane will be brought in to help remove it safely. The tree has shown a steady decline in

health over the last 10 years, and it is now at a point where it could become a danger to the properties. The timber will be left in the woodland for habitat.

- **Cemetery Arch update –** The new supports for the arch's oak beams have been fabricated and waiting to be painted. It is anticipated that the repairs will happen in early January. The Cemetery will be closed during the repair works for safety. The repairs will be booked on a day with no interments.

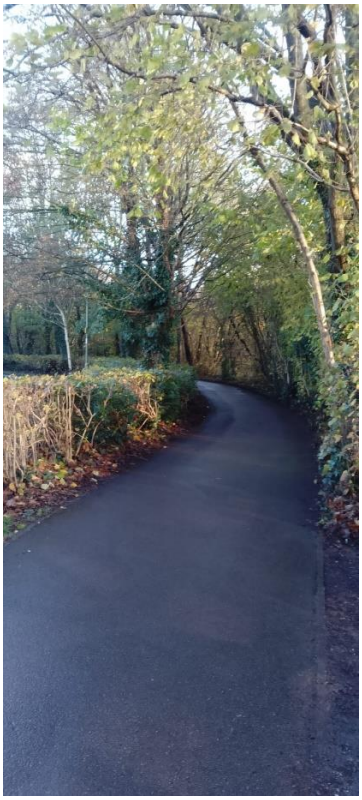
- **Steps to the side of 126 Mescott Meadows –** The steps have now been removed and the ground regraded.

- **Turnpike Defib –** The new Defibrillator is now installed at Turnpike Pavilion and a 'Thank You' letter has been sent to Hanif Karimi of Hedge End Gym as per last month's Councillor request.

- **Turnpike trees –** I dusted off my chainsaw boots this month and helped the team remove encroaching Willow trees at Turnpike.

- **Grass cutting -** Grass cutting continues into December, as the mild weather means that the grass is still growing.

- **Hedge cutting –** The team now focus their efforts on cutting the many kilometres of hedge rows before the start of the nesting season.



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