HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL
Operations Manager Report
January 2026
Recreation and Amenities

1. Albert Road Cemetery
- Since the December Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting, the team has undertaken one burial.
- During 2025, the team has completed a total of 37 burials, comprising 20 interments of ashes, 6 full burials, and 11 second burials or grave reopenings.
- A total of 247 burials have been recorded since grave preparation was brought in-house.
- 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 65 on the waiting list.
- The water has been turned off for the winter months in Spring Field.

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

Cricket
- No issues to report.
- The green continues to be cut as weather permits.

4. Football
- No issues to report.
- The pitches are cut through the winter as ground conditions permit.

5. Graffiti, ASB and Vandalism
- Very few instances this month.
- The fire escape door at The Norman Rodaway Pavilion was smashed. This has now been repaired.

- There are 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 pool will open again in summer 2026.

8. Play Areas

- No issues to report.

9. Updates

- **Cemetery Arch update –** The repair works are due to be carried out on 9th January weather permitting. The Cemetery will be closed for the day. Signs were put up in the weeks leading up to the date advising of the repair work and closure.

- **Westward Road –** A new hedge has been planted thanks to a successful application to the Hampshire Forest Partnership. The hedge has been planted on the east boundary of the site and will provide valuable habitat, natural screening and other biodiversity benefits.

- **Tree planting –** Nine Disease Resistant Elms will be planted this January thanks to a successful application to the Hampshire Forest Partnership. Six will be planted around Nelsons Gardens Play Area to help screen and soften the landscape, and three will be planted at Westward Road within the newly planted hedge.

- **Wildern Local Nature Reserve Footpath Upgrade –** The tender is Live and we have had reasonable interest so far. The closing date is 2 February and will be discussed at the next R and A Committee meeting.

- **Grounds Team -** The team are busy with hedge cutting and reclaiming areas that have become overgrown. They are also starting work on land that is being transferred from EBC. A good example is tidying up the verge of the newly transferred woodland at the bottom of The Close, where the pavement had been buried for at least 10 years.

- **New starter –** Dan has joined the Grounds Team this month. Dan previously worked for Hound Parish Council and brings a wealth of experience. We hope he enjoys his time at HETC.

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