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

1. Albert Road Cemetery

- Since the January Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting, the team has completed three burials: one ashes interment and two full burial reopenings.
- Our staff continue to work diligently year-round, often in challenging conditions, to uphold high standards and deliver an essential service during difficult times.
- Christmas decorations and mementos have now been removed by the Grounds Team. This is undertaken at the end of each January, with advance notices displayed, and items are retained for one month to allow for collection if claimed.

- Repairs to the entrance arch have now been completed by the original installer, Peter Clutterbuck. The works included the installation of metal feet to raise the timber posts off the ground, along with treatment of the timber to aid preservation.

2. Allotments

- There is currently 0 vacant plot, with 70 on the waiting list.

- The water has been turned off for the winter months in Spring Field.
- A small leak developed in the allotment toilet water supply; this has been repaired by the HETC team.

3. Conservation Volunteers

- The next Conservation Volunteer session will be March 26th with the location to be confirmed.
- Anyone wishing to participate in a Conservation Volunteers session must register with the office in advance.

4. Cricket

- The green continues to be cut as weather permits.
- Pre-season rolling of a cricket square would normally commence in late February or early March. However, the timing is dictated by ground conditions rather than a fixed date, with rolling only undertaken when soil moisture levels are suitable and grass growth has begun. Ongoing and prolonged rainfall is likely to delay the start of rolling this year.
- We are currently in discussion with the Hampshire Cricket League regarding concerns raised by one of last season's teams about the condition of the cricket pitch. Communication from the League has been limited, which has made it challenging to develop a constructive working relationship. At times, engagement has appeared to be driven by individual viewpoints rather than a coordinated, collaborative approach.

5. Football

- A late-winter fertiliser was applied last week to provide essential nutrients during the slower growing period.
- The pitches continue to be cut and aerated throughout the winter, subject to ground conditions.

6. Graffiti, ASB, Fly-tipping and Vandalism

- Town Centre Public Toilets – The gent's door was unscrewed from the frame, and the toilet roll holder pulled off the wall. This has now been repaired by the HETC Team.
- Fly-tipping was dumped on the newly transferred woodland verge at the bottom of The Close. This was cleared by the HETC Team. The items were dumped within 24 hours of the area being tidied up. We have put up signs to try and deter further issues.

- A mattress was dumped at Rodaway – this was cleared by the HETC Team.

- Greta Park changing rooms have continued to be subject to break-ins and have now been boarded up to prevent further access.
- 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.

7. 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

8. Paddling Pool

- The pool will open again in summer 2026.
- Preparation work will begin in April to recommission the pool ready for the new season.

9. Play Areas

- No issues to report.

10. Updates

- **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 were planted this January thanks to a successful application to the Hampshire Forest Partnership. Six were planted around Nelsons Gardens Play Area to help screen and soften the landscape, and three were planted at Westward Road within the newly planted hedge.
- **Dowds Farm Pond –** Vegetation has been cleared to reinstate the view from the bench on the southern side of the pond. This will now be cut annually.

- **EBC Land Transfers –** Maintenance of land transferring from EBC has commenced, with the team working to bring sites up to a manageable standard. Initial works have focused on Turnpike Way and have included exposing the verge so it can be mown again, along with pruning trees to support healthy growth without impacting the footpath. Work will continue as additional areas are transferred. Maintenance schedules balance biodiversity considerations with statutory highway obligations and the needs of site users.

Before

After

- **Grounds Team -** The team are still busy with hedge cutting and reclaiming areas that have become overgrown.

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