

CASE STUDY

COVENTRY CITY CENTRE

Pavement Reinstatement



A constant headache for councils is the avoidance of legal claims by people who may have tripped over poorly maintained or damaged walkways.

Most councils consider trip hazards to be a serious concern and prioritise defects to paved areas. Typically, slab movement and potholes which exceed 20mm in busy urban areas as well as gaps of 15mm or more usually demand immediate attention. But with hundreds of kilometres of roads to maintain it is an endless task for councils to keep the pavements in good order.

In most cities, the problem is confounded by the fact that so many paved areas use stone slabs. Over the years natural undulation and foot traffic has the effect of making these slabs uneven, in many cases resulting in a serious trip hazard, and the repair of slabbed areas can only ever be a temporary measure as time and traffic will eventually cause the problem to reoccur.

One solution which has been successfully trialled in Coventry City looks like offering the perfect long term solution to the problem. An attempt had been made to repair the area outside the Council House in the city centre without much success and had failed to reach the Council's desired standards in terms of the quality, finish and the timescale. Apex Roofing and Cladding Limited of Birmingham were employed by Coventry City Council to resolve the problem.

Using innovative techniques to provide a 'look alike' conventional paving scheme, Apex laid a monolithic, even, safe and aesthetically pleasing finish to the pavements in and around the City Centre. The failed surface was removed and replaced with Mastic Asphalt Imprinted Paving System - a tarmacadam base course covered with red mastic asphalt imprinted to look like 400mm x 400mm paving slabs. The colour was chosen carefully in order to be sympathetic with the colour of the stone of the Council House. This durable solution met with the Council's expectations for finish, timescale and cost.

Project Sector: Local Authority
System: Mastic Asphalt
Products Used: Red Paving Grade Mastic Asphalt – Imprinted to Look Like Paving Slabs
Architect: Coventry City Council
Completed: 2006
Size: 6,000m²

Coloured asphalt paving was brought to site in large asphalt tankers and laid traditionally. The materials were put down to a high standard under extreme scrutiny. A minimum of one Apex Director was always in attendance, together with the highways engineers and the local councillors. As the asphalt began to cool, the timing issue of imprinting was of the utmost importance. The specially designed prints were cast into the asphalt rhythmically throughout the laying process, leaving a crisp paving impression consistent with the conventional paving design.

Red mastic asphalt was laid to a depth of between 25mm and 50mm thickness. Whilst the original specification called for 25mm average thickness, Apex had to lay additional material where required to ensure correct levels were achieved.

Because of its natural properties when laid, asphalt provides a smooth, even, monolithic coloured surface, providing a satisfactory appearance and safe conditions for pedestrian trafficking.

