

# The Canterbury Society

Highways Department  
Kent County Council  
Invicta House  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XX

cc Canterbury City Cllrs. for Westgate Ward: Flanagan, Linfield, Wood:  
and David Shepherd

30 July 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

## **Maintenance of Pavements in Canterbury City**

We are contacting you because we are concerned about the maintenance of pavements in the Canterbury City Centre. More specifically we are concerned about the replacement of broken paving stones with asphalt. Over the past few years the centre of the city has been enhanced by the laying of beautiful stone paving, but this is now being steadily destroyed.

The Canterbury Society is the leading civic society in the city and one of our aims is to protect the historic environment. The issue about pavements has been raised by several members of the Society, including David Shepherd. We have sent you an email on this topic to which his photos are attached.

For many years there has been a lack of clarity regarding the policy in connection with the above and we hope that you will be able to take action on this matter. It seems to be the case that in outer suburban areas of the city, the paving slabbed footways are repaired with asphalt in an attempt to save money. This leads to a ragged appearance, but it is understood that this is an agreed policy.

However, in the centre of the city within Conservation Areas the footways generally have a stone slabbed finish many of which have been laid within the last ten years. Very often, when repairs are needed, or after utility service installations, damage by vehicles or wear and tear, the stone is not replaced but asphalt is used to fill the gap.

We cannot understand how the current approach to maintaining pavements can be an agreed policy. We are aware that many of these surfaces have been installed at the expense of Canterbury City Council. We would hope that KCC and CCC could agree on a policy on this issue.

We would therefore ask:

1. Can a policy be specified and agreed so that broken paving stones are replaced with matching stone? A thorough survey will be needed to identify the extent of the problem and to deal with the backlog.
2. Can the policy be effectively communicated to the contractors responsible for paving in Canterbury?
3. Can an officer be given the responsibility to ensure that the above policies are carried out now and in the future?

A list of these areas would be extensive, but we would draw your attention to the following.

Station Road West/junction with St Dunstan's Street: New paving of a good visual quality was laid following the completion of the adjacent development. This has been continually driven over, damaged and then repaired with asphalt. As this paving is not durable enough to bear the weight of vehicles, bollards would need to be installed to protect it.

The Friars: Patching in asphalt of older stone paving in numerous local areas.

Best Lane: Ditto patching.

Northgate: Eastwards from and including The Borough. Ditto patching.

Entrance to the Castle Street car park: This was originally paved in an engineering brick. Over ten years ago this was patched in asphalt and remains so today.

We look forward to your reply to the above points and to seeing the correct repairs to all areas that have been repaired incorrectly.

This letter has been copied to local elected City Council Members, for their information.

Yours sincerely,

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