



Sam Heynes

From: Nicholas Rowe <nicrowe@outlook.com>
Sent: 12 June 2019 15:37
To: Sam Heynes
Subject: Cuckfield's brick pavements

Sam Heynes

Clerk to the Council

Cuckfield Parish Council

Dear Sam

Cuckfield's brick pavements

I would like to confirm in writing my alarm that the damaged bricks outside Marshalls driveway were replaced with *concrete* not *clay* block pavers, contrary to the agreement reached with WSCC back in the mid 1980's. I mentioned my concern to you verbally at the time, but sincerely apologise for taking so long to write.

My concern is that firstly these newly laid block pavers are *concrete*, not *clay*, thus out of keeping with the rest of the village, and secondly that you were not consulted about them. The agreement with WSCC was reached some 35 years ago, but Highways has continued to lay *clay* block pavers throughout the village ever since.

Cuckfield has had brick pavements for many years. By the 1980's, the original brick paviors, (mostly Southwaters) were deteriorating, were unsuitable for vehicular traffic, and were no longer made. Not long before, Highways had relaid the pavement outside the then 'new' car park in Broad Street with Holbrook clay pavers - but soon after, they commenced on a programme of replacing all the Southwater brick pavements in Cuckfield. Contractors started on the west side of High Street working uphill, but were seen to be laying *concrete* block pavers, not *clay* block pavers. The difference can now be seen quite clearly, concrete blocks, unlike clay, age loosing their colour (going through purplish to greyish) and wear down to a rough gritty texture. The Cuckfield Society picked this up, their main objection being that concrete was alien to the natural building materials of the Conservation Area. After much discussion with many parties, Highways agreed that in future all the new lengths of pavement would be in clay pavers, and the village agreed that in return, Highways could replace some of the furthest lengths of original brick pavement with asphalt to save costs. This agreement has been adhered to right up to the present – until here!

Discussions obviously took time, and by the time agreement had been reached, the contractors had reached the chemist's shop. They changed to clay at Marshalls – we had emphasised the listed status of Marshalls – but unfortunately *bricks* were laid for a short length, before the change to the clay blocks used ever since.

The concern is that, with the passage of time, Highways could use concrete elsewhere where repairs are required without realizing the impact on the setting of the Conservation Area. Of particular concern of course is that short stretch of bricks left outside Marshalls.

Could the Parish Council take this up as a matter to monitor, and perhaps discuss with Highways, so that future repairs or lengths to be relaid can be in matching clay blocks?



With best regards, yours sincerely

Nicholas Rowe

Chairman Cuckfield Society 1985–88