



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 13th July 2022

Title: Flexi-pave

Speaker: Peter Beavon, KBI

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The LAF's advice is sought by the council on the use of Flexi-pave for surfacing rights of way in Buckinghamshire, expanding its use for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. To assist members, Peter Beavon has been invited to speak, from KBI, a company that has nationwide experience in the material.

Flexi-pave is a rubber bound, porous material made from 50-50 recycled vehicles tyres and stone aggregate. It has been used for a number of years for rights of way and other uses as an environmental alternative to standard bitumen products. It's increasingly used along bridleways and restricted byways, which suit equestrians as the more forgiving surface reduces horse leg injuries.

Matters to which the authority seeks advice:

1. what are the outlay and maintenance costs compared to bitumen;
2. is Flexi-pave preferable to bitumen in all situations, e.g. new housing areas;
3. does Flexi-pave have a predicted life span;
4. can Flexi-pave be renewed or does it require completely relaying;
5. to what extent do equestrians benefit compared to aggregate, such as granite;
6. is weed killer needed for the surface or can this be 'sided-out' with a spade;
7. to what extent does Flexi-pave stand up to vehicular or farm traffic shared with rights of way?

EXAMPLE 1

Bridleway BUC/3/4 is a new Flexi-pave surface along a diverted urban route in Buckingham [MK18 7RH], funded by developer money in 2019. This has stood-up well to high pedestrian and cycling traffic [Photo 1], but more recently experienced grass creep from the verge edges [Photos 2 and 3].



PHOTO 2 BUC/3/4 in Buckingham



PHOTO 2 BUC/3/4 in Buckingham



PHOTO 3 BUC/3/4 in Buckingham

EXAMPLE 2

The photos were taken around 2 years' ago along a little-used bridleway bridge over the M3 near Jct 5 (Hook BW 64b) in Hampshire, which connects to footpaths and so is mainly used by pedestrians and possibly the odd cyclist. Some vegetation is growing up, but not as much as might have been expected given the age, around 15+ years.



Photo 4 – *approach ramp*

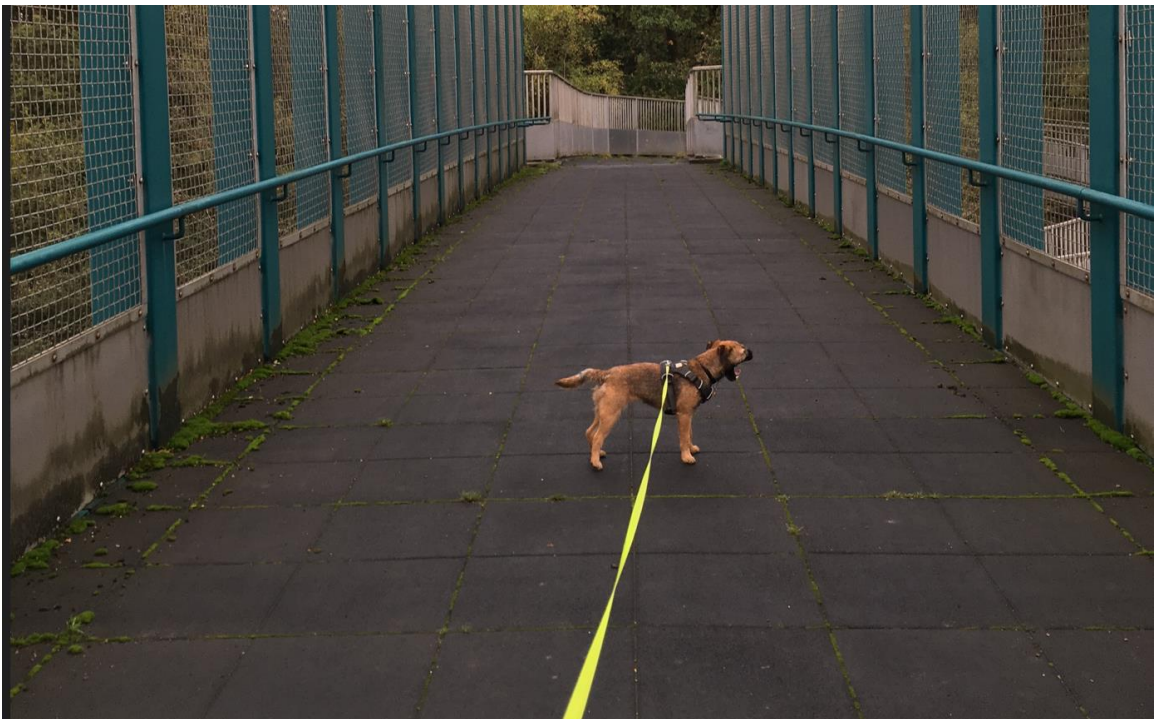


Photo 4 - *Bridge deck with rubber tiles*