

Torpoint Town Council

From: Carol Pengelly <Carol.Pengelly@cornwall.gov.uk> on behalf of Surfacing <Surfacing@cormacltd.co.uk>
Sent: 28 October 2025 14:33
To: Cllr Kate Ewert
Cc: julie.martin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk; 'admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk'
Subject: RE: Sycamore Drive - CORMAC works
Attachments: Notification of Highway Works - Micro Asphalt.pdf

Information Classification: CONTROLLED

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your feedback regarding the recent highway works carried out on Sycamore Drive, Torpoint.

The works you refer to are micro-asphalt surface treatment works, which form part of our proactive road maintenance programme. This treatment is a thin asphalt layer that is highly weather dependent and can only be undertaken between March and the end of October, when temperatures and conditions are suitable for the materials to bond correctly. We made the decision to progress these works with some urgency to seal and protect the road surface ahead of the winter months, helping to prevent water ingress and reduce the likelihood of potholes forming over the winter months. We have completed these works with long delays allowing access and egress as often as possible rather than implementing a full road closure to help minimise the impact of these works.

While this urgency was well-intentioned, aiming to protect the condition of the carriageway and minimise future disruption, we recognise that this was likely to come with its own issues of causing initial disruption for the residents. We appreciate that this was not necessarily clearly communicated, and we apologise for any inconvenience.

The micro asphalt that has been applied does not initially provide an aesthetically pleasing appearance, however, the carriageway will be swept on days two and seven after completion, and after having time to bed in, the appearance will dramatically change to align more with what is usually expected with any form of resurfacing, whilst also providing longevity for the existing carriageway.

All road markings will be reinstated and there is some requirement for ironworks to have minor adjustments after the treatment has been applied to meet the new road levels.

Once again, please accept my sincere apologies for any concerns caused by this type of treatment.

Kind Regards

Arron Pengelly EngTech MICE
Surface Treatment Design Manager
Cormac Surfacing
North Building, Castle Canyke Road, Bodmin, PL31 1DZ

Micro Asphalt works are due to commence here within the next two weeks.

Please see on site signing for updates.

Micro Asphalt

What is Micro Asphalt?

Micro asphalt, also known as micro-surfacing, is a cost-effective and efficient surface treatment used primarily to extend the life of existing roadways. It is a cold-applied mixture of bitumen emulsion, finely graded aggregate, water, and additives. This composition allows for quick application and rapid setting, making it ideal for minimizing disruption to road users.

When we do it

We can only do work in the daytime as the process relies on the evaporation of water from the binder (glue) for it to set. We cannot work in wet weather either - any amount of rain or surface water dilutes the bitumen and so does not hold the chippings in place.

Why we do it

•Cost-Effective Maintenance

Micro asphalt extends the life of existing roads at a fraction of the cost of full resurfacing, helping to defer more significant structural interventions.

•Reduced Carbon Impact

Being cold-applied, it requires less energy and produces lower emissions compared to traditional hot mix asphalt, supporting carbon reduction goals.

•Fast Application and Minimal Disruption

The quick-setting nature of micro asphalt allows roads to be reopened within a few hours, making it ideal for busy areas where minimising disruption is essential.

•Enhanced Surface Performance

It improves skid resistance and restores texture, enhancing safety—especially in wet or high-traffic conditions.

•Sealing and Protection

The treatment acts as a protective barrier against water ingress and surface oxidation, both of which contribute to pavement deterioration.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The new surface can usually be driven on within 30 minutes after the surface has been laid. When it is ready for use, staff on site will remove the cones that had cordoned off the road. **Please do not drive or walk over the newly laid surface until it has set and the cones have been removed.**

If you have to walk on the surface then please check your shoes before entering your house or getting into your car. On Street Parking will be restricted.

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The Process

Before we carry out the works we'll visit your road to get it ready for the treatment. This includes repairing potholes and removing vegetation or debris from the side of the road. We'll then return a few weeks later to do the surfacing works.

When we start the micro asphalt treatment, we'll sweep the road first to make sure it's clear of debris before applying two layers of liquid bitumen emulsion and stone over the existing surface. The new layers are laid cold which means they set quickly – usually after around 30 minutes – minimising the amount of time we need to be on site.

A few weeks after the treatment has been completed, crews will visit your street to sweep up any loose material, make any surface repairs that are needed, replace road markings and raise any ironworks

How long does it take?

Micro Asphalt is a fast moving operation and we usually complete the work in one day, although larger sites may take up to three days.

But don't forget we go back to sweep the road and return when the chippings have bedded in to put back the road markings and any road studs.

Access during works

Access for residents and businesses will be maintained through gateways managed by traffic marshals.

Residents will need to stop at the gateways and our staff will help you to get into, or out of the roadworks site safely using the right route.

Please be supportive by respecting and responding to any speed restrictions and the safety instructions given by staff.

If our teams need access or have to move machinery out of the way there may be significant delays.

We will always do our best to accommodate day-to-day requirements of people affected by our works, and access will be maintained as much as possible for those people directly impacted by the works.

Emergency access will be maintained at all times.

How you can help

- Look out for signs advising that micro asphalt will be happening in your area. We will always do our best to minimise disruption, but there may be some minor delays to traffic or diversions in place, which could mean you need to allow a little extra time for your journey.
- Take care not to walk on the freshly laid materials. Chippings can easily be picked up on footwear, wheelchairs, pushchairs or pets' paws - it's best to keep children and pets away from the treated areas and to check your shoes before entering your property or vehicle.
- Get in touch with us if you are concerned about getting access to your home or business. You can email us at surfacing@cormacltd.co.uk

Advance warning signs

Although our programmes are published, and signs are put out in advance, work can only be carried out in dry weather. When it rains, the work has to stop so the schedule may need to change at short notice. We will always reschedule at the earliest opportunity. This is likely to be the next dry day, however if works are significantly delayed we will update signs on the site.

Please note ...

Before the start time of the works, parked vehicles should be removed from the road. Residents will be notified through the use of signing within the site or by letter.

You can report an issue on a road, highway or footway on the Cornwall Council website:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/reportroad>

If there is an issue which is a threat to public safety, please telephone **0300 1234 222** (24 hour service) giving details of the location.