

21/12/05.

Escalating degradation of path surfaces in the Park.

Smith Walk.

I am really alarmed over the application of wrong (inappropriate) techniques combined with the wrong materials in efforts to 'upgrade' path surfaces. The latest & most startling example is the re-surfacing of Smith Walk between Gilbert St & Palm Lawn over the past fortnight.

There was no 'dressing' or preparation of the existing surface - i.e. correction of irregularities, levelling, regrading for drainage faults etc etc etc.

Approx. 75mm depth of an inappropriate aggregate with particle sizes from sand up to 15mm was simply dumped on the surface & lightly scattered without any precision levelling, either by rake or machine. It was then compacted by means unknown to me. The result is an unbonded & therefore unstable surface.

This is in contradiction of all the principles of path formation for which the Park has hitherto been renowned. The result is deplorable - the worst yet except perhaps for the 30mm 'farm track' phase two years ago. There is a lurching from one crisis to another. This makes a mockery of the invitation to come to the Park for a walk in 'natural' surroundings.

The surface, already rough, will break up with use & stratify with larger particles working constantly to the surface.

It will scour severely in heavy rain & in a serious downpour much will finish up in the waterwheel area.

It will require frequent maintenance

A walk in the Park to share the sounds will be a crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch!

The next really heavy downpour will see this area vying with the Racecourse Walk (again) for the headlines.

Correction of this latest disaster will be complicated and very costly. Is this an outcome of the recent commissioned path survey???

George Fuller.