

Council – 21st October 2021

PETITION:

**Esplanade Gardens — SBC proposal to replace paving slabs
with tarmacadam**

We, the undersigned, strongly object to this proposals on the grounds that it would unnecessarily and adversely impact the overall amenity of the road, both in terms of street scene and, on an economic basis, future durability.

Whist acknowledging the Council's focus on Health and Safety considerations, our understanding is that Esplanade Gardens has a very respectable track record on that score, with any such H&S incidents being few and far between.

Additionally, using tarmacadam cannot bring a guarantee of a 'trouble-free' future, particularly when considering the way in which tarmacadam is but a temporary barrier to the spread of tree roots, the damage thereby caused, and the H&S repercussions this can entail.

Crucially, there is also the sustainability issue to be considered here, with the environmental cost of wholesale change to tarmacadam likely to have a significantly more deleterious impact than continuing use of paving slabs, which of course already exist and incur no 'travel costs'. Concrete slabs are also extremely durable and can last for at least 40 to 50 years. Compare this with tarmacadam which has a usual lifespan of about 25 years and you can see that concrete will ultimately cost less. Even if running repairs to slabs are required, we all consider this would be a more aesthetically pleasing, costeffective, environmentally-friendly, and long-term way forward.