



- Rubber content of the surface reduces concussion induced injuries
- Surface is completely porous, minimising standing water to improve safety
- Provides a stable and encouraging riding surface

I visited Smiths Walk to 'test ride' the new Flexi-pave surface and was very impressed with the look, grip and spring in the surface. Please see photos below.

I rode my horse 'Inch' at walk, trot and a steady canter, the surface felt secure and Inch was very comfortable moving forward on it. The close up photo of her walking shows how the surface at 50/50 ratio of stone to rubber 'gives' as the horse's hooves take her weight, Inch weighs 450kg's approx. No hoof prints were left in the surface by Inch's steel shoes.

Horse riders will not choose to ride at more than walk on hard surfaces due to the concussion this sends up through a horse's feet and legs, increasing the risk of injury to the horse. In walk a horse's gait has no moment of suspension, i.e. there is no moment when all the horse's legs are off the ground at the same time.

Concussion is increased at trot and canter because there are one or more moments of suspension in these gaits. The 'give' in the Flexi pave surface means the concussion dispersing through a horse's hoof and up the leg is reduced considerably when compared with scalplings, tarmac and bonded gravel. Reducing concussion helps limit the risk of injury to the horse's joints, ligaments and tendons.

I think this surface is fantastic and would like to encourage the council to use this Flexi-pave surface wherever possible on the new Greenways routes that will be used by horse riders.

Nicola Greenwood
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