

Council

14 October 2024

Motions (1 total)

Motion A

Proposed by: Councillor Julian Tooke

Seconded by: Councillor Glenn Andrews

Historic Cheltenham and the public realm

In 2022, Cheltenham welcomed 2 million visitors who contributed £164 million to the local economy. Cheltenham is a beautiful place to visit and to live. Much of its beauty comes from its architecture. It is arguably the most important Regency conurbation in the UK. It has 2602 listed buildings and seven conservation areas. The buildings are appreciated in the context of the surrounding public realm: the streets, the pavements and the parks. When we replace paving with asphalt in our historic areas, we degrade the public realm and the beauty and history of the town. In doing so, we reduce the quality of life of residents, fail to meet our obligations to preserve the town, and undermine the tourist industry on which we are so reliant.

Council is requested to approve the following resolution:

That the Leader of CBC will write to the Cabinet Member for Highways at GCC and request the following:

- 1) That GCC Highways recognises the unique historic public realm context of Cheltenham in all street works it conducts or over which it has oversight.
- 2) That GCC Highways accepts that when it does repairs in Cheltenham's historic environments, such as conservation areas or near listed buildings, it has a moral responsibility to do work which is sensitive to the public realm context in which they are working.
- 3) That GCC works collaboratively with custodians of our civic realm and local, experienced partners (such as Cheltenham BID and Cheltenham Civic Society) to ensure that, wherever possible, the right materials are used in the right contexts.
- 4) That if repairs are done to streets or pavements, asphalt is not used to replace paving stones or slabs in conservation areas or near listed buildings.
- 5) That if asphalt absolutely has to be used in an emergency in conservation areas or near listed buildings (eg to replace a broken paving block), GCC will subsequently ensure replacement of the black asphalt with suitably matching blocks or slabs in a timely fashion.