



## SOLVING THE CHEWING GUM PROBLEM

**QSS Ltd. complete cleaning and sealing of a significant section of Bedford Town Centre.**

'SANDBOND', a block paving sealer exclusively marketed by Quality Surface Solutions Ltd. (QSS) of Bedford was chosen as the sealant for pedestrianised areas in Bedford Town Centre. Over 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> of paving is being coated with nearly 4 tonnes of this product to seal and stabilise the sand joints and to reduce the adhesion of chewing gum to paving surfaces.



**Gum - an all too common problem**

QSS undertook to carry out the necessary cleaning including removal of all chewing gum and applied new kiln dried sand as required prior to applying the 'SANDBOND' sealer.

Approval was given for the use of an improved version of SANDBOND following in-situ trials carried out in Bedford Town centre to determine its effectiveness in reducing the nuisance of discarded chewing gum.. The trials confirmed its jointing sand retention properties and demonstrated its ability to reduce the cleaning effort required for removal of chewing gum and inhibition of chewing gum adhesion.

The original SANDBOND was specifically developed for Military and Commercial aircraft pavements, surfaced with block paving, to prevent erosion of jointing sand by the action of aircraft jet blast and complies with the MOD specification for sealing of aircraft pavements. It was also designed to prevent the removal of jointing sand from paved areas subjected to cleaning by powerful suction sweepers. This sealer has been in use for over 15 years and has been applied at many major projects including the Channel Tunnel, Euro-Disney and the new International Airport in Hong Kong where approximately 450,000 m<sup>2</sup> of block paving was sealed. The sealer has now been in use in Bedford Town centre for over twelve years.

It is estimated that QSS will have removed approximately 288,000 pieces of discarded chewing gum during the cleaning of 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> of paving. This represents some 24 pieces of chewing gum on every square metre of paved surface in Bedford Town Centre and demonstrates the scale of the scourge of the chewing gum problem Nationwide. .

QSS provides "a one stop shop" service for specialist cleaning most forms of paved surfaces and more specifically sealing small element paving systems to inhibit jointing sand erosion and ingress of water and fuels etc into the underlying pavement construction. QSS also provide contract maintenance cleaning for their SANDBOND sealed surfaces.

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