



Shell Bitumen

ASPHALT THAT RESPECTS ITS SURROUNDINGS



PROJECT: Church of Plonéour-Lanvern

CITY/REGION: Brittany, France

COUNTRY: France



KEY FACTS

- Benefits:**
- Aesthetics to fit surroundings
 - Quick application
 - Indoor application

Application: Pavement

Product Family: Shell Mexphalte C

Client: Church of Plonéour- Lanvern

Contractor: Enrobés West, a subsidiary of SAS Le Pape

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Located in the Commune of Plonéour-Lanvern (population 5,600), in the Finistère region of Brittany in North-Western France, is the Parish Church St Neeour. Construction began in 1848, with the bell tower seeing completion in 1877.

The main aisle of the church was previously paved with traditional cobble stones and was considered to present a potential risk to the safety of the congregation. As a result, it was decided there was a need to resurface the aisle, but in keeping with the look and feel of the church.

TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

Traditionally, resurfacing would have been undertaken with cement based slabs, a process which generally takes in excess of 15 days. Given the age of the church, a decision was made to find an alternative solution which would not only be faster to complete but would also better fit with the church's original architecture.

"We had to reshape the central aisle of the church of Plonéour-Lanvern, as some of the slabs were irregular, causing discomfort for the congregation, and also safety issues, especially during weddings and funerals where processions were taking place. Shell was able to provide a solution that met our client's requirements in the form of Shell Mexphalte C LT."

Pascal Le Nours, foreman

THE SOLUTION

Shell's Mexphalte C range of bitumens offers a choice of synthetic clear binders designed to produce coloured hot mix asphalt for long lasting, coloured pavements. The range offers similar mechanical performance to conventional bitumen and can be used to enhance the natural colour and texture of aggregates. This can be achieved through combining small amounts of pigment to produce the desired colour.

In the case of the church of Plonéour-Lanvern, Shell Mexphalte C LT, a lower temperature variant of the Mexphalte C range, was selected for the project. Capable of being laid at lower temperatures and with a faster drying time than conventional binders, it provided the ideal solution for the short project timeframe.

By combining the binder with sand and gravel from the quarry of Le Goasq in Scringnac, Enrobés West was able to achieve greater creativity in terms of the aisle's colour compared to its previous surface. This combination of pigment provided a natural and well balanced wheat tone, capable of fulfilling the requirements of the Buildings of France regulatory body responsible for the preservation of historic architecture.

THE RESULTS

Within two hours, 100 m² of asphalt from Shell Mexphalte C LT was successfully laid and the next day the aisle was re-opened to the congregation.

Following the success of the project, a few days later, West Enrobés used Shell Mexphalte C LT for the refurbishment of Plonéour-Lanvern's market square.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact your Shell Bitumen representative or visit: www.shell.com/bitumen

The Shell emblem, Mexphalte C and SHELL are trademarks of the Shell Group.

©2016 Shell International Petroleum Company Limited