

Case Study

Straffan, County Kildare

Shell Mexphalte C - helps pave the way for European success at Ryder Cup



The 2006 Ryder Cup was a glorious event culminating in a famous 18½ to 9½ win for Europe against the gracious USA team. There are many factors that contribute to the success of high profile sporting events, but for events like the Ryder Cup that can attract almost 40,000 visitors per day – it's crucial that the local transport infrastructure can take the strain of the extra traffic.

Shell Bitumen and contracting partners SIAC Construction and Behan & Sons – played their part in preparing the roads both in Straffan and the major N7 trunk road from Dublin.

Straffan Village traffic calming and K Club enclosure with SIAC StreetPrint® and Shell Mexphalte C

Critical Success Factors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Shell Mexphalte C track record in traffic management and coloured pavement solutions- Binder availability and reliable delivery
Application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Red asphalt (StreetPrint®) for traffic calming- Buff colour asphalt for K Club enclosure
Volume:	240 tonnes coloured asphalt
Product grade:	Shell Mexphalte C
Client:	Straffan Village
Contractor:	SIAC Construction



Shell Bitumen

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Straffan, like all Ryder Cup hosts, expected a significant increase in traffic through the town in the weeks and months leading up to Ryder Cup, as contractors and organisers connected with the event set up hospitality marquees and tv and media facilities and spectators at the Ryder Cup used restaurants and facilities in the town.

“ Shell Mexphalte C, our coloured paving installation expertise and the StreetPrint® technique were the ideal combination for the Straffan work ”

Vivian Moore, General Manager, SIAC Bituminous Products

Traffic management helps Straffan take the strain

In 2005, Kildare County Council put forward plans to help manage the increase in traffic including 2 raised junctions and 4 speed ramps at key points within the town. StreetPrint® decorative pavement installed by SIAC was chosen as the preferred paving solution, an imprint in red asphalt that gives the appearance of block paving with the durability and costs associated with asphalt.

Shell Bitumen have worked closely with SIAC Construction for a number of years and proposed their coloured binder, Shell Mexphalte C, as the ideal binder for the Straffan work. Shell Mexphalte C was used at the Sydney Olympics for example to pave the bus lanes that took athletes and spectators to the major events.

Shell Mexphalte C & SIAC StreetPrint® winning combination

Vivian Moore, General Manager at SIAC Bituminous Products takes up the story, “StreetPrint® asphalt has a great track record in traffic calming and improving the aesthetics of pedestrian areas. The speed tables look better than traditional speed bumps but are just as effective. Shell Bitumen were able to supply Shell Mexphalte C, the pigmentable bitumen binder, from Holland to our fully computerised Asphalt Plant at Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin.”

At the Clondalkin Plant SIAC manufacture and supply both standard black and specialised coloured ‘asphalts and macadam’s’ to current Irish and European Standards. SIAC in conjunction with Shell Bitumen have spent a number of years developing ‘SIAC Duracolour’. SIAC Bituminous Products are the market leader in Ireland in coloured surfacing and imprinting.

Gearoid Lohan, Shell Bitumen sales manager explains the approach “By supporting SIAC closely in terms of logistics support and delivery, I believe they were able to put together a winning proposal to Kildare County Council.”

Shell Mexphalte C was also used in an attractive buff coloured asphalt for one of the enclosure areas at the K Club itself. Mexphalte C has a long and successful history, especially in the Netherlands and France where it is widely used for bicycle lanes and applications such as blending new asphalt surfaces in with historical surroundings in village squares. It is a colourless, synthetic bitumen to which pigments can be added to produce almost any colour you like while it still retains the same properties in performance as standard bitumen.

Resurfacing and widening the N7 in time for the Ryder Cup

Originally built between 1950 and 1960, by 2004 the N7 stretch between Naas and Rathcoole - bypassing villages of Johnstown and Kill was due for widening and resurfacing. The original specification for quiet surfacing in the form of porous asphalt had to be changed due to the need to keep the N7 open to traffic. In September 2004 Shell Bitumen, Larry Behan and Sons the contractor and Laing O’Rourke Infrastructure, the principal contractor meet to consider alternatives and put forward a 14mm thin surfacing solution using Shell Cariphalte TS, a polymer modified bitumen (PMB) binder. After significant testing and stringent quality controls were put in place Behan’s successfully completed the 14km mainline and 14km side road sections ahead of schedule in August 2006, with Shell Bitumen supplying 2500 tonnes of Shell Cariphalte TS during the course of the work.

“ The technical support from Shell Bitumen’s technical team has been superb and Shell Cariphalte has performed exactly as we expected ”

Steve Elliott, Site Engineer, Behan & Sons

Improved road safety - important legacy of the Ryder Cup

So whilst the Ryder Cup crowds have gone, residents of Straffan are still enjoying a quieter, safer and more attractive village thoroughfare. And the National Road Authority have been able to deliver an improved N7 without closing the roads making it the first major highways scheme in the Republic of Ireland to use a Thin Wearing Course System (TWSC).

StreetPrint® is a technology under license from IPC Integrated Paving Concepts.

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