

For Editors

Press Release - for Immediate Release November 2009

Poor Pavements and Potholes Leading to Personal Injury Claims

The less than satisfactory condition of some of the pavements and roads in West Sussex is a major factor in the growing number of claims from injured individuals determined to take the Council to task. **Between January 2008 and March 2009, only about 2% of pavement trip claims made in West Sussex were successful - many of these claims were brought by individuals without legal representation, or possibly through solicitors based many miles away from the area where the accident happened."**

This has not escaped the attention of David Hawkins one of the lawyers in the personal injury team at Worthing based Bennett Griffin LLP Solicitors (www.bennett-griffin.co.uk). David specialises in pursuing claims for compensation from individuals that are injured through poorly maintained roads or pavements. Says David; "The injuries from say a cracked or raised flagstone, an unduly slippery surface or protruding tree roots in a pavement can be serious. In the last few years I've successfully represented clients that have sustained injuries ranging from fractured hips and sprained ankles through to a broken nose and a loss of teeth. These injuries cause considerable pain and suffering not to mention a loss of earnings and the need for medical aftercare. ***It's little wonder that so many people are now seeking professional and qualified legal advice on how to claim for compensation - especially when their personal attempts to raise the issue with the Council can be met with a tersely worded denial of responsibility.***"

David is on the Council's case commenting, "Although the pavements and roads surfaces in West Sussex are well maintained in comparison with other areas of the country, there are however instances where a Local Authority's inspection and maintenance regime falls short of their legal obligations. It is the legal duty of West Sussex County Council to inspect and maintain these areas. **If a person is unfortunate enough to suffer an injury as a result of tripping or falling in an area that has been allowed to become dangerous, then they have the right to hold the Local Authority to account."**

David knows from years of experience that in many cases, a Local Authority will deny liability and attempt to evade their responsibility to compensate victims of accidents on roads and pathways that have fallen into disrepair. "In these circumstances **it is essential that a person seeking compensation against the Local Authority has a robust solicitor that can not only demonstrate expertise in dealing with claims of this nature but that also has a very good local knowledge.**" He concludes.

Ends

Editor Information

For further information please contact : dh@bennett-griffin.co.uk or telephone 01903 777685