

School Travel Plans Ad-hoc Scrutiny Review

Extract From A Travel Plan Showing An Example of Response Data Analysis

| Mode of travel | No completed surveys. | No children represented. | % representation by mode. |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Walk | 42 | 59 | 28% of walkers |
| Walking/Cycle | 12 | 12 | |
| Cycling | 3 | 4 | 17% of cyclists |
| Car combined | 9 | 14 | 18% of car-users |
| Car only | 7 | 11 | |
| Total | 73 | 100 | 26% of pupils |

A total of 73 parent-carer surveys were completed in April 2009 representing 26% of pupils.

See Appendix 9 for sample questionnaires and a summary of the detailed analysis of the parent-carer surveys.

Benefits identified – Those travelling by sustainable modes identified a range of benefits to their children that fall into 9 main categories. The perceived health benefits of active travel received the most responses. The speed, convenience and affordability, by comparison to car travel, of travelling a short distance on foot or by bike were mentioned fairly frequently. The opportunity for socialising with others received a similar number of responses.

These sentiments were echoed in the responses from parents from car users who combined car use with walking or cycling on a regular basis. One of these respondents recognised that it was possible to “get a sense of the school as a community when we walk”.

By comparison, the benefits expressed by car-users tended to be related to the parent/carers’ need to make an onward journey and arrive at work on time. The car is seen as a good way to travel a distance that is considered too far to walk. A few responses indicated that some parents consider walking is unsafe.

Concerns identified –

- ☞ Parked cars are considered a hazard by cyclists, pedestrians and those with pushchairs.
- ☞ Parking on pavements, double yellow lines and Zig-Zag lines.

Those walking and cycling to school mainly had concerns about the difficulties caused by

- ☞ The speed and volume of moving traffic; making it difficult to cross roads,
- ☞ The school driveway, Stockton Lane and Burnholme Dr/Beck Ln/Hempland Lane were the most frequently mentioned locations in relation to the above issue.

Cyclists tend to be concerned about,

- ☞ The speed and volume of moving traffic; making it difficult negotiate junctions,

- ☞ The Hempland Lane/Stockton Lane and Whitby Ave/ Stockton Lane junctions were mentioned in particular.

Parents recognise that there is a tension between their children's desire to travel independently and their own concerns about the risk to their children generated by road safety issues. It was noted that a number of children are driven to school a distance equivalent to a 5 or 10 minute walk. An examination of the home postcode spot plot representation of the school census mode of travel data seems to confirm this. **Refer to Appendix 8 for home postcode spot plots.** However, it is not known if these parents are making an onward journey immediately after visiting the school.

Parents' suggested improvements to school travel arrangements in line with the aims of Hempland Primary School's travel plan fell mainly into these categories;

- **Car parking measures/restrictions/enforcement.**
- **Traffic calming/speed restrictions/signs**
- **Improvements to the rear access to the school (on LCCS land).**
- **School Crossing Patrol (SCP)**

These improvements have been recorded in order of their response rate. The item with the most responses is at the top of the list.

Parents' suggestions for schemes and incentives etc that may support the STP aims;

- **Prizes, rewards and certificates for children cycling/walking to school.**
- **All year round cycle/walking to school initiative.**
- **Walking bus* (possibly Stockton Lane and/or Tuke Ave).**
- **More Road Safety Training.**
- **More/improved cycle parking at both school entrances.**
- **Car-share initiative.**
- **Designated school bus.**

These suggestions have been recorded in order of their popularity with the most popular first.

* A Walking bus was successful in the past and reduced the numbers of cars travelling to the school.

The local knowledge expressed by parents and carers in these surveys informs our action plan.