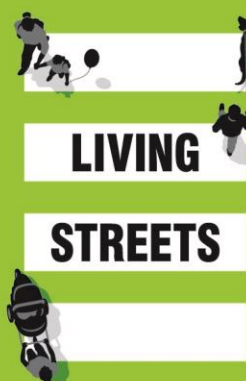


SCHOOL ROUTE AUDIT REPORT

St Peter's C of E Primary School, Farnham.
17th January 2017



We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. We want to create a walking nation where people of all generations enjoy the benefits that this simple act brings, on streets fit for walking.



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CONTENTS

Executive summary	3
Living Streets	4
Local Sustainable Transport Fund	4
Introduction	5
School route audit process	5
Map of the area	6
Area context	7
Findings	8
Other activities	13
Recommendations	14
Conclusion	16
Appendices	17
Appendix 1 – Notes from the SRA	18
Appendix 2 – Feasibility Plan	19
Appendix 3 – Possible Actions Plan	20

Executive Summary

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. We are working with St Peter's C of E Primary School to increase walking rates in Surrey.

On Tuesday 17th January 2017 we conducted a school route audit (SRA) by walking around the school identifying, discussing and recording issues that encouraged or discouraged everyday walking. The issues identified were then discussed before agreement was reached on key short and longer term priorities that would improve the walking environment.

St Peter's C of E Primary School is located in the ward of Wrecclesham and Rowledge in South West Surrey. The school is situated in a residential area at the top of the hill on Little Green Lane. The road is relatively quiet during the day with many local residents owning cars which are parked on private driveways as well as along Little Green Lane and its associated local roads. St Peter's is an Eco School - the Eco Committee assisted with the school route audit.

The key issues affecting St Peter's C of E Primary are as follows:

- Large puddles on pavements along Little Green Lane
- Pooling in Shortheath Road
- Lack of safe crossing places along Shortheath Road

Recommendations discussed at the SRA included:

Short Term

- On-going communications between the school and parents regarding safe parking
- Using this report to raise awareness to parents and neighbours of issues outside the gates and to inform school travel plan

Long Term

- Repair pooling area along Little Green Lane pavement and Shortheath Road
- Install pedestrian protection railings at the junction of Little Green Lane at the mini roundabout on Shortheath Road
- Install school crossing place and school crossing sign along Shortheath Road

Living Streets

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking.

We want to create a walking nation, free from congested roads and pollution, reducing the risk of preventable illness and social isolation and making walking the natural choice. We believe that a walking nation means progress for everyone.

Our ambition is to get people of all generations to enjoy the benefits that this simple act brings and to ensure all our streets are fit for walking.

For more than 85 years we've been a beacon for walking. In our early days our campaigning led to the UK's first zebra crossings and speed limits. Now, our campaigns and local projects deliver real change to overcome barriers to walking and our ground breaking initiatives such as the world's biggest Walk to School campaign encourage millions of people to walk.

Progress starts here: one street, one school, one step at a time.

Walk to school campaign

Living Streets' Walk to School campaign supports over one million children in 4,000 schools to walk more through national schemes and events including WOW and Walk to School Week, making it one of the UK's leading behaviour change campaigns for young people.

Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund

The Walk To project is being delivered by Living Streets in partnership with 16 Local Authorities through a grant of £2.48m from Department for Transport from the Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund.

Through the Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund a total of £20m has been allocated to support sustainable travel initiatives in 2015/16 which support the local economy, boost economic growth and cut carbon emissions.

Introduction

The aim of a school route audit (SRA) is to identify issues that encourage or discourage everyday walking. To increase walking rates it is important that the condition of the streets and paths in the area be of a standard that encourage people to walk. This report provides more detail of these barriers and suggests practical solutions to overcome them.

The school route audit process

The school route audit aims:

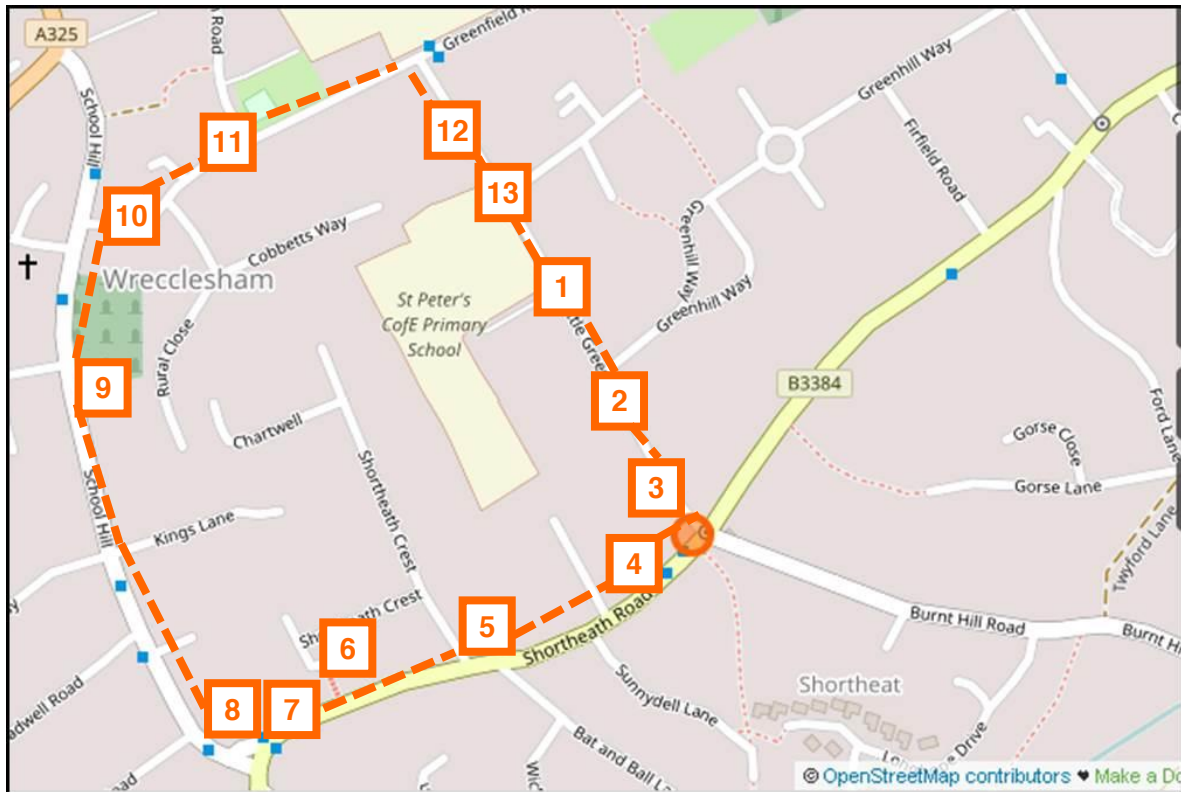
- To identify ways to reduce the effects of the busy roads on pupils and their parents/carers (parents and carers will be referred to as parents for the purpose of this report) who walk and cycle, without creating further delays for motorists,
- To find ways to reduce congestion and enforce and facilitate slower speeds,
- To identify barriers to walking and to enhance opportunities to improve connectivity, attractiveness, state of maintenance and identify improvement measures.

The SRA of the area surrounding the school allowed us to critically review the walking routes to access the school. We were able to identify issues and decide on priorities, create solutions and to take action to influence on-the-ground changes.

On the SRA we walked around the school periphery identifying, discussing and recording issues that encouraged or discouraged everyday walking. Issues identified were then discussed before agreement was reached on key short and longer term priorities that would improve the walking environment.

In addition to the SRA, a pre-audit was carried out by Living Streets staff to observe the behaviour of drivers and ensure the route was safe to walk with children.

Map of area



© OpenStreetMap contributors



Audit Route



Points on map referred to in 'Findings' section

Area context

St Peter's C of E Primary School has approx. 420 students. It is a well established Eco School – achieving its Silver Eco Schools award in 2011. St Peter's has a travel plan in place which was last updated in 2014 when the school became a 2 form entry school. The school do not have available funding to employ a school crossing person.

The School Route Audit (SRA) took place on Tuesday 17th January 2017 between 2pm and 3pm. With 15 attendees, the group was comprised of a Living Streets staff member 2 school governors, 2 school staff members and 10 students. The day was dry and cold with plenty of sunshine.

St Peter's school is positioned at the top of a hill on Little Green Lane in Farnham, Surrey. It is situated in a mainly residential area of houses with and without driveways. Parking restrictions outside the two school entrances are clearly marked. There is a school sign close to the southern side of the school on Little Green Lane. The speed limit outside the school and along the audit route is 30mph.

The school has identified a number of issues that affect the children on their walk to school – the main issues being: a lack of school crossing points on Shortheath Road; the sloping pavement down to the roundabout at the junction of Little Green Lane and Shortheath Road; the poor condition of the roads and pavements along Little Green Lane and areas of Shortheath Road which cause excessive pooling during wet weather.

The school, along with parent volunteers, have implemented a one-way 'drop off scheme' to ease parking issues around the school during morning drop-off. This has been in operation for 2 years and is working well for the school - it is a good use of their two school entrances.

St Peter's HT regularly sends out reminders to parents in their newsletter to park responsibly.

In 2014 the school, supported by Surrey's Park Smart campaign, trialled a scheme where by the children issued parking tickets to poorly parked cars to help highlight the issue of congestion and dangerous parking around the school gates.

Area findings

Little Green Lane (1)

The pavements along the western pathway of Little Green Lane are narrow with muddy verges caused by traffic parking up on them. The children commented that this pathway floods in wet weather and they get wet and muddy shoes and trousers on their way to school.



Narrow and muddy paths

Little Green Lane (1b)

The western pathway of Little Green Lane the day before the audit shows the extent of flooding faced by pedestrians en route to St Peter's school.



Narrow and muddy paths
(Photo: Nicky Hill)

Little Green Lane (2)

There are cars parked along here throughout the day with more arriving for school drop-off and pick up. The children find it very difficult to cross here safely. The picture shows how congested the area immediately outside the school is.



No safe places to cross
between parked cars

Little Green Lane – junction of Shortheath Road (3)

Little Green Lane slopes down towards the roundabout on the junction with Shortheath Road – the pavement is steeply sloping near the roundabout. There isn't a pedestrian protection rail at the bottom of the pavement at the junction to Shortheath roundabout – the children commented they feel this is dangerous for them, especially if their active travel method is wheeled – i.e. scootering. The traffic on Shortheath is usually moving very fast across the roundabout and they are worried that an accident could happen here.



The roundabout below the unprotected slope down

Surface drain on Shortheath Road (4)

Just before the roundabout on Shortheath road there is a surface drain which floods during wet weather. The children and teachers commented that they have to avoid being drenched by traffic along this stretch on wet days.



Drain blocks and floods road

Surface drain on Shortheath Road (4b)

This photo was taken on the same stretch of Shortheath Road the day before the audit took place. It shows how the traffic drenches the pavement opposite the funeral home on Shortheath Road near to the junction with Little Green Lane.



Day before audit. Drain blocks and floods road
(Photo: Nicky Hill)

Shortheath Road (5)

The traffic along this road travels at quite a speed towards the roundabout at the junction of Little Green Road - the children commented how this makes them feel quite unsafe on their walk to school along this route. Traffic doesn't approach with caution where the children need to cross. The only indication of the nearby school here is a small black and white sign. This was one of only 2 school signs we spotted on our audit route.



One School sign on busy Shortheath Road

Pedestrian steps (6)

The pedestrian steps that lead from Shortheath Road to Shortheath Crest are broken and covered in leaf debris which makes them potentially dangerous for some pedestrians.



Broken steps

Junction of Shortheath/School Hill – bus stop (7)

The litter bin on the path by the bus stop was over flowing on the day of the audit. The children commented on how this made the area unattractive.



Over flowing waste bin

Triple junction at Shortheath/School Hill/Sandrock Hill Rd (8)

This is a busy three-way junction during rush hour and school times. The crossing point from the Sandrock Hill Road side is just after the bend on Shortheath Road – the children commented on how difficult it is to cross here during busy morning and afternoon rush hours. The only indication of a school near-by this junction is the name of the opposite road – School Hill.



3-way junction

School Hill entrance to ally ways leading to St Peter's (9)

Leading from School Hill, alongside St Peter's Church cemetery, there is a small network of ally ways. These ally ways lead directly to St Peter's school and would make a good off road route to school from the housing estate around Rural Way and Cobbetts Way. However, on the pre-audit, the Living Streets representative discovered large amounts of garden waste (aerosols, paint tins etc) and other rubbish had been tipped in the ally way. There was also an amount of dog mess and the ally way was generally muddy. Therefore, this route was deemed not suitable for the audit.



School Hill – ally ways

Greenfield Road (10)

There was dog excrement spread over the pavement in Greenfield Road. The children commented that this was a regular occurrence in the area.



Dog mess on pathway

Greenfield Road/Corbbetts Way Junction (11)

The children noticed a lot of litter around the pavements near the junction of Greenfield Road and Cobbetts Way/Rural Way. They commented that they didn't like the feel of this part of the route.



Litter

Little Green Lane (12)

There was a car parked across the junction of a side road close to the school gates on our return to school at 3pm



Car parked across junction

Little Green Lane (13)

It was school home time as we returned to St Peter's at the end of the audit. There were a number of cars already parked outside the school and this one on the yellow zigzags.



Car parked across zigzags

Other activities

St Peter's School send out regular reminders to parents regarding parking outside the school at drop-off and collection times.

St Peter's operates a one-way 'drop and wave' scheme each morning to help alleviate traffic congestion. This makes good use of their double gates to the front of the school.

In the past the school have trialled a student led 'ticketing' scheme for poorly parked cars outside the school gates in conjunction with the Park Smart in Surrey campaign.

St Peter's is taking part in WoW, the national walk to school campaign run by Living Streets. The campaign encourages and promotes active travel to school and is an award based scheme.

Recommendations

Area/Issue	Recommended Action	Level of Action Quick Win/ Long Term	Responsibility/ Involvement	Recommended Deadline
Pooling on Little Green Lane pavement and Shortheath Road	Repair pavement and road surfaces to address pooling issue. Inspect drain on Shortheath road for lack of run-off capacity	Medium term	County Council Highways for costing. Carys Walker (Local Partnerships and Committee Officer) for support and Local Councillor (Wyatt Ramsdale) for budget	September 2017 Dependent on 2017/18 budget availability
Congestion on Little Green Lane	Use WoW to highlight issues for children walking to school and investigate Park and Stride option to support WoW. School to sign up to Modeshift Stars	Quick Win	School	April 2017
Lack of safe crossing points on Shortheath Road	Install School Crossing signs and research feasibility of installing a pelican crossing	Medium term	Surrey County Council Highways for costing. Carys Walker (Local Partnerships and Committee Officer) for support and Local Councillor (Wyatt Ramsdale) for budget	September 2017 Dependent on 2017/18 budget availability

Slope down to main road (Shortheath Road) from Little Green Lane.	Research feasibility of installing pedestrian railings/guard to prevent children on scooters and other wheeled transport from entering busy road on roundabout	Long term	County Council Highways for costing. Carys Walker (Local Partnerships and Committee Officer) for support and Local Councillor (Wyatt Ramsdale) for budget	September 2018

Conclusion

Action as a result of School Route Audit for St Peter's C of E Primary School.

This report is being submitted to both members of staff at Surrey County Council and St Peter's C of E Primary School so that recommendations can be taken on board and action can be undertaken.

A School Route Audit was undertaken with school staff and pupils to identify any issues that may discourage families from walking to school. The observations highlighted that inconsiderate parking, poor drainage and pavement condition and a lack of school/children crossing signs was of particular concern, as this may discourage walking.

The School is also able to use this report as a testimonial to request improvement works alone or alongside any other developments, and to help with their School Travel Plan. The School should also work to carry out action points and ensure their longevity, calling on residents and parents to help and support. Living Streets will ensure the school has the appropriate resources to run WoW until July 2017.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Notes from the SRA

Audit: St Peter's C of E Primary School – Farnham.			
Audit Date: 17.01.17		Start Time: 14.00	
Audit Leader: Janey Bray		Conditions Dry, cold and Sunny	
No on map	Location details	Findings	How does this affect walking?
1	Little Green Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muddy and wet pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and parents/carers get wet and muddy on their way to school
2	Little Green Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear crossing points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and carers struggle to find safe crossing opportunities
3	Junction of Little Green Lane and Shortheath Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junction at bottom of slope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children feel unsafe on this part of their school route and worry they might scooter/career into busy road
4	Shortheath Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pooling around surface drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and other pedestrians risk a drenching during wet weather
5	Shortheath Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One small school sign and no crossing points or sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-local traffic is not aware of children attempting to cross for school
6	Shortheath Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The broken steps make this route unsafe for some pedestrians
7	Shortheath Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over flowing litter bin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It makes the area feel messy and untidy
8	Sandrock Hill/Shortheath Road/School Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide and difficult junction to cross during morning and afternoon periods of increased traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children cannot find a safe place to cross Shortheath Road
9	School Hill ally ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off road ally ways are unkempt and littered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrians will find it difficult to use this route for the amount of rubbish, dog litter and mud. It is also not suitable for pushchairs or wheeled transport
10	Greenfield Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog mess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrians have to be vigilant in order to avoid stepping in it and have to find routes around it
11	Greenfield Road/Cobbetts Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter across road and pavement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children feel unsafe on this part of their route as it appears to be neglected and unkempt

12	Little Green Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parked across part of junction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This car is adding to the danger of trying to find a safe crossing place
13	Little Green Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parked on zigzags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles parked in this way are adding to the hazard of crossing this road at school times.

Appendices

Appendix 2 – Feasibility and study costing

The priority recommendations for the route are set out in the table below by review category. Where applicable, the appropriate council officer/facilities manager will be asked to give feasibility, cost and potential timescales. These are indicated as short, medium or longer term, but this will obviously be dependent on the availability of resources.

Area/Theme	Recommendation	Initial Cost Estimate	Timescale Short/ Med/ Long
Road layout/Space allocation	Install barrier protection on slope at end of Little Green Lane		Long term
Clutter & Obstructions	Investigate/clear clutter and rubbish in ally ways leading from School Hill to St Peter's School		Short term
Facilities & Signage	Install school crossing signage along Shortheath Road		Short term
Crossing Points & Desire Lines	Install crossing point (Zebra or refuge island) along Shortheath Road	£15,000 (refuge island) to £50,000 (Zebra crossing)	Long term
Footway Surfaces	Resurface area of pathway along Little Green Lane and Shortheath Road where pooling occurs.		Long term
Traffic Enforcement	Contact Guildford BC for Parking Enforcement issues and Waverly BC for car parking advice for Park and Stride scheme.		Short term

Appendices

Appendix 3 – Suggested action plan

As part of your schools' intensive work with Living Streets we have conducted a School Route Audit to identify the barriers to walking in your area. Living Streets has produced a report with all of the comments and recommendations for future actions for all stakeholders. The report will help inform decisions made in partnership with your local authority about physical improvements on the walking routes.

Living Streets has produced this Action Plan for stakeholders based on the outcomes of the School Route Audit process.

Specific barriers identified are outlined in the table below alongside possible actions to overcome them and encourage more walking to school.

Findings at location	Suggested Action	Who can help?	Timeframe
Work with parents and local community on improving the parking situation outside the school gates	Highlight the findings of this report to parents, local residents and local councillors.	Waverly's Local Partnership and Committee Officer (Carys Walker)	March 2017
Continue to promote WOW and to research a Park and Stride option for St Peter's	Continue to run/fund WoW for the next academic year 2017/18. Present this report and its findings at the local community partnership meeting and research potential Park and Stride sites	Waverly's Local Partnership and Committee Officer (Carys Walker)	March 2017 onwards
Update school travel plan and upload it to Modeshift Stars	Sign up to Modeshift Stars	Ed Cowley. Surrey County Council	March 2017