



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL  
COMMITTEE  
SUMMARY OF SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL  
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2004 –2005**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

**Key Issue**

This summary report is provided as a source of information for the County Councillors on the progress of the Safe Routes to School Initiative.

**Summary**

The full report will be issued to the Runnymede School Travel Team and other officers involved with school travel. This report is produced annually at the end of each academic year.

**Officer Recommendations**

**For information only.**

**Safe Routes to School Programme**  
**September 2004 – September 2005**

**1. Background**

1.1.1 The aim of the Annual Progress Report is to provide a framework of processes to be developed upon each academic year. It will include the successes and problems of the Safe Routes to Schools Programme and the ways in which the Runnymede School Travel Team can improve the way that we work.

**2. Priority List and Grading System for Safe Routes to Schools**

2.1.1 There are 36 schools or colleges and 1 university in Runnymede. In order to create a priority list for these schools, each school has been graded according to a set of 5 criteria as follows:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Score Range</b>
Is there a school champion?	Time at school, involvement, enthusiasm	1 - 10
Is there a working group?	Representation from a wide cross section in the community to discuss school travel	1 - 10
Is there a draft School Travel Plan?	How far progressed, school support?	1 - 10
What are local expectations?	Time waiting, support other schemes, value to wider community	1 - 10
Is the school involved in education & training?	Take part in STEPS, cycle proficiency, curriculum based	1 - 10

2.1.2 Once graded each school was allocated a priority year in which the school would be approached to set up a working group to examine school travel and eventually formulate a school travel plan. The focus for the Runnymede School Travel Team will be on those schools that are willing to participate in the Safe Routes to Schools initiative, where specific issues have been raised by the community and those that have achieved the highest priority rating.

2.1.3 The plan is for schools in Runnymede to establish a working group who meet regularly, once a term, to examine school travel and safe routes to school.

2.1.4 Ideally a working group should comprise of the following members:

- Parents
- Governors
- School representatives i.e. members of staff
- Local residents
- A representative from the Runnymede School Travel Team
- A representative from Surrey Police
- Any other interested parties such as local businesses

2.1.5 Once the working group is established a School Travel Plan can be formulated and reviewed on a regular basis. The School Travel Plan will identify short, medium and long-term measures, which can be adopted to improve the journey to school. These measures could range from improving signage to installing a pedestrian crossing.

### 3. **Our main goals for September 2003 to September 2004 were:**

- 2.1.1. Target and support the schools on the priority list (Annex 1)  
We are actively working with 24 schools in the Runnymede area; however, the priority list is continually changing as relationships grow with the schools in the area.
- 2.1.2. Promotion of the Golden Boot Challenge  
This year 15 schools took part in the Golden Boot Challenge.
- 2.1.3. Encourage the introduction of 3 more walking buses  
Although Christchurch Junior, Marshfields Infant, Christ Church Infant and the Hythe all expressed an interest in starting up walking buses, the schools were unable to find enough volunteer helpers to get the buses off the ground.
- 2.1.4. Promote more cycling within Runnymede  
We held our first cycle workshop at Salesian school (Highfield Road site) in September 2004 and we will be piloting new cycle packs at Magna Carta and Salesian Schools in September 2005.
- 2.1.5. Strengthen our relationships with the schools  
The Runnymede School Travel Team have been developing their relationships with the schools and progressing the Safe Routes to School Initiative. Due to time constraints within schools it takes a considerable length of time to build relationships with a school 'champion'

### 3. **Our achievements for September 2004 to September 2005**

- 3.1.1 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2005 saw St Cuthbert's and St Jude's Schools, Englefield Green break the record for the longest walking bus in Surrey. 373 pupils joined together from the Jurgens Centre, Harvest Road, to walk to the schools in Bagshot Road.
- 3.1.2 To try and encourage pupils to walk or 'park and stride' to school, a Walk on Wednesdays (WOW) campaign was launched at Christchurch Junior and Marshfields Infant Schools on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. The schools have reported that there has been an impact on the numbers of vehicles parked in the roads surrounding the schools on Wednesdays.
- 3.1.3 15 schools took part in the Golden Boot Challenge this year. Part of the Golden Boot Challenge this year was to enter a competition to write a poem about travelling to school using

green transport. Poems from St Ann's Heath and Englefield Green Infant Schools reached the final and received a certificate and a £10 book voucher.

- 3.1.4 Secondary schools in Epsom & Ewell, Runnymede and Mole Valley were invited to take part in a pilot cycle pack scheme (planned for September-October 2005). Magna Carta and Salesian Schools have agreed to take part in the scheme.
- 3.1.5 The introduction of the new zebra crossing near the junction of Stepgates with Free Prae Road in Chertsey will improve pedestrian safety and enhance accessibility to Stepgates School, St Anne's School, local shops and the health centre. The new zebra crossing will provide a much needed crossing point for the school children and hopefully, encourage more parents and children to walk or cycle to school.
- 3.1.6 Another scheme to be completed this financial year is to upgrade an uncontrolled humped crossing to a zebra crossing on Woodham Lane near Farleigh Drive.
- 3.1.7 To improve the pedestrian facilities in Huntingfield Way (Thorpe Lea School) and Fletcher Road (Christchurch Junior School) the dropped kerbs are to be altered and tactile paving installed.

#### **4. Our goals for 2005/6:**

The team felt that for 2005/6 we would need to plan and react to the outcome of the school review for schools in Chertsey and Addlestone. We should also start thinking about the state nurseries in Runnymede as they are entitled to the School Travel Plan funding.

In 2005/6 we will be focusing on the following:

- 4.1.1 Responding to the outcome of the schools review;
- 4.1.2 Promote walking and find a way to encourage more parents to take part in walking buses;
- 4.1.3 Continue to strengthen our relationship with the schools as several 'champions' have changed;
- 4.1.4 Promotion of the Golden Boot Challenge and new pilot Cycle Packs;
- 4.1.5 Continue our involvement at Key Stages 1 & 2 in the school curriculum.