

# Burford School Travel Plan Annual Progress Report 2004

Circulation: Partners, Local Press  
Parents, School Staff & Governors  
Safer Routes to School

## 1. Summary

This year has seen a consolidation of the excellent work that all the volunteers have put in to work towards the targets in the Travel Plan. A working party has been established that meets termly, and shares the workload, but the base of volunteers and interested partners is much wider – including parents, staff, Governors and the local community. The emphasis has been on walking to and from school, with ‘go for gold’ being the most popular incentive.

## 2. Targets & Progress

We had 4 main targets for 2004, and an analysis of our progress shows that we are moving in the right direction. Of particular success was the increase in the number of children walking home, which is seen as being a particularly challenging area due to after-school activities, working parents etc.

Target	Progress
Increase numbers walking to school by 5 percentage points in 2004, resulting in 80% walking to school.	This has remained virtually static with 76% walking to school, compared with 77% last year
Increase numbers walking home by 5 percentage points in 2004, resulting in 60% walking home.	This has been almost achieved with 59% walking home compared to 56% last year
Double numbers using T. J. O’Reilly’s car park during 2004. Need to determine current usage.	At the end of the year 13% used TJ O’Reilly’s, but unfortunately we didn’t monitor this number at the start of the year so we can’t report on progress
Broadly reduce parked cars and number of traffic movements outside school.	Anecdotal evidence suggests there has been a decrease in parked cars around the school, although traffic movements appear to have increased. It is possible that the side gate allowing access to the ‘playing fields’ car park has had a positive effect on this factor.

Our targets for 2005 (as agreed by the working party) are:

1. Increase numbers of children getting to school by sustainable transport by 4 percentage points in 2005, to 80%.
2. Increase numbers of children getting home from school by sustainable transport by 1 percentage point in 2005, to 60%.
3. Increase numbers using T. J. O’Reilly’s car park during 2005 to 15%.

The table below summarises our progress & targets, although this year we are using the term \*‘sustainable transport’ instead of just ‘walking’.

	2002 actual	2003 actual	2004 actual	2005 target
<b>Modes of travel - %</b>				
Walk to school	71%	77%	76%	80%*
Walk from school	56%	57%	59%	60%*
TJ's	n/a	n/a	13%	15%

### 3. Monitoring

- **Written Survey**

We conducted a written survey in November 2004 by sending a 2-page questionnaire out to all parents. We had replies from just over half (51%). These showed that 76% of children walk to school, and 59% walk home. This compares to 77% and 56% respectively a year ago.

- **Traffic Count**

A traffic count took place in May 2004, which showed that we had the highest number of car movements since we started counting. This is an area we are addressing by increasing parental awareness of this issue, and we will do another count early in 2005 to assess our success. We will also do a repeat ‘background’ count in February half term to assess whether the non-school car movements have increased.

- **‘Hands-up’ Survey**

Each year we are asked by Safer Routes to School to carry out a ‘hands-up’ survey, when all the children in school on a particular date are asked whether they walked to school. This year it was carried out in October on a rather drizzly day. It showed that 66% of children did not arrive at school by car, with all but 1% walking (65%.) This was a surprisingly low result, but notably Year 1 had only 45% walking, which is also being considered as a target area. As this figures weren’t backed up by the written survey, we can only assume that the ‘hands-up’ survey was an anomaly this year.

- **‘go for gold’ monitoring**

In October 2004, the number of children who had their cards stamped one morning was counted. There were a total of 128. It was a cold, grey day, and it was estimated by the stampers that there would usually be about 150 in total.

### 4. Initiatives

- **‘go for gold’**

This initiative goes from strength to strength. We have an excellent team of volunteers to stamp each morning, comprising of 2 parents and 2 Year 6 pupils. We have introduced class charts for KS1, whereby each pair of classes in each year competes against each other to fill a chart with a sticker gained every time they finish a row. The leading class in each year was allowed to have a ‘mufti’ day on the last day of term as a reward for their hard work. To help encourage Year R, a presentation was made to all those who had finished their first card in May. Ponchos and ‘I walked in the rain’ stickers have been purchased to encourage walking on wet days.

- **Crocodile**  
The crocodile had a term of ‘hibernation’ in the middle of 2004, but is back up and running from the North and South end of the Valley. We struggle to get volunteers to run the initiative, although there are enough escorts. In general it seems that parents who want their children to walk to school are keen to walk with them. There is not a high demand for children to walk in the accompaniment of others. But the initiative continues and is a very high profile one – no-one can miss the crocodile as it makes its way to school!
- **Footsteps**  
All of Year 1 were given Footsteps training in the summer term. The plan is to repeat this for the new Year 1, and also consider how we can continue with the Footsteps training for the older children.
- **Parent Induction**  
All parents who attended the school visit with their 4-year olds in the summer term before they started reception were introduced to the School Travel Plan in a presentation by Rosie Brake. A special leaflet was prepared to remind them of the important points. Encouraging 76% of those incoming Year R children said they walked to school in the ‘hands-up’ survey.
- **Walk to School Weeks**  
Burford participated in the two Walk to School weeks in May and October. The winning class in May was 4CH with an average score of 8.58, and in October 4E won with 8.41 (10 representing the maximum score of every child walking to & from school). This is an important activity for reminding people that it’s good to walk to school, and this year we took this a step further by inviting the two local pre-schools to join in. We provided them with stickers, and reduced their ‘exclusion zone’, and all toddlers who walked the minimum distance were given a sticker as a reward. One of the main aims of this was to make parents think about walking to school before their pre-school children start at Burford.
- **Travel News**  
Burford School Travel News is produced 2 or 3 times a term, and sent to all parents, staff, Governors and partners. It is also sent to the local Safer Routes team, local press, and other relevant organizations.
- **Finance**  
Rewards for the initiatives are financed by donations from the Friends of Burford, but this year financing was also secured from Volvo (£300), and sponsorship from a local cycle shop ‘Saddle Safari’ (£100) to help our cycling initiatives. We have bid for some work to be done near the school, which would be funded by Bucks CC. Two bids have been submitted – one for the footpath opposite school to be re-surfaced, and the other for drop-curbs and white lines to be put on the corners of the two side-roads nearest school. Furthermore, as Burford submitted a travel plan which was assessed to be at ‘level 3’, we received over £5,000 from the Government to put towards capital expenditure over the next 3 years.
- **Cycling Awareness**  
Once again, Year 6 were invited to take part in their Cycling Awareness test. We were also invited to take part in a ‘Cycling Day’ at Great Marlow School, which proved to be a very successful trip for Year 5. The travel survey carried out in November shows a significant interest in ‘Biking Basics’ (nearly half of those who replied) and ‘Family Cycling’ (over a quarter.)

- **Car Share**  
A car share scheme was set up on 2004, co-ordinated by a parent who will act as a central point for any parents to find out about other like-minded parents. The response has been slow to start with, but it is nevertheless a useful initiative to help decrease the number of cars around the school gate.
- **Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO)**  
Burford has joined a new initiative involving Year 5/6 pupils. A couple of pupils have been selected to receive regular packs of information, which they can share with their peers.
- **Local police/parking deterrent**  
A nominated parent is making a note of cars parked particularly dangerously on corners near school. Initially they are either asked or a special flyer is left on their windscreen asking them not to park there in future. Their registration numbers may be passed to the local police to write a letter to the offenders.
- **Highways bid**  
We have been successful in getting approval from Bucks CC for two projects: one to re-surface the footpath opposite school, and the other to put drop-curbs and white lines around the corners of Kingsley Drive & Burford Close. The footpath is used by many pedestrians & the crocodile, but has become worn and dangerous, so is in urgent need to repair. The drop-curbs and white lines should help immensely prevent bad parking on corners which is a hazard to walking children.

## **5. Publicity**

Burford's travel plan continues to get good coverage from the Bucks Free Press. It is regularly featuring in the local 'community' section and we are now writing a regular entry in the local 'Valley News'. Some of our newsletters are put on the local Marlow Bottom Residents Association Website. This all shows how important these initiatives are for the wider community in Marlow Bottom. The school noticeboard located by the school gates (visible to parents and passers-by) regularly features notices about our activities. Inside the school there is a noticeboard dedicated to Travel Initiatives. The Governors annual report also includes a section on School Travel activities.

## **6. Areas to Address**

- **Volunteers**  
There is always the need to involve more volunteers. We particularly need some more parental involvement in the Crocodile and Cycling initiatives.
- **Cycling to School**  
We aim to continue with Cycling Awareness, start Biking Basics and maybe Family Cycling this year. We will then further consider cycling to school options.
- **CRB checking**  
This is a big issue for volunteers as it puts people off becoming involved. The initial check is difficult enough, but ongoing checks for those who aren't continuously involved is almost insurmountable.

## 7. Updated Action Plan

A full summary of all the activities being carried out, or planned for 2005, in relation to the School Travel Plan, are detailed below:

Key:

AB	Andrew Bowie	HSA	Home school agreement	RSJS	Robin StJohn Smith
RB	Rosie Brake	HB	Helen Bridgeman/ new 'go for gold' co-ordinator(s)	CA	Cycling Awareness
MN	Mary Nash	JL	Juliette Last	CL	Community Liaison
CC	Crocodile Co-ordinator (new person to be confirmed)	PA	Pauline Atkins	JB	Jo Barnes
BS	Barry Simms	PG	Peter Game	Resp	Responsibility of
TBD	To be determined	SK	Sam Kelly		

Nb: all dates are assumed to be 2005 unless otherwise indicated.

### *Actions relating to travel plan development:*

Action	For	Responsibility	Timescale
Agree reviewed travel plan incl. new action plan	Whole school community and partners	MN	January (done)
Annual Progress Review to maintain Level 3 status	Safer Routes to School	MN, AB	January (done)
Circulate travel plan annual review	Whole school community and partners	MN	January (done)
Review and develop plan for 2005	Travel plan working group	MN, AB	November
Written survey	Whole school community and partners	MN, AB	November
Hands-up survey	Whole school community and partners	AB, BS	October
Inclusion of School Travel in the School Development Plan	Whole school community and partners	AB, Governors	Next SDP (date TBC)

***BS 1 – To establish habits of sustainable travel among all members of the school community from the earliest possible age.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Resp</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Crocodile - general	Parents and children	CC	In place	To maintain current levels of participation	Nos. on register	April
Crocodile	Croc escorts	MN	Short term	To ensure a successful handover to new co-ordinator(s)	The croc continues running smoothly	Apr
Go for Gold - general	Parents and children	HB	In place	To maintain current levels of participation	Nos. on register	April
Go for Gold – new co-ordinator	Stampers	MN	July/Sept	To ensure a successful handover to new co-ordinator(s)	Gfg continues running smoothly in the Autumn	Nov
Go for Gold – Finishing first card	Year R	MN	May	Presentation to all Yr R who have finished their first card	Presentation completed	July
Go for Gold – class competition charts	Parents and children	HB, AB	In place	To increase use of gfg and therefore more walking to school	Monitor & acknowledge/ reward winners	Apr, July
Incentive supply and sponsorship	Local businesses	BS	On going	Regular sponsorship - Review Volvo	FoB accounts	Sep
Go for Gold shelter	Go for gold team, parents, FoB	AB	In place	Is suitable for everyone's needs	Check any feedback/ problems	Sep
Walk to School week	The whole school	AB, staff	Twice a year	Maintain current levels of participation	Nos. taking part	May, Oct
Parent car share	Parents	SK	In place	Increase usage	Nos. in car share	Sep
Staff car-share	Staff	AB	Medium term	Reduce no. of cars in car park by 1 per day	Nos. of cars in car park	Sep

***BS 2 – To create an awareness of the benefits of sustainable travel in terms of our responsibility to the environment and the local community, and in terms of the long-term health, safety and eventual independence of our children.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Resp</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Curriculum	Pupils	Curriculum committee, PSHE co-ordinator	Medium term	To explore curriculum possibilities in the various subject areas	Review of subject policies/frameworks	Sep
Themed assemblies	Pupils	AB	Termly	To raise the profile of travel achievements; to reinforce sustainable travel messages	Increased participation and awareness	April
Parental induction	Parents	RB	Annually	To introduce the travel plan and the value of walking	Increased participation and motivation	July
Footsteps training for Yr 1	Year 1 Pupils	JL	On going	To train all Year 1 children to Stage 1	Profile sheets	July
Footsteps training for Yr 2	Year 2 Pupils	JL	On going	To train all Year 2 children to Stage 2	Profile sheets	July
Moving on/Making Choices	Year 6 pupils and parents; Yr 6 teachers	AB/Yr 6 teaching staff	Annually	To be used in the summer term	Yr 6 pupils prepared for independent journeys	July

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Resp</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Cycling awareness	Pupils aged 10+	RSJS / BS	Annually	To train up to 30 children in Cycling Awareness and recruit sufficient tutors.	Increased confidence in cycling	July
Assess feasibility of cycling to school	Pupils and parents	Working party	Long term	Approach local Sustrans rep for advice and ideas	A cycle plan	Apr
Biking Basics	Pupils aged 6-9	RSJS/ BS	Short term	Run first course	Improve cycling skills and confidence	Apr & July
Family cycling	Pupils and parents	RSJS/ BS	Long term	Improve confidence of families to cycle – recruit CA tutors		Apr
Junior Road Safety Officer	Pupils	Yr 5/6 teachers	In place	Increased awareness amongst pupils	Activities of the JRSO's	July

***BS 3 – To reduce congestion outside the school and improve parking and driving habits around the school.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Resp</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Access lines & dropped curbs around Kingsley Drive & Burford Close	Drivers , walkers	Bucks C.C.	Short term	Create a space for children to cross at junctions	Fewer cars parked on corners	Apr Nb: APPROVED Jan
Drivers code of practice	Drivers	AB	In place – added to HSA	Improved parking and driving practice		Sep

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Resp</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Monitoring of parking	Drivers	JB	On going	Improved parking practice – space at junctions	Collection of numbers	Apr
After school club bus	After school club	AB	In place			
Reduce turning in junctions	Drivers	MN	Medium term	Generate ideas		Apr
Traffic counts/ parked car counts	Drivers	PG	2 – 3X per year	Monitor traffic movements/ parked cars	Figures from counting	Apr

***BS 4 – To create a built environment in and around school that supports pedestrians and cyclists.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Resp</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Spend the Government Grant	Pupils, Parents & community	MN, AB	Medium term	Money spent	Devolved capital funds	Apr
Install dropped kerb at SCP point	SCP	Bucks C.C.	Summer 2001	In place		
Renew zigzag lines	Pedestrians	SB		In place		
Maintain ‘keep off verges signs’ outside school	Pedestrians/ residents	Parish council /Bucks C.C.	Medium term	Verges respected	Visual survey	Sep
Improve condition of Beechtree footpath	Pedestrians / crocodile trail	Bucks C.C.	Short term	A safer surface	Feedback from paper survey	Apr Nb: Re-Surfacing APPROVED Jan
T.J. O’Reilly’s car park	Drivers	MN	In place	Increase numbers using it	‘Park and walk’ figures	Nov
Reduce dog mess	Pedestrians	District Council	On going	Cleaner pavements	Parental feedback	Nov

***BS 6 – To communicate our plans and actions effectively with our partners and the wider community.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Resp</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Burford travel news	School	MN	Ongoing	termly	School community is informed about school travel	Sep
Travel noticeboard	School	HB	Ongoing	Up to date information on school travel	Notice board is regularly refreshed	Apr
Burford Bulletin	Community	CL	Ongoing	Termly	Information on school travel is included	Sep
School Travel 'Notes'	Pupils & Community	MN	Ongoing	At least 2 per term	Key issues are publicized on the noticeboard	Nov

**8. Current Working Group Members**

Mary Nash	STP Co-ordinator
Andrew Bowie	Headmaster
Angela Mathieson	Deputy Head
Pattie Beresford	Chair of Governors
Rosie Brake	Governor (previously STP Co-ordinator)
Helen Bridgeman – to be replaced by Hilary Hunt & Lindsey Pyle by September 05	Go for gold co-ordinator
Robin St John Smith	Cycling Initiatives
Barry Simms	Patrol Crossing/LSA
Tania Baldwin-Paskin (North) & Zubeyda O'Leary (South)	Crocodile co-ordinators
Peter Game	Governor/District Council
Juliette Last	Footsteps co-ordinator
Sam Kelly	Governor/Car Share co-ordinator

## **9. Partners/Contacts/Circulation List**

- The Governing body
- School staff
- Friends of Burford – Phil Pimlott
- Bucks CC Safer Routes – Nicky Batkin, Carole Burslem
- Parish Council – Janet Pritchard
- District Councillors – Malcolm Blanksby, David Coe
- County Councillor – Bob Woollard
- Thames Valley Police – Traffic Management Unit in Amersham & Marlow Police Station
- Marlow Health Visitors
- Burford School Nurses
- Marlow Bottom Residents' Association
- TJ O'Reilly's
- Bucks Free Press - Mike Williams & Clare Kelly
- St. Mary's Church Wardens
- Parking monitoring – Jo Barnes
- St. Mary's & Marlow Bottom Pre-Schools – Hilary Harris & Sue Shaw
- Local toddler group
- Sustrans – Rhian Barnes
- DfT - Cathryn Evans
- Valley News – Chris Nelson
- Transport 2000 – Carey Newson
- Sponsors – Volvo & Saddle Safari

If you have any comments on the travel plan or want to find out more, please contact:

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