

# Burford School Travel Plan Annual Progress Report 2005

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

## 1. Summary

This year has again seen a consolidation of existing initiatives, but with an active working party, we have been able to target some new areas. The Travel Plan is so well established now at Burford, that it has become part of the culture and as such is reaping the longer-term rewards of more children walking to school or using sustainable transport.

We were honoured in 2005 to receive a Silver Award for travel planning – reflecting the fact that we've had a level 3 plan for 3 years. We also participated in Bucks CC's National Conference in October by giving a presentation on 'Sustaining Travel Plans'.

## 2. Targets & Progress

The targets agreed by the working party for 2005 were as follows, and the progress is monitored via the written survey.

Target	Progress
Increase numbers of children getting to school by sustainable transport by 4 percentage points in 2005, to 80%.	We were thrilled to find that 80% of children walk, and 84% get to school by sustainable transport.
Increase numbers of children getting home from school by sustainable transport by 1 percentage point in 2005, to 60%.	Again, we were delighted to find that 57% of children walk, and 64% use sustainable transport.
Increase numbers using T. J. O'Reilly's car park during 2005 to 15%.	14% use TJ's during the morning, 11% in the evening, but a further 9% park & walk from elsewhere in the morning, and 5% do so in the evening

The table below summarises our progress, although since 2004 we have been using the term 'sustainable transport' instead of just 'walking'.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 target
<b>Modes of travel - %</b>					
Walk to school	71%	77%	76%	84%	84%
Walk from school	56%	57%	59%	64%	64%
TJ's	n/a	n/a	13%	14%	15%

Our targets for 2006 are broadly to maintain current levels of participation, so are not increasing the figures except for use of TJ O'Reilly's (our park & walk location)

### 3. Monitoring

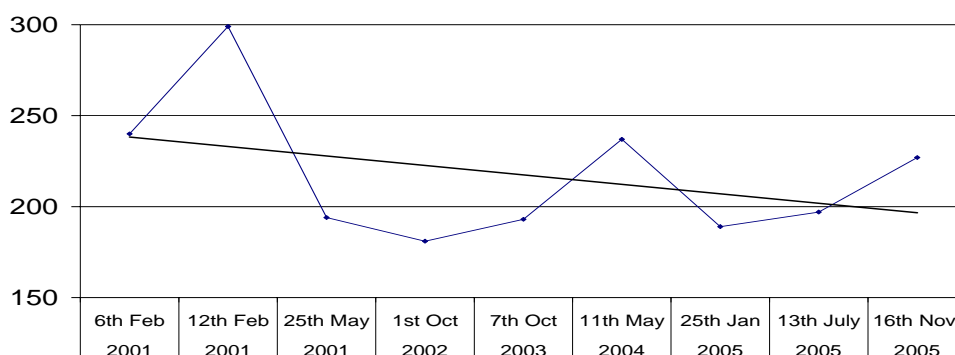
- **Written Survey**

We conducted a written survey in November 2005 by sending a 2-page questionnaire out to all parents. We had replies from just over half (56%). This represents a slightly higher number replying than last year (51%), but it is depressingly low given that there was the incentive of a £10 voucher from a local cycle shop for one family, and each teacher was asked to keep a list of returning forms to identify missing ones and re-request the missing forms. We also took the opportunity to ask questions about initiatives that we have done, and to ask what sort of things people would like to do. Thus the information gathered has formed a very important part of this annual review and plans for 2006.

- **Traffic Count**

As targeted, we carried out more traffic counts in 2005 – four altogether, one per term and a half term 'background' count.

These surveys show that the level of traffic is relatively static, but that numbers of cars are more than double on school days (around 200 between 8.15 & 8.45am) as opposed to holidays (84 during the same times.)



- **'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 again. We were asked to phrase the questions in a slightly different way this year, but yet again it was surprising that the numbers were lower than indicated by our written survey. The results indicate that 64% of children walked to school, whilst 69% came by walking or cycling or by car sharing (sustainable transport).

- **'go for gold' monitoring**

Last year we did a count one morning of the number of children receiving stamps. This year we looked at the number of children who were logged – something we do when rows 4, 8 and 12 are reached, or row 2 for the first card. The results were split per year and are very enlightening:

Reception	45
Year 1	42
Year 2	29

Year 3	18
Year 4	5
Year 5	5
Year 6	1
TOTAL	147

This clearly shows where 'go for gold' has the greatest impact.

#### 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 are still running 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 winning class of each term gets a certificate, and the winning class overall for the the year get a trophy. To help encourage Year R, a presentation was made to all those who had finished their first card in May. 'I walked in the rain' stickers have been purchased to encourage walking on wet days, although there have been surprisingly few mornings when these have been used.
- **Crocodile**  
The Crocodile ran from both the North and South end of the Valley until July, but since September it has only been running from the South. But it still runs 4 days a week and is high profile when it arrives up the school drive. The work involved in getting CRB checks always seems to cause delays and frustration.
- **Footsteps**  
All of Year 1 were given Footsteps training in the summer term again. This year, however, we are planning to continue training the same children now they're in Year 2, and gradually expand the training up the school. The biggest barrier is getting parent volunteers and the administration of sorting out CRB checks.
- **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 Mary Nash. A special leaflet was prepared to remind them of the important points. This is considered a very important initiative as it hopefully encourages parents to start school with good habits.
- **Walk to School Weeks**  
Burford participated in the two Walk to School weeks again, in May and October. In October, 83% of children walked to and from school, with 94% of the winning class in Year 5 walking.  
In 2006 we will add a Walk to School Week in January – called New Year's Resolution – in response to request in the written survey to run more incentives.
- **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. Money was still available from Saddle Safari and Volvo donations

from 2004.

We used the Government's capital grant mainly for re-paving the path up the school drive, and the rest is approved for expenditure for better lighting along this path (also partially financed by a Bucks CC bid.)

We were also successful in having bids approved for the footpath opposite school to be re-surfaced, and for drop-curbs and white lines to be put on the corners of the two side-roads nearest school.

In the written survey, 71%, 85% and 96% respectively said that they felt their journey to school has been improved or made safer by the three improvements: drop curbs/white lines at Kingsley Drive/Burford Close; the re-surfacing of the footpath; and the re-surfacing of the path along the school drive.

- **Cycling Training**

Once again, Year 6 were invited to take part in their Cycling Awareness test. The numbers were slightly lower than previous years, but 24 children attended the training and 22 completed it.

We also ran Biking Basics for the first time this year, which proved to be very popular. 30 children attended the training, with 22 finishing it.

We did consider Family Cycling, but did not have enough resources to organize that in addition to the other two training courses we ran.

- **Car Share**

The car share scheme still runs, but is not heavily used. The written survey identified that 5% and 7% car share to and from school respectively.

- **Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO)**

The JRSO's have become very active within the school. When they receive their packs they share the information in assembly, and they are being asked to contribute to the Travel News in 2006.

- **Local police/parking deterrent**

Since the drop curbs and white lines were installed, the instances of dangerous parking around the corners of local side roads has greatly reduced, but there are still parents who make a note of any badly parked cars and report the numbers to the local police.

- **Highways bid**

The projects for which we were successful in bidding were all carried out: one to re-surface the footpath opposite school; one to put drop-curbs and white lines around the corners of Kingsley Drive & Burford Close; and another to re-surface the footpath along the school drive.

## **5. Publicity**

Regular sources of publicity/communication are:

- The Travel News, which is issued at least once every half term, and goes to parents and everybody on the circulation list.
- Bucks Free Press – the local newspaper, which covers STP initiatives regularly in the local 'community' section, and also did an article on our Enormous Crocodile in May.
- The local Marlow Bottom Residents Association Website has some of our articles
- The 'Valley News', the local newsletter, usually has at least one article written by us.

- 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.
- The 'Burford Bulletin', which goes to all local residents, should have an article from us in every issue from now on.
- The Governors Community Liaison committee will liaise with us more now that one of the STP Working Party is on that committee.

## **6. Areas to Address**

- **Involving the local community**  
We would like to do more to involve the local community as a lot of what we're trying to do affects them. We will try and get a/some local resident(s) on our working party, and as we have closer ties with the Governors Community Liaison committee, we hope to have some success through that route.
- **Working with the Community Police**  
We have been successful in getting a police presence during our recent 'Enormous Crocodiles'. We hope to get more involvement from the local police, for example to target bad driving and parking around the school gates.
- **Cycling to School**  
Cycling to school is the biggest area that we are trying to address, but we recognize that it will take a long time – probably years – to create an environment that will stimulate cycling to school. This year we will try to participate in Bike Week, and will look at other initiatives that might be relevant, e.g. 'Bike It'.
- **Working closer with the teachers and the Curriculum**  
The PSHE co-ordinator will now get copies of all our STP communications, and we are trying to get closer links between the initiatives we are running and what the children do in school. We are also considering how travel planning can fit in with the Healthy Schools initiative which Burford is working on.
- **Volunteers – still!**  
There is always the need to involve more volunteers. After the travel survey we sent a letter out saying 'you have said you want to see things happening around the school – could you offer an hour or so to do one thing...' and gave a list of specifics. We had 6 replies, 1 of which was unfortunately not positive. Getting volunteers continues to be our biggest challenge.
- **CRB checking – still!**  
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 2006, in relation to the School Travel Plan, are detailed below:

Nb: all dates are assumed to be 2006 unless otherwise indicated.

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

<b>Action</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Agree reviewed travel plan incl. new action plan	Whole school community and partners	Mary Nash	January (done)
Annual Progress Review to maintain Level 3 status	Safer Routes to School	Mary Nash	January (done)
Circulate travel plan annual review	Whole school community and partners	Mary Nash	January
Review and develop plan for 2005	Travel plan working group	Mary Nash	November
Written survey	Whole school community and partners	Mary Nash	November
Hands-up survey	Whole school community and partners	Barry Simms	October
Inclusion of School Travel in the School Development Plan	Whole school community and partners	Andrew Bowie	Next SDP (date TBC)
Regular review of action plan	Travel plan working group	Mary Nash	At least once per term

See separate document for full action plan

## 8. Current Working Group Members

Mary Nash	STP Co-ordinator
Andrew Bowie	Headmaster
Angela Mathieson	Deputy Head
Pattie Beresford	Chair of Governors
Rosie Brake	Ex STP Co-ordinator/General member
Hilary Hunt	Go for gold co-ordinator
Robin St John Smith	Cycling Initiatives
Barry Simms	Patrol Crossing/LSA
Helen North	Crocodile co-ordinators
Peter Game	Governor/District Council
Angela Batten	Footsteps co-ordinator

Sam Kelly	Governor/Car Share co-ordinator
Debs Krolikowski	Governor/General member
Brid Hayward	Parent/General member

### 9. Partners/Contacts/Circulation List

- The Governing body
- School staff
- JRSO's (Laura Parsons, Jack Prior)
- PSHE Co-ordinator – Wendy Crawford
- Community Liaison Chairperson – Pauline Atkins
- Friends of Burford – Phil Pimlott
- Bucks CC Safer Routes – Nicky Batkin, Mark Oldfield, Liz Smith, Heather Garrett, Jane Woods, Carole Burslem
- Parish Council – Janet Pritchard
- District Councillors – Malcolm Blanksby
- County Councillor – Bob Woollard
- Thames Valley Police – Traffic Management Unit in Amersham & Marlow Police Station
- Marlow Community Police Officer – Adam Shaw
- Marlow Health Visitors
- Burford School Nurses
- Marlow Bottom Residents' Association
- TJ O'Reilly's
- Bucks Free Press - Nick Malony, Mike Williams & Clare Kelly
- St. Mary's Church Wardens
- 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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 Bucks  
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