

# MANOR JUNIOR and INFANT SCHOOLS' SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN 2008

Questionnaires: January 2008

Written: March 2008

Review: Spring 2011

## Preface

The **Governors'** of Manor Junior and Infant School are delighted to endorse the reviewed travel plan for our site. The plan has been devised to not only address the most important concerns of pupil safety and security but equally address the concerns of local residents and neighbours within the local community.

The pupils of both schools have been actively involved in the creation of these plans and have welcomed the opportunities to voice their concerns and identify possible solutions to the arising issues. Through assemblies, workshops, questionnaires and student council meetings they have positively voiced their recommendations to these plans and offered simple clarity and much insight into how we can further develop the site and provide safe access to the site for themselves and future generations. Their views and ideas have considerably shaped the outcomes of this plan.

Parents, staff and Governors of the schools have also had valuable input into the travel plan and have once again shown great enthusiasm and support throughout.

With this reviewed travel plan now in place, we aim to continue tackling the identified problems of congestion, overcrowding and inappropriate parking, excessive traffic speed and difficulty in crossing the main busy roads on the most frequently used routes to school. Further changes to vehicular access on site and improved structures to enhance accessibility within and around the school site will hopefully encourage pupils and users to feel safer and more secure. Ultimately we hope more of our children will feel able to use alternative methods of travelling to and from school, such as walking or cycling.

Thank you to all the children, parents, staff, Governors and local residents who have shaped and supported this initiative.



## **Introduction**

For numerous reasons many children are still being driven to school and this continues to have serious impact on the road congestion around our schools. This congestion reduces road safety for our pedestrians and cyclists, increases pollution and adds to everyone's journey times.

This travel plan supersedes our previous plan and seeks to reduce the number of car trips made by parents and staff, improve safety on the journey to school and improve fitness through increased levels of walking and cycling. This plan supports our work on citizenship within and beyond the curriculum, as well as helping to address government initiatives on reducing obesity, raising pupils physical health and well-being. As 'healthy' and 'active' schools committed to improving community awareness, school facilities and the local environment we hope this plan continues to address community concerns and significantly reduces car congestion in the local vicinity.

## **Our Schools**

Manor Junior and Infant School have around 500 pupils, many of whom come from within the local catchment area but there are some that come from slightly further afield. Due to the location of the school site, and the nature of the road network around it, a large number of parents drive their children to the schools.

We are also situated off a main road that provides access between Farnborough and Blackwater. The road also offers the main feeder routes into local estates which can often add to the traffic congestion.

## **Achievements as a result of the previous plan**

The following actions identified within the previous travel plan have been achieved:

- ✓ Reduction in car uses to and from the site by approximately 10%
- ✓ Introduction of cycling and pedestrian proficiency schemes
- ✓ Improvement and enlargement of the existing cycle storage
- ✓ Restriction of vehicular access to the school sites through a new electronic gate
- ✓ Secure fencing along the front and back of the of the site
- ✓ New playground surface at front of school enabling better access for pedestrians
- ✓ Development of a walking club
- ✓ Participation in national and local walking initiatives



## Current Problems and Concerns Identified

As well as work undertaken by working parties established within and across both schools all pupils and parents were consulted on issues relating to the site development and safe routes/journeys to school. All Junior pupils voiced their concerns through the student council and the pupil questionnaire. 250 questionnaires were returned by the parents (representing over 53% of the Junior parents and 47% of the Infant parents). This is a fantastic result particularly when you consider that many of the responses came from parents with more than one child attending either the Infant or the Junior school; we estimate that these results represent around 75% of families.

35% of parents and 20% of pupils felt that their routes to the school were unsafe. The key problems identified by the pupils and parents were:

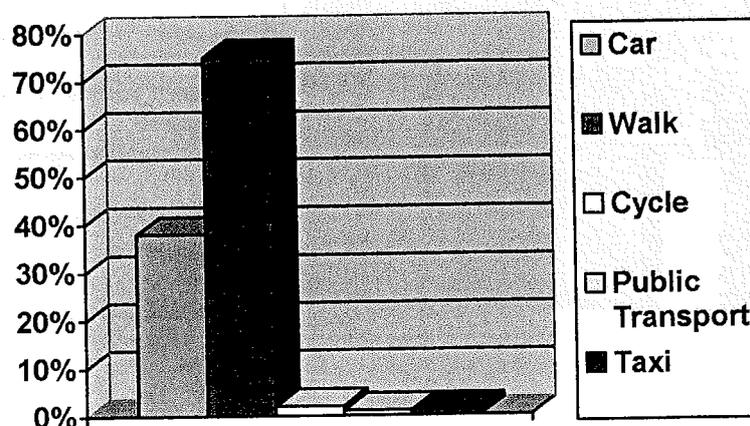
- Safe drop off areas (46%)
- Main roads to cross and contemplate (30% of parents)
- Crossing water (12% of parents)
- Car congestion on and around the school site (30% of parents).

Primarily these dangers included:

- Parked cars around the school site and entrances
- Lack of parking space
- Lack of complete pedestrian pathways throughout the site and linking schools (30%)
- Vehicular use of roads on site (6%)
- Lack of safe cycle routes along Fernhill Road and within school site (16%)
- Dog fouling on key pedestrian access routes (2%)

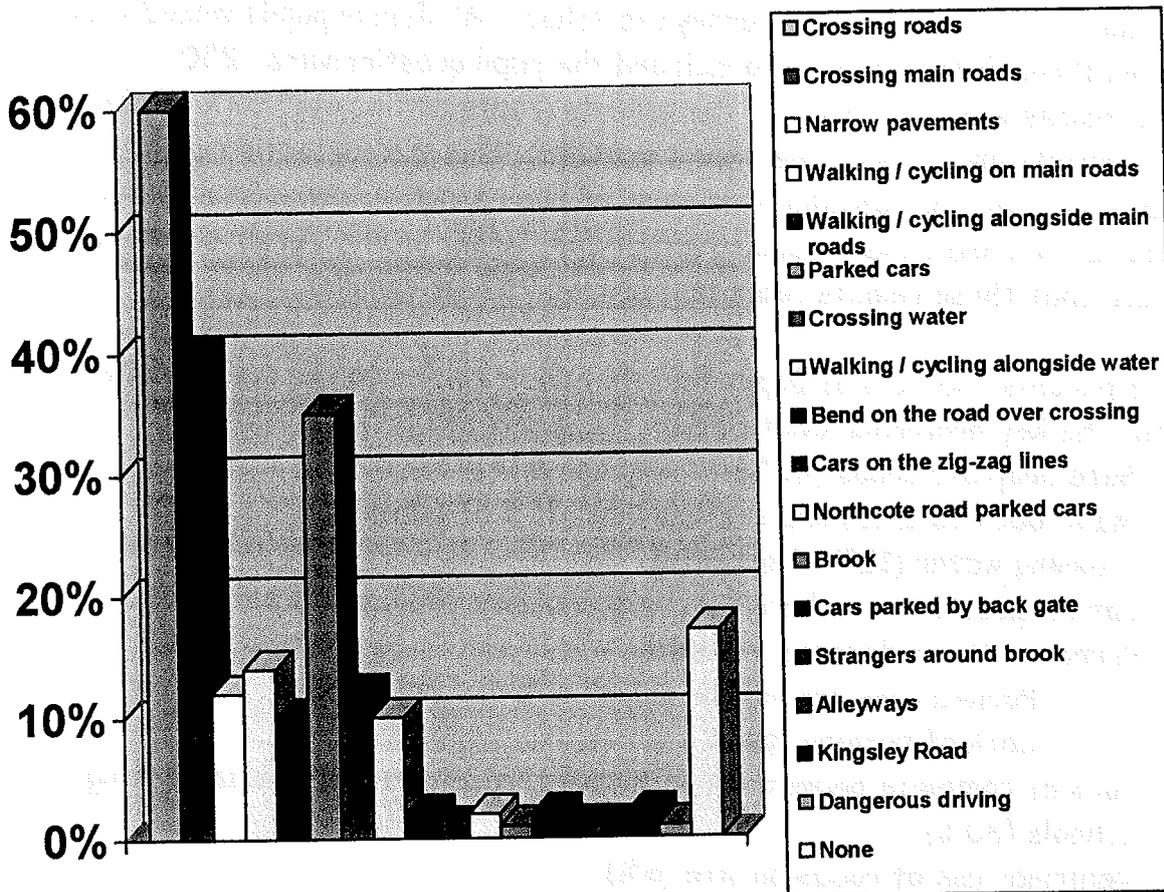
## Results and Surveys

Pupil modes of transport to and from school:

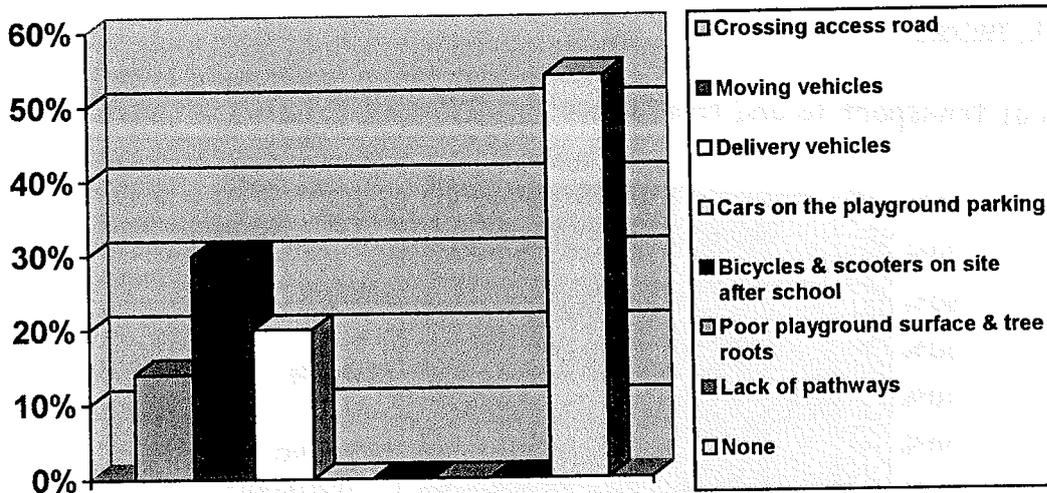


# Factors affecting pupils walking/cycling to school:

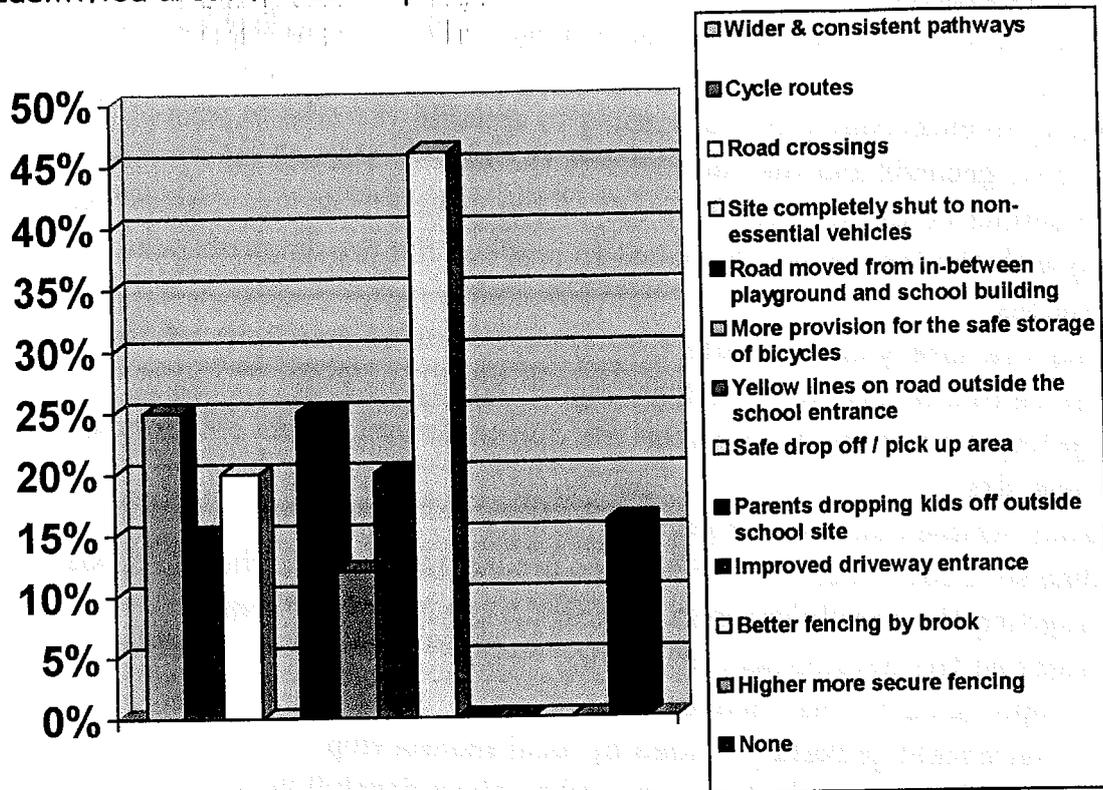
## a) Off site factors



## b) On-site factors



## Identified areas for development:



## Key issues identified from consultations:

- Pathways across site
- Yellow lines around site access points
- Safe drop of areas
- Improved road crossings

An overwhelming response (77%) of parents stated that they would not choose public transport as a means of pupil transport even if improvements were made.



## Our Ideas and Proposals

To improve the routes to school, encourage walking, cycling and reduce car use by:

- Continuing to encourage parents needing to drive to the site to park in the Snow Goose grounds and the car parks at the rear of the school
- Adding double yellow lines to the front of the school to reduce congestion
- Liaising with the local borough council to improve the provision of local cycle routes
- Ensuring site safety and promote easy pedestrian access in light of the children centre facility (on site from March 2008)
- Highlighting safe pathways between the Junior/Infant school and around the whole site
- Improved disabled access and parking facilities
- Providing safe path security and lighting around the Junior school grounds
- Investigating the possibility and encourage a car sharing scheme
- Investigating the development of walking buses
  - Signs made by the children
  - Fluorescent jackets provided by local sponsorship
- Improving safety for pedestrians travelling along Fernhill Road
- Ensuring further repairs to the schools' car park drainage system to prevent puddles
- Improving maintenance of trees and bushes and encourage use of footpaths around the schools
- Investigating the possible introduction of an external drop off/pick up point at Mason Road

To raise awareness the schools will:

- Liaise with local organisations and Rushmoor Borough Council to maximise opportunities for improvement
- Include a regular School Travel Plan feature in school newsletters and on the website to keep parents informed and to raise road safety awareness
- Road safety and sustainable transport lifestyle issues to be included in the curriculum where possible
- Continue working with all stakeholders and to seek opinions, concerns and ideas from all parties as developments progress

We realise that many of these ideas can only be progressed with the help and co-operation of Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.



## Targets and Monitoring

This travel plan represents the continuation of site development plans. It demonstrates the commitment already made by the Headteachers, Governors, staff, pupils and school working parties in making the actions succeed. However, for continued success, parents and pupils must support the plan to result in fewer children being driven to Manor Infant and Junior Schools.

Manor Infant and Junior Schools, together with staff and pupils, have an ongoing commitment to:

- Promote the advantages of walking and cycling
- Develop and monitor the project on an annual basis
- Continue to work with Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to allow the solutions identified in this plan to become reality
- Consider further measures to meet the requirements of the pupils and parents

It is important that a school travel plan sets targets and a means of monitoring success. Following the successful implementation of a pedestrian crossing outside the school on Fernhill Road, and through the implementation of our proposed improvements, we aim to raise the number of pupils walking and cycling to the schools from the current indicative figure of 75% to 80% by 2012.

The combined measures suggested in this plan will enable these targets to be pursued.

As part of our commitment to safe routes to school, questionnaires, monitoring the progress of our school travel plan, will be undertaken annually. Results will be shared with all stakeholders, the local community and Rushmoor Borough Council representatives.

### Proposed initial actions

- Implement double yellow lines around area
- Improve accessibility on site for pedestrians and cyclists
- Road improvements to key access roads
- Investigate a safe drop off/pick up area



