

# Summer Newsletter from the Advisors



## Welcome to North Somerset Council Travel Plan Advisors' 8th newsletter 'STAN'

In this edition we are;

- Celebrating our final submission of school travel plans to DfE and achieving 100% of schools with travel plans
- Celebrating North Somerset's 3rd annual Big WoW event held during 'Walk-to-School' week in May
- Highlighting recent safe routes to school and school site specific improvements
- Keeping up-to-date with the latest School Travel Health Check (STHC) and the school census travel data
- Reviewing North Somerset Sustainable Mode of Travel to School strategy (SMOTS)
- Focusing on the Viewfinder Portal and the schools pilot scheme

## School Travel Plan Update

Well done! Our final **6 schools and remaining 3 short stay schools** successfully submitted their **School Travel Plans** to DfT/DfE in March this year.

We are delighted that all North Somerset schools, including all 5 independent schools now have active travel plans.

Your hard work means that we have met the government's target for ALL schools including independent schools to have a travel plan in place by 2010.

Read more about our success in the travel plan update item inside ...

# Celebrating North Somerset's 3rd Big WoW event

Children from around 33 primary schools across North Somerset took part in the green travel campaign during national Walk to School Week in May.

As well as walking, schools encouraged all kinds of green travel, including cycling and scooting.

During the week many schools organised special activities and events;

**Christchurch Primary** in Weston-super-Mare set a challenge to 'Walk 500 miles' and together they achieved an amazing 1016 miles! A mystery mascot led a walk around their playground and set the challenge for children and their families to walk/scoot/cycle as many miles as they can throughout the week.

**Uphill Primary** aimed to get all of their children using green travel by using a passport scheme throughout the week and inviting everyone to walk to school from the beach on Wednesday morning.



Christchurch Primary School Weston-super-Mare celebrating walking 1016 miles during national Walk-to-School Week



Locking School's Park & Stride Scheme on Old Banwell Road official opening event in May 2010

**Banwell Primary** ran their regular "Wheels on Wednesday" and **St George's Primary, Hillside First** and **Becket Primary** in Worle, along with **Mary Elton Primary** in Clevedon all organised walking buses during the week.

**15 schools were awarded certificates** to recognize the percentage of pupils using green travel in the week. **St Peter's Primary** Portishead increased their number of pupils using green travel from 89% to 97% – well done!

Green Travel Awards were presented to **Hillside First School, Kingshill Primary** and **Uphill Primary** for gaining 100% of pupils using green travel during the week and their continued commitment to Walk to School Week.



Banwell Primary School's 'Wheels on Wednesday' event

## STHC report analysis and mapping – July 2010

**"Promoting sustainable travel choices"**

The latest North Somerset School Travel Health Check (STHC) reports for 2010 will be distributed during September at the beginning of the new academic year. Look out for your school's report and mapping which builds on previous year's reporting and uses **red amber green** (rag) ratings for the analysis.

The STHC report also references calories burned by walking and cycling as well as CO2 emitted by school journeys, thus providing a valuable link to both healthy and sustainable school policies.

## Highlighting safe routes to school; Local Transport Plan funded improvement schemes

Schools which continue to work closely with the local authority and regularly review their travel plans can be considered for inclusion in our new works programme which is funded by the Local Transport Plan.

During the last year a number of improvement schemes have been completed including;

- Backwell Junior School; Dark Lane Church Lane junction and 20mph initiative.
- Wrington Primary School; safer rear entrance gate and minibus parking.
- Crockerne Primary School; new cycle stands.



Tickenham Primary School park and stride scheme; improved Clevedon Road footpath leading to the Garden Centre



Ashcombe Primary School Weston-super-Mare; additional cycle stands and driveway improvements



Backwell Junior School's 20mph initiative



Trinity Primary School Portishead; new link footpath from the Vale to the Village Quarter



Banwell Primary School Littlefields resurfaced footpath

### School Travel Health Checks and keeping up-to-date with the latest school census travel data

Since 2007 the collection of mode of travel data through the School Census has replaced the traditional 'hands-up' travel surveys.

North Somerset, along with 11 other south west local authorities (22 countrywide including London) is also providing annual School Travel Health Check (STHC) reports

which highlight journey miles, mode of travel and calories burned on the school trip.

- Schools now have individual analysis reports and mapping which illustrate journeys from home to school.
- The travel data also enables school travel advisors and transport planners to identify infrastructure improvements to provide better support for pupils travelling to schools.

Celebrating School Travel

Travel Plan submissions March 2010

We are delighted to be able to acknowledge the work and achievements of all schools in their promotion of sustainable travel. This year we anticipate holding our annual travel awards during November when we will celebrate a variety of achievements with certificates, trophies and plaques.

100% all school travel plan achievement

Our final submission of new school travel plans receiving official DfT recognition was made in July – congratulations to these 9 establishments!

School Travel Plan Certificates March 2010

- Trinity Primary School Portishead
- Ashbrooke House School Weston-super-Mare
- Fairfield School Backwell
- Lancaster House School Weston-super-Mare
- Sidcot School Winscombe
- The Downs School Wraxall
- Rathbone Centre Weston-super-Mare
- SAIL SSS Weston College
- The Larch Centre Weston-super-Mare

Travel Target Award Scheme

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards

Travel Awards

If your travel plan is 12 months old why not consider the challenge of achieving a higher award? The aim of the Travel Target Award Scheme is to continue the impetus of the school travel initiative through regular reviews of established DfT standard travel plans.

School Travel Awards has four levels of achievement;

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum

Each level of achievement is celebrated by awarding a certificate and plaque after satisfying an evidence assessment.

The Target Award Scheme;

- recognises and rewards schools who have developed and maintained a Travel Plan
- encourages schools to continue to extend and develop their Travel Plan
- rewards schools which have implemented the actions over a sustained period of time



Travel target award plaques presentations to Hillside First School and Northleaze Primary School

'School Champions Awards 2010'

Is someone always working to promote healthy and active travel in your school – why not nominate them for the

North Somerset School Champions Award?

Please contact your school travel advisor by the end of September

Tel: 01934 426 240 or 426 404

# VIEWFINDER

## Taking travel planning into the classroom

The North Somerset Viewfinder pilot scheme was successfully launched in March 2010 with the co-operation of 15 local schools.

Viewfinder is a web based resource which enables schools to integrate health, travel and environmental topics into the curriculum and is endorsed by many local authorities especially in the south west.

As an interactive mapping tool Viewfinder helps to raise awareness of sustainable travel choices in the classroom. The Viewfinder scheme allows registered schools to operate their dedicated accounts enabling staff, children and students to access a range of travel related online functions and tools.

- Schools can undertake individual and group travel surveys and enables children and students to plot journeys using online maps.
- Viewfinder also includes templates and tools which makes the writing and review of school travel plans much easier.

Pilot schools also have free access to the North Somerset ViewFinder portal which provides a wide range of travel related information and resources;

- Individual school mapping and mode of travel reports
- Sustainable schools and low carbon travel information
- School travel plan documents and summaries
- Cycling and walking information.

[www.viewfinder.infomapper.com/nsomerset](http://www.viewfinder.infomapper.com/nsomerset)



### Viewfinder Pilot Schools

- Ashcombe Primary, Weston-super-Mare
- Court de Wyck Primary, Claverham
- Dundry Primary
- Golden Valley Primary, Nailsea
- Highdown Junior, Portishead
- Hillside First, Worle
- Kingshill Primary, Nailsea
- Mendip Green First, Worle
- Northleaze Primary, Long Ashton
- St Francis RC Primary, Nailsea
- St Peters Primary, Portishead
- Wrington Primary
- Churchill Community and Sixth Form Centre
- Priory Community School, Worle
- St Katherine's Community School, Pill.

### Schools Travel Census data – review January 2010

Encouraging news – this year's travel data shows an increasing number of children are now walking and cycling to school;

51% Walking (48.5% 2009) 3.2% cycling (3.1% 2009)

Overall across the district there is a smaller number of children (26.8%) travelling to school by the car with 4.3% car sharing the journey.

For other travel modes 13% of children travel by bus, 0.6% by taxi and 0.4% travel by train.

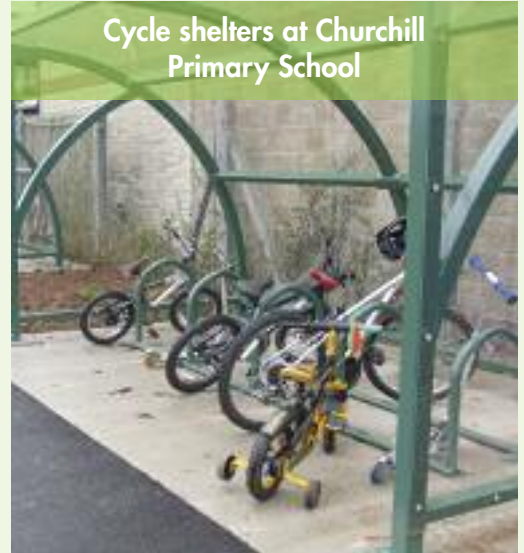
## Cycling Promotions

Shelters, storage, paths and Bikeability training

Cycling improvement schemes completed during the last twelve months include;

- Cycle path at Windwhistle Lane Weston-super-Mare part of NCN route 33
- Cycle storage stands at Crockerne Primary School Pill
- Cycle shelters at Churchill Primary School
- Cycle shelter at Walliscote Primary School Weston-super-Mare

Cycle shelters at Churchill Primary School



## Cycle training update



Ashcombe Primary School Weston-super-Mare undertaking cycling tuition during June

### Pilot

A pilot training scheme involving 600 Year 6 children at 16 primary schools across the district has been funded by the Road Safety Grant, with the view to establishing a permanent scheme in the near future.

### Full scheme

A proposal for Bikeability training in North Somerset schools is currently being written with the intention to deliver a rolling programme of national standards cycle training into schools during 2011–12.

## ROAD SAFETY improvements

### School 20mph Advisory Limits

A scheme to introduce advisory 20mph illuminated signs at existing sites close to suitable school entrances across North Somerset is now taking place.

Look out for the yellow advisory signs and flashing lights at school travel times.





# Cycle Training Scheme

## Go-Ride training at Wyvern School Weston-super-Mare

North Somerset's Go-Ride cycle training is provided through Sole-Events and is a fun and structured way of learning to become confident in cycling. Go-Ride is skills based riding with some additional activities. The new Bikeability national cycling standard training is also available through Sole-Events.

Go-Ride training has now been successfully running in North Somerset schools throughout the summer term.

### Interested in starting Go-Ride training at your school?

- Minimum of 15 children charged £2.00 per session with North Somerset Council underwriting the cost of the training.
- With 20 youngsters the training is self supporting.
- After schools clubs are ideal for primary age children in Years 5 and 6.
- Secondary aged children can use cycling as part of their GCSE curriculum.

Please contact Marc Malloy at Sole-Events who will advise on setting up training sessions with qualified coaches during September.

Sole-Events can supply bikes and helmets if needed, or children may use their own bikes. (After school club riders must bring their own bikes and helmets).

Tel: **01934 425 510** or by e-mail **marc@sole-events.co.uk** or visit **www.sole-events.co.uk**



Go-Ride training at Wyvern School Weston-super-Mare

# The North Somerset Sustainable Mode of Travel Strategy (SMOTS)

We are currently undertaking a review of the local authority's Sustainable Mode of Travel to Schools strategy\* which was originally published in 2008 and reviewed during 2009.

There are four main elements to the duty;

- An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children
- An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure.
- The active promotion of sustainable travel and transport on the journey to/from and between schools and other institutions.
- The SMOTS strategy which includes travel to school maps highlighting travel and access to schools within each locality.

[\*The Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.]

## Sustainable Mode of Travel – school maps

All North Somerset schools have had their own travel to school maps since 2008 which highlight local footpaths, safe routes and public transport access.



Each map can be viewed through school websites and also at North Somerset Council website.



The annual school travel plan review includes an opportunity to update these individual maps.

## Dates for your diary and Forthcoming school travel related events

- **13-24 September Viewfinder familiarity workshops**
- **October International Walk-to-School Month**
- **Bikeability Training at pilot schools until March 2011**

Do be encouraged to contact other local professionals for general information as well as more specific resources and guidance.

### Points of contact:

- Road Safety Officer: **01934 426 910**
- Road Safety Child Pedestrian Trainer: **01934 426 629**
- Healthy Schools/Healthy Schools Plus: **01275 546 739**
- Sustainability Co-ordinator: **01934 426 905**
- Waste Education Officer: **01934 888 802**
- Sustainable Travel Team: **01934 426 240/426 404**

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