



Bathampton Primary Safer Routes to School Travel Survey Results

June 2016

18/07/2016

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Context

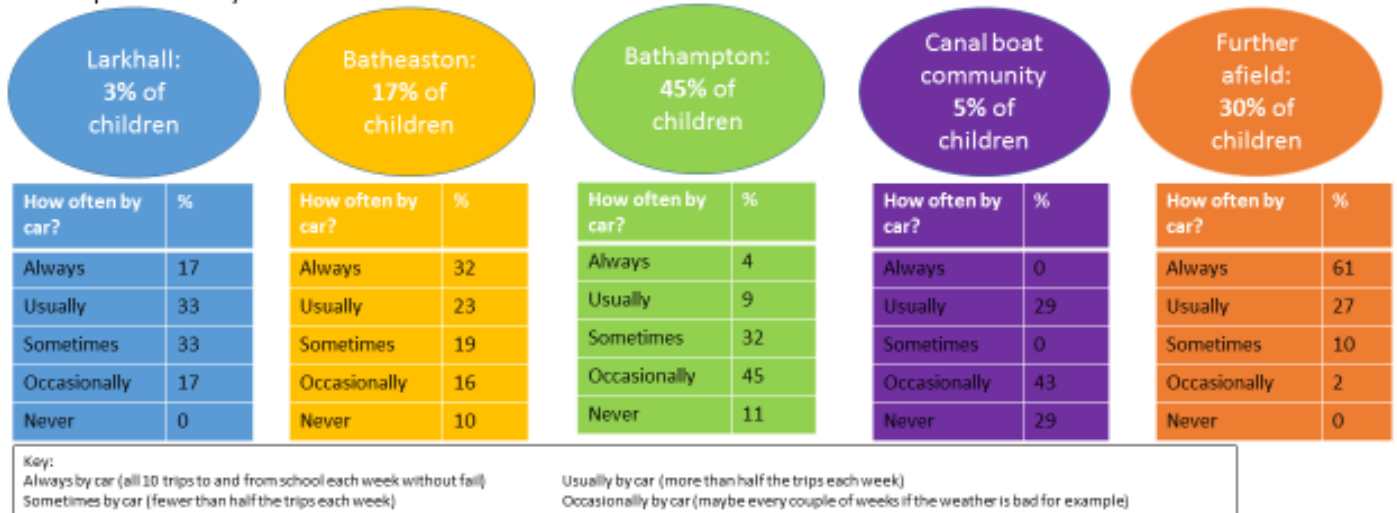
- The Safe Routes to School team at Bathampton Primary re-started in Term 3 2015/16
- In order to update our knowledge as to how pupils travel to school we conducted the following in June 2016:
 - A class-by-class show of hands updating us as to where pupils live and how they get to school (data formerly captured by the SRTS team at BaNES)
 - A parent survey, which has had 86 responses so far (from a community of 156 families and representing 130 children)
- The purpose of this pack is to play back these survey results to the school community

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Summary of results

- From the class-by-class show of hands we see a broad catchment at the school:
 - 45% live in Bathampton, 17% in Batheaston, 5% are from the canal boat community, 3% Larkhall and 30% from further afield
- As might be expected, those that live further afield usually come to school by car and those living close by more often than not travel actively. For those in the 0.5 - 1 mile group there is a greater spread of ways to travel.



Summary of results continued

- But it isn't as simple as proximity meaning families travel to school actively
 - 85% of parents said that their preferred mode of school transport was on foot/by bike. This was made up of 66% of those over 1 mile, 96% of those 0.5-1 mile and 97% under 0.5 miles. They told us that if we invested in safety improvements then 28% of current car journeys (136 of the 480 in the survey) would be converted to active travel (without us encouraging this switch through any SRTS activities).
 - 72 families responding to the survey (82%) told us that the roads around the school are dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. This was made up of 75% of respondents over 1 mile, 96% 0.5-1 miles and 76% under 0.5 miles
 - The middle distance group (0.5-1 mile group) are likely to encounter either the toll bridge approach and national speed limit Mill Lane from Batheaston or the 30mph A36 in Bathampton where traffic rarely obeys the speed limit, as well as other danger points, such the crossing between Devonshire Rd and Down Lane. It is this group that had the highest instances of parents flagging danger as a consideration as to why they drive (10%) and a group for whom it would be great to unlock the safe choice of walking/cycling to school.
 - Travelling on to work or to another destination by car accounts for up to two thirds of the reasons given as to why families use the car for school. For those that live further away it is actually a lower percentage (35%) with 'its too far to walk' at 29%.
 - One of the things for the SRTS to consider is independent travel for those old enough, as it would be great to enable children to travel actively to school, even if their parents are working. This would require investment in safety measures

Summary of results continued

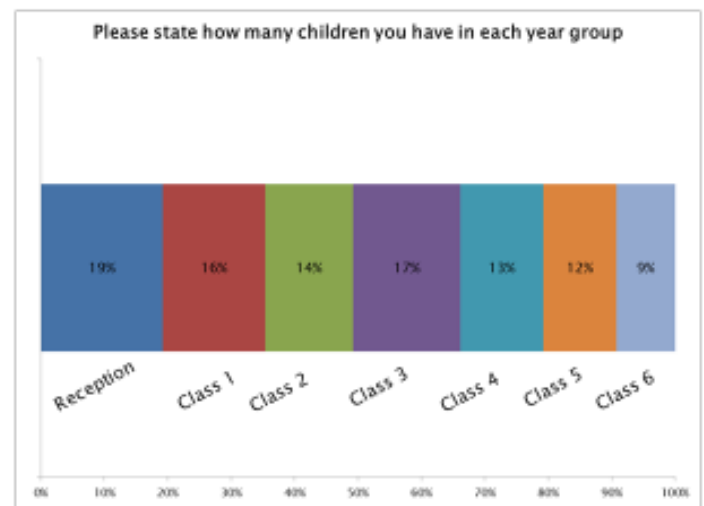
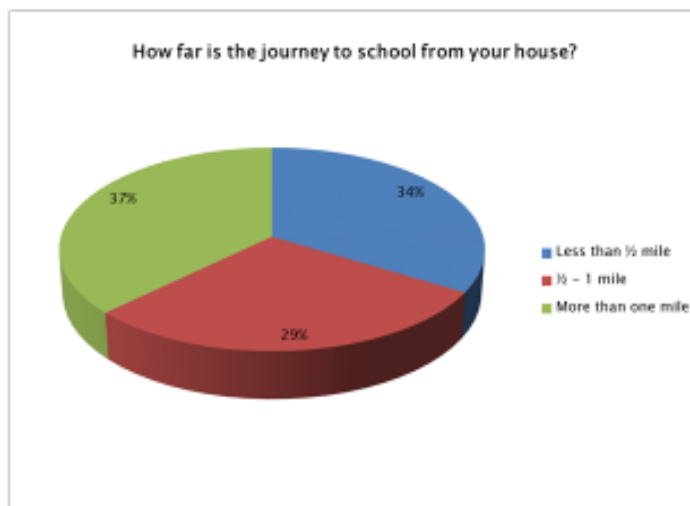
- We have three areas of safe travel to school we are focused on as the SRTS group:
 1. Safe passage from the George Car Park
 2. Safer passage for those already walking or cycling to school
 3. Safety improvements to unlock/encourage even more active travel
- Parents gave us clear feedback as to the safety improvements they would like to see on their routes to school.
 - By number of votes, the top three priorities are:
 1. Safety on the canal bridge
 2. Crossing from the George
 3. Safety in front of school
 - By 'priority 1' votes, the top three locations are:
 1. Safety on the canal bridge
 2. Crossing from the George
 3. Safety on Mill Lane and the A36
 - The canal bridge was the clear priority for those living up to a mile away, while crossing from the George was the priority for those over 1 mile away, with the canal bridge second.
- Since we have conducted this survey, we have met with Banes Group Highways Manager, Kelvin Packer, as well as Ward and Parish Councillors. With the support of these individuals in the next few months, SRTS will be pulling together a proposal for investment along our routes to school for the next Banes budget round, as Kelvin has explained that this is far more effective than just fixing one bit of the journey.

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Parent survey results - spread of respondents

86 responses so far (from a community of 156 families and representing 130 children)



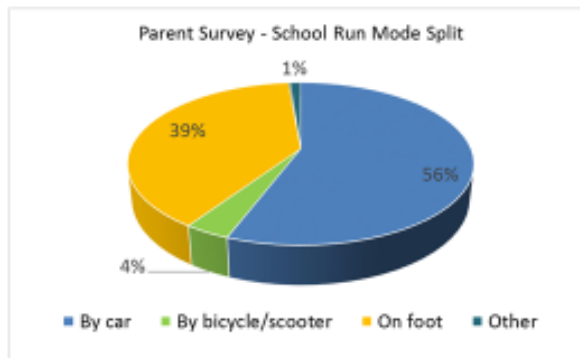
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Source: Bathampton Primary Parent SRTS Survey June 2016

Parent survey results – how do we travel to school

Question: out of the 10 journeys made to and from school each week, how many are usually made:

	Number	%
By car	480	56%
By public transport	0	0%
By bicycle/scooter	31	4%
On foot	337	39%
By school taxi	2	0%
Other	10	1%
Total	860	



- For those travelling over 1 mile, 93% of weekly journeys are made by car (320 journeys surveyed)
- For those living between 0.5 and 1 mile from school, journeys by car fall to 50% with 40% on foot and 10% by bike (250 journeys surveyed)
- For those living under 0.5 miles from school, car journeys fall to 19% with 80% on foot and 1% by bike (290 journeys surveyed)
- 151 more journeys per week are made actively when the weather is good. This equates to 31% of car journeys

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Parent survey results - reasons for travel by car

Question: for what reason(s) would your child(ren) travel by car?

Reasons for journeys to school by car (total school level)		
	Number	%
Take child(ren) to school on the way to work	41	26%
Making an onward journey by car	32	20%
It's too far to walk	24	15%
Bad weather	21	13%
It's too dangerous to walk or cycle	12	8%
There is too much equipment to carry	11	7%
Take other child(ren) to a different school	9	6%
Buses too expensive	3	2%
There is a lift available in a friend's car	2	1%
Not on a bus route	2	1%
Other	2	1%
Child/carer has limited mobility/special needs	1	1%
Total	160	0

Reasons for journeys to school by car (by distance from school)			
	Over 1 mile	0.5 - 1 mile	under 0.5 mile
Take child(ren) to school on the way to work	20%	23%	39%
Making an onward journey by car	15%	23%	27%
It's too far to walk	29%		
Bad weather		17%	21%
It's too dangerous to walk or cycle		10%	
There is too much equipment to carry		10%	

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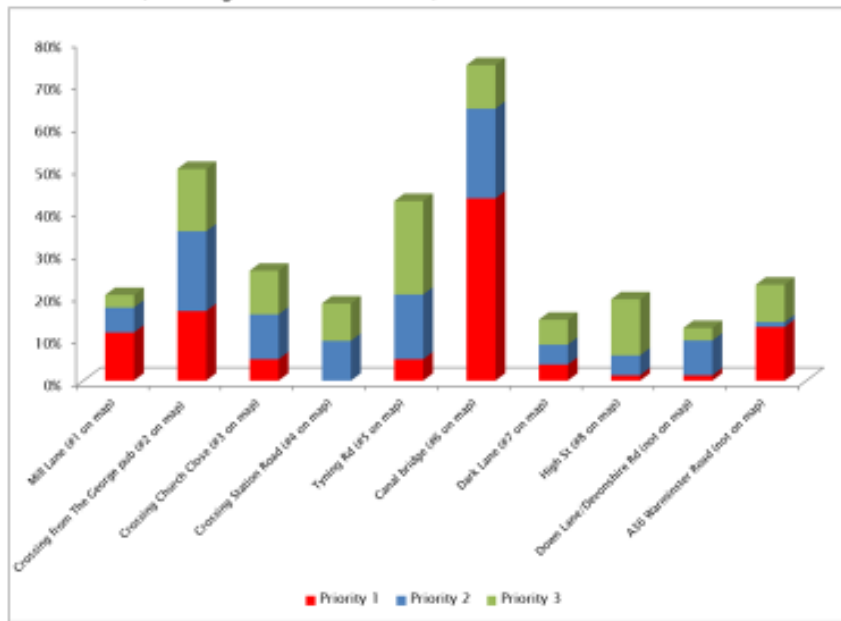
85% said that their preferred mode of school transport was on foot/by bike. This was made up of 66% of those over 1 mile, 96% of those 0.5-1 mile and 97% under 0.5 miles

But life potentially 'gets in the way' and many children are dropped as parents travel on to work and elsewhere.

How can we encourage independent travel on foot/by bike for those living close enough once kids reach a certain age? The national guideline is that any primary age child under 800m from a school should travel actively.

What have parents asked us to focus on?

Question: when parents were last surveyed, they shared a list of concerns about safety on their routes to school. Please help us understand if these danger points are still an issue by ranking the top three that you are most concerned about (1 being most concerned)



Top 3 priorities for parents overall:

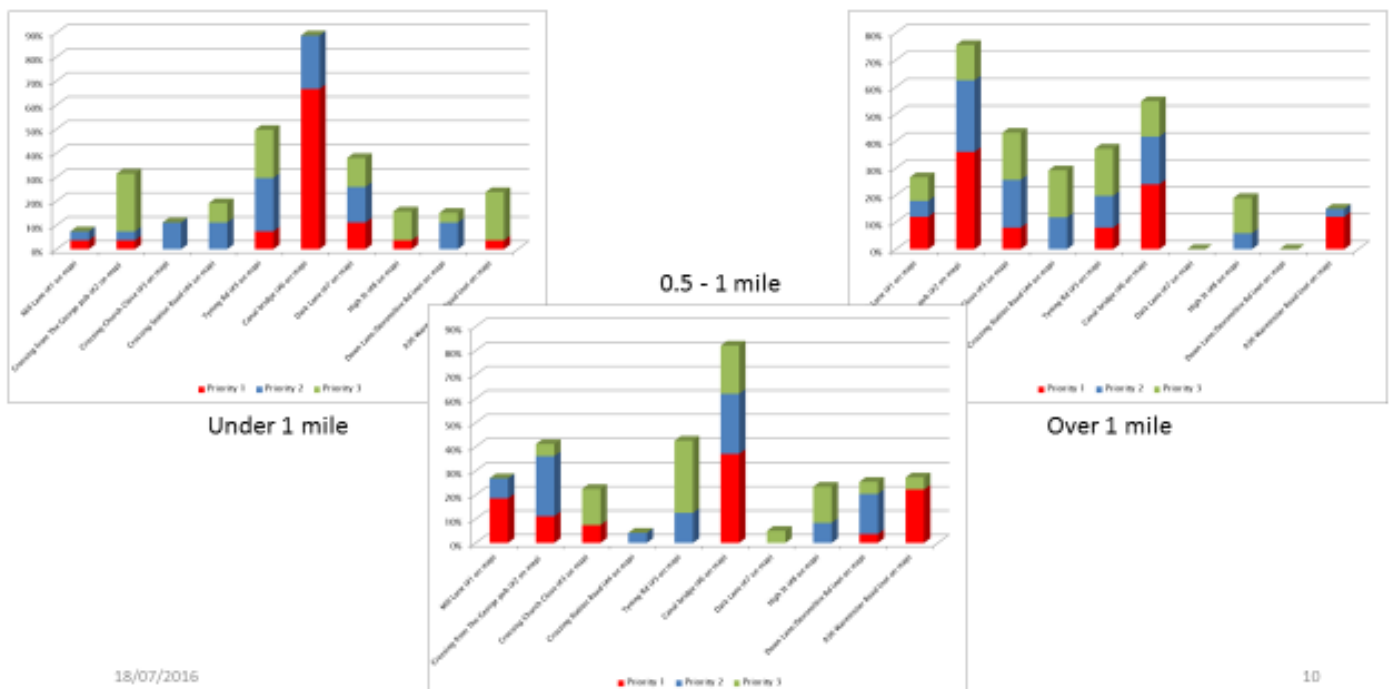
1. Safety on the canal bridge
2. Crossing from the George
3. Safety in front of school

Top priority 1 issues:

1. Safety on the canal bridge
2. Crossing from the George
3. Safety on Mill Lane and the A36

72 families responding to the survey (82% of respondents) told us that the roads around the school are dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. For families living over 1 mile away 75% expressed this view, 96% of those families living 0.5-1miles and 76% living under 0.5 miles from the school. This middle distance group includes those that may have to travel on the A36 or Mill Lane from Batheaston in order to reach school.

This varies slightly by distance lived from school



What did the professional feasibility study tell us to focus on?

Note: Focus was on roads directly around the school as the context for study was the potential reallocation of section 106 funds

Priority/Benefit	Location	Measure	Estimated Cost
High	Canal Bridge	Install footway on eastern side and road narrows signs	£12,000
High	High Street	Widen footway to make narrow section single-track with priority scheme	£25,000
High	Crossing from George	Upgrade to zebra crossing	£5,000
Medium	Tynning Road	Improve contrast of crossing marking	£1,000
Medium	Station Road	Signage on private road (Children Crossing/5mph)	£500
Low	Church Close	Improve contrast of crossing marking	£1,000
Low	Tynning Road	Signage at School re: Turning/Parking at George	£500
Low	Church Close	Signage at Church re: Parking at George	£500
Low	Crossing from George	Make crossing more conspicuous to drivers	£5,000
Low	Approach from Batheaston	Improve signage on approach to cycle route	£500
Low	Church Close	Revise parking so children are not crossing between parked cars	£6,000 (inc TRD)
Low	Tynning Road	Install plateau at crossing on school frontage	£10,000

Top 3 issues for parents too although the practicalities of their proposed solutions have not been discussed with BaNES/Highways in detail yet

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Source: IMA Transport Planning March 2016 ¹¹

Parent comments - highways

- "I think all areas have concern and are dangerous for many families"
- "I would still walk to school but would feel a lot less worried if the bridge were safer. It is just a matter of time before cars come over the bridge too fast and cause an accident" and "the crossing on the canal bridge is highly dangerous... cars frequently approach at speed, rarely give way and often straddle the white line making them dangerously close to pedestrians" and "the bridge is an accident waiting to happen. The LA need to acknowledge that they cannot recruit a lollipop person these days and find an alternative, more permanent solution, e.g. a new bridge" and "The canal bridge is the worst - cars frequently drive at children and drivers are sometimes impatient and abusive" and "I would like it to be safe enough for all my children to walk. The youngest is in a buggy as it is not safe on the bridge"
- "when my eldest started school he was offered a place in the school taxi as the council had assessed the route to school as 'unsafe to walk'. Nothing was offered this September for my younger child. This would be along Mill Lane" and "speed limit on Mill lane is too high - it needs to be 30mph not National"
- "we walk over the toll bridge. A combination of parked cars, queued traffic and poor visibility make this problematic" and "crossing on the toll bridge is dangerous. No safe place on Batheaston side. Lots of angry traffic in queues"

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Parent comments – highways continued and parking

- “the road approaching the bridge by Mulberry Kidz can be very dangerous with large vehicles mounting the pavement” and “we need railings to keep kids and cars separate”
- “crossing from Down Lane to Holcombe Lane is a blind corner and you have to step out before you can see” and “children have to cross Holcombe Lane where vehicles are parked and cars speed along making crossing difficult as children aren’t visible”
- “we need signage for parents using Mulberry Kidz – cars drive too fast on Dark Lane” and “I have had rubbish vehicles reverse at me up Dark Lane”
- “the increased traffic associated with the Tynning Road development is a cause for concern” and “we need pedestrian/school crossing marks on Tynning Road”
- “The raised road between the George and the Church is pointless. Most drivers do not recognise it as a crossing, so don’t stop. This create a worse situation as children think it is safer than it is. Should be a zebra crossing”
- “Please stop parents parking outside school”
- “I love the cones that have been used on Tynning Road recently. We need a campaign to tell parents that no-one is exempt from the no parking/turning rule”
- “I don’t understand why other parents endanger children’s lives on purpose”

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Parent comments – general and solutions

- “the stress of scootering with two children on narrow roads puts me off”
- “If it were safer, I could let the children walk once they were in Y6”
- “(safety changes) would allow younger children earlier independence in walking to school with friends”
- “We live close to the school so driving would be a nonsense, but I cannot imagine allowing my child to walk to school independently at an older age with the current traffic situation and lack of pedestrian protection. However the hi-vis tabards are a great initiative – thank you”
- “please can we have better signage outside school – a school safety zone?”
- “can we try a walking bus scheme?”
- “lollipop person was very good. Could parents do a week each if we can’t get one?”
- “could school staff set up a rota to be a crossing patrol?”
- “we need a raised pavement on the canal bridge plus some pelican crossings (outside school, crossing from the pub, crossing the canal bridge, over to the scout hut)”

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Appendix

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Appendix 1: Summary of key risks

Where	Risk
From Batheaston/Larkhall	National Speed Limit on Mill Lane
	Single file pavement with encroaching vegetation in season. Toll bridge approach hazardous
	Drivers unaware that new path across Meadows exits onto lane
From George Car Park	No formal crossing with no associated signage (drivers don't know what flashing sign on railway bridge is for and second flashing sign by pub is confusing – it needs to be closer to the canal bridge or reversed)
	Car park itself could have safer passage for kids to the pavement and entrance could have stop lines for kids on road side too
From Bathampton	Blind/humpback canal bridge is extremely dangerous for children and adults
	On Dark Lane, cars speed to and from nursery
	On High St by Mulberry Kidz, cars, coaches and lorries regularly mount the narrow pavement – the feasibility suggested pavement bollards/widening and a priority scheme for traffic as a high priority for the area
	Down Lane/Devonshire Road is a dangerous crossing with no formal crossing point
	A36 has no crossing point where many local school families live (by St George's Hill) and cars are parked on the pavement where house owners own the land. This prevents them walking safely to another crossing. Cars speed well over 30mph limit
Around school	Outside school the painted crossing has worn away. We are creating a safe no parking zone and have made progress here recently with parents. Police support planned for new school year
	We will be approaching Station Road owners to discuss safety improvements (exit for network rail vans)
	We will work with the church to explore moving their permit spot to prevent crossing between parked cars. Safe parking zone extends here too and the painted crossing has worn away

Appendix 2: map of risk 'hot spots' near school

