The good news is that our Safer Routes to School Team will be expanding over the next few weeks enabling us to provide you with even more help and assistance with sustainable school travel projects.

Clare Mulholland will maintain her role of School Travel Plan Co-ordinator for West Sussex but will now be supported by 3 area based School Travel Advisors. We are very pleased to welcome Nicly Blakeley who will be known to many of you from her current role as Schools Advisor for southern area, and for her work on the Worthing Safer Routes to School project. We are also very lucky to have recruited Michele Hulme from Chichester District Council, and Carolyn Robinson from NCH. Both are highly motivated with a wealth of experience, and are keen to start working with you to help us achieve some challenging new targets for School Travel Plans.

Amy Carmen will continue to provide valuable administrative support to the team. Amy was responsible for the smooth running of our recent School Travel Plan Roadshows, which have received some very positive feedback and we certainly plan to hold again in the future.

Chris Meeus maintains responsibility for managing the engineering aspects of our work, developing ideas from your School Travel Plans into practical workable infrastructure improvements. The continued delivery of our Safer Routes to School works programme has resulted in our budget nearly doubling for the coming year, a good reason for you to start bringing us more ideas for schemes from your STPs.

Over the past year we have developed and launched our Travel Mark accreditation scheme, and set up a new partnership with Young Transnet. We believe these tools will enable us to promote the efficient development of high quality STPs and encourage a culture of sustainable travel choice within schools with the ultimate aim of making a difference both to the local environment and to the health and safety of young people.

Debbie Jones Team Leader

CONTACT DETAILS

To help you in your quest to promote safe, sustainable travel to school, contact the following County Council staff who will be delighted to help in any way they can:

School Travel Plans and the Travel Mark

Clare Mulholland 01243 756740 clare.mulholland@westsussex.gov.uk

Accreditation Scheme

Amy Carmen 01243 756634 amy.carmen@westsussex.gov.uk

School Travel Advisor

Nicly Blakeley 01903 839836 nicly.blakeley@westsussex.gov.uk

Carolyn Robinson 01903 839836 carolyn.robinson@westsussex.gov.uk

Michele Hulme 01903 839836 michele.hulme@westsussex.gov.uk

Debbie Jones 01243 777716 debbie.jones@westsussex.gov.uk

Chris Meeus 01243 756624 chris.meeus@westsussex.gov.uk

Clare Mulholland 01243 756740 clare.mulholland@westsussex.gov.uk

Crawley Safer Routes to School and Road Safety and

Community Liaison

Brenda Smith 01403 257902 brenda.smith@westsussex.gov.uk

Walk to School/Theatre in Education, Go for Gold

Kate Smith 01243 757773 kate.smith@westsussex.gov.uk

Walking Bus

Honor Byford 01903 839360 honor.byford@westsussex.gov.uk

‘Footsteps’ Pedestrian Training

Dean Pocock 01243 777098 dean.pocock@westsussex.gov.uk

Road Safety and Travel/Wine Quiz

Sally Cooch 01403 270043 sally.cooch@westsussex.gov.uk

Speed Commitment

Gill Starkie 01403 270035 gill.starkie@westsussex.gov.uk

Road Safety Officers

Fiona Copping 01403 270043 fiona.copping@westsussex.gov.uk

Honor Byford 01903 839360 honor.byford@westsussex.gov.uk

Dean Pocock 01243 777098 dean.pocock@westsussex.gov.uk

Healthy School’s Programme

Maggie South 01903 708601 maggie.south@westsussex.gov.uk

Safer Routes to School, Roads Safety, Cycle Training, Walking buses and School crossing patrols. Andrew Stuck from Young Transnet was also on hand to guide staff through the on-line survey that can be accessed through the West Sussex Young Transnet portal.

Positive feedback was received from all those that attended the event. It was considered to be an informative and valuable day for those embarking on a School Travel Plan development, especially when it became apparent how much help was available.

New Capital Funding for School Travel Plans

West Sussex County Council has welcomed a £50 million Government boost for schemes designed to promote health and tackle the congestion and pollution problems based around the journey to school.

A joint announcement by Education Secretary Charles Clarke and Transport Secretary, Alastair Darling at the end of last year, promised money to fund more local authority based school travel advisers to help schools prepare surveys and travel plans that promote walking, cycling and public transport. As a result, we have three new school travel advisers starting work this month. For contact details, please see page 4.

Following the announcement a document entitled ‘Travelling to School: an action plan’ was produced. This states that both primary and secondary schools, which have their travel plans approved by the Local Authority, will receive extra money to help upgrade their travel facilities, such as secure cycle stores. The amount paid will depend on pupil numbers but will typically be £5,000 for a primary school and £10,000 for secondary schools that complete a School Travel Plan within the next two years.

West Sussex County Council will continue to fund improvement measures on the local highway through the Safer Routes to School programme providing an effective travel plan is in place.

In West Sussex, there are 1 school with school travel plans and another 46 are currently being developed. In line with government recommendations, each school travel plan must meet a set of minimum criteria as defined by the West Sussex County Council Travel Mark scheme. All existing plans must be resubmitted and entered into this scheme to qualify.

Details about this scheme and funding are available on the website: www.westsussex.gov.uk

So, if your school has a plan that’s ‘not quite finished’ or you simply haven’t yet had the opportunity to become involved, NOW is the perfect time. With a vast amount of expertise, guidance and information available, there’s simply no excuse. Don’t miss out on this extra funding and contact the Safer Routes to School team for a visit today!!
SLINFOLD – How to do a School Travel Plan

Slinfold CE Primary School earned itself £5,000 last year as winner of the annual West Sussex Travel Plan Challenge and Parent Governor, Julie Bain, explains here how they did it!

“Pester-power has unquestionably been key to getting parents motivated at Slinfold and with our pupils now actively competing to see who can walk to school the most often, even reluctant mums and dads have been persuaded to part with their cars on occasions at least.

We kept our Travel Plan Working Party small and decided to start our efforts with the children and to try and make walking to school ‘cool’. It worked! Walk to School weeks had always been popular with our pupils and we built these up into a big event - with related poetry and colouring competitions, special assemblies and award ceremonies. We added in International Walk to School Day as another event in our school’s calendar and organised a series of visits from road safety officers to build on our already well-established tradition of cycling proficiency training.

Talking to pupils on our school council, we found certificates, stickers and prizes for consistent walkers had most often, even reluctant mums and dads have been persuaded to part with their cars on occasions at least.

We tried to encourage those who could not walk every day to make an effort once or twice a week with a Walk to School Wednesday campaign and a Traffic Free Fridays day to make an effort once or twice a week with a Walk to School week. The programme draws on data gathered from pupils and teachers via an on-line survey about their travel plans. The programme is hosting a special programme of charge. All schools in West Sussex are able to register to take part, showing a commitment to reducing congestion and pollution at peak travel times. Another benefit of walking to school is health related – pupils who walk all or part of the way to school will arrive in the classroom alert, full of energy and ready to learn. They will have a chance to practise vital Road Safety skills that will follow them through primary and secondary school and beyond.

Once we got started, writing down the Travel Plan, wasn’t that difficult. We took a month by month, calendar approach - plotting in ideas of what we could do and when - this gave us some kind of structure and helped keep the momentum going.

Once the children were enthusiastic, inspiring the parents to get involved was relatively easy. A trial walking bus has generated interest from a dozen parent volunteers now willing to train as supervisors to make this a permanent feature of the school year next.

Winning the £5000 for the best Travel Plan has allowed us to think about investment in cycle storage facilities and fun curriculum/play-time resources related to road safety and walking-to-school, but amazingly most of what we did before winning cost us next to nothing except a bit of time and enthusiasm.

Writing the Travel Plan raised the profile of health and environmental issues within the school and generated a lot of really fun, yet very educational activities. Much of the best input added very little to the teachers’ work-load because it came from outside the school. Our Parish Council helped us with traffic survey information and road improvement ideas and ran a road safety poster competition for the school. The Friends of Slinfold School Association (our PTA) funded a tarmac area where road layouts could be set out for road safety exercises, and WSCC offered a great range of talks, theatre and workshops. The programme is hosted by Urban Engineering and funded by West Sussex County Council following a successful School Travel Plan.

18% of pupils at Worthing High School cycle to school, but the previous year there were a mix of styles and ages and, although secure, were not covered. Through discussions with pupils and staff, the school travel plan co-ordinator, Mr Stevens, identified this as a disincentive to cycling and incorporated this into the School Travel Plan.

In Horsham, work has been completed on the improvement to Redklin Way. To link with the existing cycle network, Redklin Way has now become a shared cycle/footway. In its recent travel plan update, Midfield School has reported a decrease in car use and increase in cycling as a result of both the new facilities and the dedication of the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator in promoting and encouraging their use.

In Crawley, change is underway. The field campus is rapidly undergoing development as the new Manor Green school was occupied this April and the new access from the A23 is constructed. In addition, the new Oreil High School in Maidenbower is due to open this Autumn.

To support this work, a number of small-scale measures have been implemented, across the town as part of the Safer Routes to School project. These include; Footway improvements on Rusper Road, pedestrian improvements on Harvest Road, Maidenbower New crossing points on Gales Drive, Three Bridges New crossing points on Segalands, close to Langley Green Middle School.

WORTHING

If you venture into Worthing, then it is worth checking out the amazing new cycle shelters at Worthing High School. This facility was provided by Urban Engineering and funded by West Sussex County Council following a successful School Travel Plan.

In the week beginning 24th May over 37,000 pupils from schools in West Sussex took part in Walk to School activities. One hundred and sixty schools registered to take part, showing a commitment to reducing congestion and pollution at peak travel times. Another benefit of walking to school is health related – pupils who walk all or part of the way to school will arrive in the classroom alert, full of energy and ready to learn. They will have a chance to practise vital Road Safety skills that will follow them through primary and secondary school and beyond.

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THE NEW WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL YOUNG TRANSNET PORTAL

A new website which will allow West Sussex schools to improve travel choices for pupils and staff has gone live. Young TransNet, a transport website, is hosting a special programme developed for the County Council that will help produce improved travel plans. The programme draws on data gathered from pupils and teachers via an on-line survey about their travel habits - such as how they get to and from school and the distances they travel - together with suggestions for making those journeys easier. Using this data, the ‘School Travel Plan Wizard’ proposes a tailored action plan for improvements which can be easily edited or updated.

Schools can also monitor the success of their travel action plan by getting students to complete the on-line survey at regular intervals. Certainly for entry into the West Sussex Travel Mark, monitoring is an essential element, using the Young Transnet portal can make this a simple and easy process. All schools in West Sussex are able to use the new programme and it is free of charge.

Schools can register at www.youngtransnet.org.uk/westsussex and then click on ‘Registration’.