

DRAFT

Woodborough School Travel Plan Update Draft 4 – September 2017

**Woodborough CE VA Primary School
Broad Street, Woodborough
Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5PL
DCSF Number: 865 / 3406**

Introduction

This is a DRAFT update to the 2010/2012 Woodborough School Travel Plan, prepared by a small number of school parents. It contains ideas for debate and discussion and does not represent the views of the school staff, PTA or governors.

For comment and input by stakeholders including (but not limited to):

- School staff, PTA and governors
- School pupils, parents and guardians
- Woodborough Parish Council and Social Club Committee
- Local residents and other interested local people
- Wiltshire Council staff, including School Travel Plan Adviser and Passenger Transport team

Section 1 – Why we are updating our travel plan

This document is an update to the Woodborough School Travel Plan produced in 2010 and updated in 2012. In the intervening six years, there have been several changes at the school, including:

- a complete turnover of pupils, with corresponding changes in the location of pupils' homes and travel requirements;
- a road accident in which a school pupil died outside the school in 2011;
- major works to the front of the school, creating a new bus pull-in area, new fencing and moving pedestrian drop-off/pick-up areas to a new playground to the side of the school.

In addition, there continue to be concerns raised frequently by parents and local residents about road congestion, road safety and parking arrangements around the school, the Social Club and surrounding roads, which need to be addressed. Woodborough Parish Council has secured a 20mph zone for the village, which will be introduced in September / October 2017 and may improve the situation somewhat.

Overall, by updating the school travel plan, we hope to make travelling to Woodborough School safer, easier and more sustainable for all involved, by:

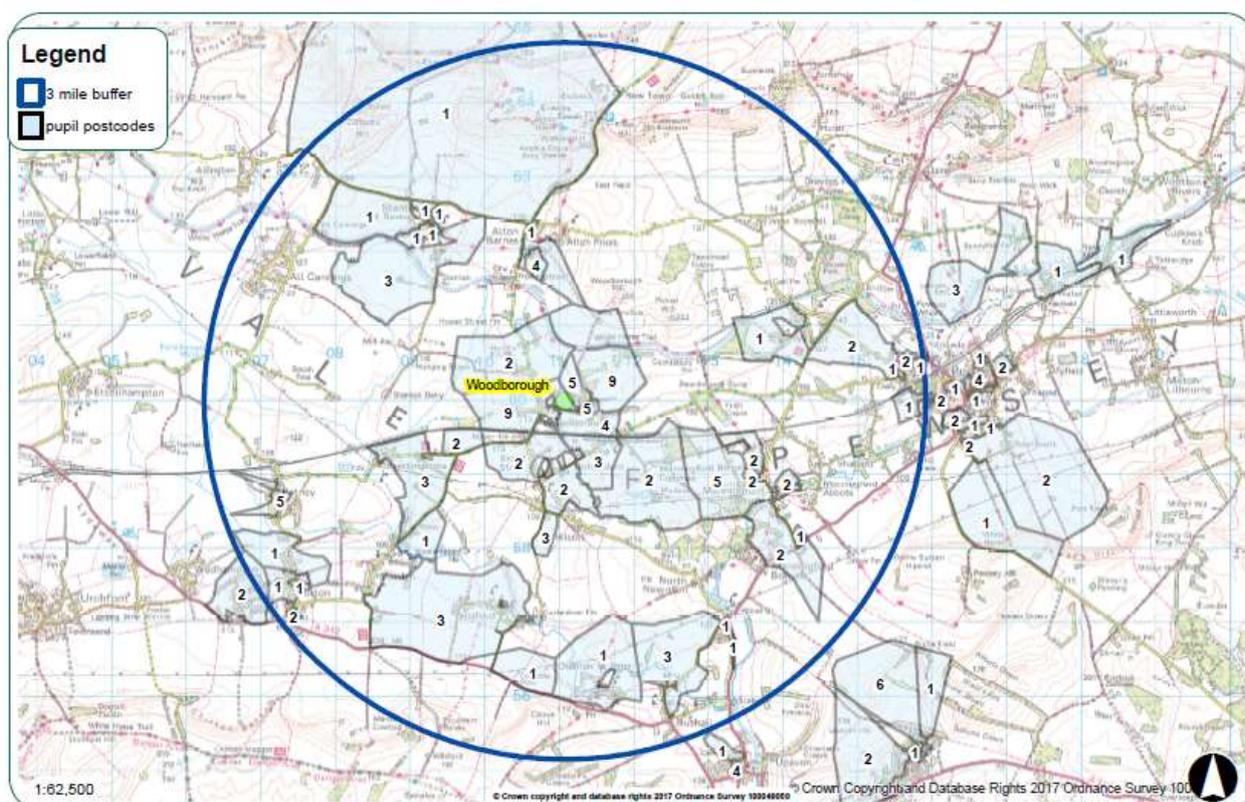
- Reducing the number of cars travelling to school
- Promoting considerate driving and parking on roads around the school
- Improving traffic flow around local roads at peak times
- Improving road safety for all, particularly pedestrians and cyclists.

Section 2 – Our school

Our school has gained an excellent reputation in the area and intake of new children has increased from the increased number of military families in the area and some children transferring from other nearby schools and outside of our school's catchment. Please see map below showing where Woodborough schoolchildren live (by postcode) as of January 2017.

As of November 2016, there were 158 registered pupils, (fewer than the 163 pupils registered at the time of the 2012 travel plan update).

The school has a varied programme of activities and events, with an active PTA committee and board of governors. The governors are currently preparing for the school to become an academy, as part of a multi-academy trust.



Section 3 – Surveys

As part of the consultation process on this draft in 2017, an online survey of school parents is being carried out, to help identify parents' reasons for their childrens' travel choices and which alternatives they would consider.

The survey is available until the end of September at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FS8DHFV>

Section 4 – Travel Concerns

Despite a number of actions since the 2010/11 travel plan was written, there continue to be travel concerns around the school:

- Speeding and careless driving on the roads around school. There are also many large vehicles on the roads including farm tractors and machinery, lorries and tankers.

(Woodborough Parish Council is working with Wiltshire Council to implement a 20mph zone which will encompass the road outside the school, Smithy Lane and most of the village from October 2017);

- Congestion around the crossroads, Smithy Lane and Social Club at peak times;
- Parking by parents on the road into the village is frequently raised as a concern by local residents;
- A number of children who live within walking distance currently travel by car, due to concerns over road safety for pedestrians (lack of pavements and speeding vehicles) and the location of the bus pick-up at the end of Church Road is considered dangerous by several families.

Section 5 – What we are doing

The school, PTA and Parish Council have worked hard in recent years to support the travel plan and improve road safety, including:

- Creation of **bus pull-in** to reduce congestion immediately outside the school;
- Working with local residents, Parish Council to create an **off-road footpath** between the school and the Social Club car park. However, the lease for this footpath from the landowner expires in 2020;
- Separating Key Stage 1 (KS1) and KS2 **school meetings** to reduce car numbers at pick up on Fridays;
- Creation of **bicycle storage** and wellington/raincoat storage facilities;
- Regular **Road safety** and **Bikeability** training for pupils and provision of **high-vis vests** to all pupils;
- Funding of a **traffic warden** ('Lollipop Lady') at drop-off and pick-up times to assist with road crossings onto the Smithy Lane path;
- Regular **school walks** along roads and footpaths with staff, pupils and parents around the village, to nearby woodland and to church services.

In 2016, Woodborough Parish Council explored options for a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) on land to the east of the school, to create a new car park in return for granting planning permission for new houses on the remainder of the land. Due to a lack of local support and the withdrawal of the landowner's offer, the NDO has now been terminated. The Parish Council is considering preparing a

Neighbourhood Development Plan, which could complement this School Travel Plan update. However, there is currently no prospect of a new school car park.

The Parish Council is also hoping to secure funding to create a pavement part way from the crossroads up the road into the village (towards the garden centre).

Section 6 – Review of 2010 Targets and Action Plan

The objectives and actions from the School Travel Plan in 2010 are reviewed in two separate tables below. The findings are then carried forward to new objectives and actions in Section 7.

Review of original objectives from School Travel Plan 2010	
Original objective (not in order of priority)	Review of progress and relevance
1. Encourage safe sustainable transport to school in line with our Eco Schools status	This is still relevant as an overall objective.
2. Increase the percentage of children cycling to school	Although the school has taken action to encourage safe cycling, this may be unrealistic due to speeding and dangerous driving. Some of these concerns may be addressed by the new 20mph zone, and if a 30mph limit over the railway bridge can be secured.
3. Increasing the percentage of children walking to school from 13% to 20%	New survey data is needed to check progress on this, but it may be helped by the new 20mph zone.
4. Separation of vehicles and pedestrians on routes to school	This has been achieved in the short term between the SC car park and school, but is insecure in the long term, depending on the lease of the Smithy Lane footpath. Pavements on other routes to school also need to be explored.

Review of original actions from the School Travel Plan 2010		
Original action	Review of progress	New action (if relevant)
Increase car sharing among parents (and staff)	Informal car sharing does happen but no formal scheme is in place	Consider using Wiltshire CarShare or school's own car sharing scheme
Provide cycle safety training to children	This is delivered annually to children of appropriate age	Continue to deliver this
Provide bicycle storage at school	Completed	n/a
Promote cycling as part of curriculum	?	
Provide road safety training for pupils	This is delivered annually to children of appropriate age	Continue to deliver this
Encourage more children to walk to school	A number of children who live within walking distance travel by bus or car, mainly due to road safety concerns	Address safety concerns at Church Rd junction pick up Explore possibility of new stretches of pavement

Install a pavement/ walking zone from the Social Club	Off-road footpath is in place but the lease is due to expire in 2020	Secure longer-term options for footpath and/or parking
Control vehicles movements across railway bridge	Traffic lights and a pavement are not realistic given current spending constraints at Wiltshire Council.	Explore possibility of making this a 30mph stretch of road between Woodborough and Bottlesford and/or other safety measures.

Section 7 – Updated Objectives, Targets and Action Plan

The overall goal for the school travel plan is to make travelling to Woodborough School safer, easier and more sustainable for all involved.

Objectives for the updated school travel plan are proposed as follows:

- A. Reduce the number of cars travelling to school
- B. Promote considerate driving and parking on roads around the school
- C. Improve traffic flow around local roads at peak times
- D. Improve road safety for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to school

Specific targets and options for actions to help achieve these are proposed below, firstly in a summary table:

Target	Summary of potential actions
1. Increase the number of children travelling by bus	Review and re-negotiate school bus services with Passenger Transport Dept of Wiltshire Council
2. Set up and promote a car-sharing scheme	Use Wiltshire CarShare website OR Set up school's own carsharing scheme
3. Identify overspill parking area for big events	Identify a location within walking distance of school Negotiate a 'park and ride' system for large events with the Garden Centre owners or other nearby facilities
4. Improve daily traffic flow around school	Organise 'walking buses' from Social Club Set up 'ShareMyDrive' scheme with local residents Explore parking layout and exit from Social Club
5. Support and promote efforts to reduce traffic speeds near the school	Raise awareness of 20mph zone introduction Explore possibility of 30mph limit over railway bridge
6. Create pavements along roads near the school	Explore possibility of creating pavement along existing road verges

These ideas are set out in an Appendix below for discussion/consultation.

SECTIONS TO BE COMPLETED AFTER CONSULTATION:

Section 8 - Funding

Guidance from Wiltshire Council: Please give details of funding that you have invested to help implement your Travel Plan.

Section 9 – Monitoring and Review

Guidance from Wiltshire Council: Please give details of the monitoring and review cycle stating when this will occur and those responsible for overseeing the process. Ideally a review of the action plan should take place as a minimum annually, and a full data collection should take place as a minimum three yearly.

Section 10 – Endorsement

Guidance from Wiltshire Council: A short statement setting out the school's commitment to the aims and objectives of the travel plan and to the monitoring and review cycle, confirmed by dated signatures of the headteacher and chair of governing body/trustees.

APPENDIX: Details of Updated Targets and Options for Action

Target 1: Increase the number of children travelling to school by bus

Detail of the issues:

The survey with parents will help us to understand these issues more fully. However, from conversations with parents who currently drive to school, there are a number of clear reasons why many of them do not use the bus. These include:

- No bus pick-up near their home (e.g. there are now many families in the Chirton area who do not have access to a bus);
- Unaffordable cost of paying for two children from the same family to use the spare seat scheme (many families stop using the scheme when their second child starts at school);
- Safety concerns about the bus pick-up location at the end of Church Road in Woodborough (this is on the main road through village and on a bend where visibility is poor) – other families may have concerns about other pick-up locations.

Options for actions:

It would be useful to hold an overall review and re-negotiation of Woodborough School bus services with the Passenger Transport Department of Wiltshire Council. Ideas for changes to the current system include:

- Review routes against current distribution of school children's home addresses to fill spare seats in current buses, e.g. create a new pick-up location in Chirton/Patney (at least 9 children from here);
- Consider alternative pick up/drop off locations to address safety concerns, e.g. move Woodborough village pick up to the area in front of the church;
- Explore the potential for an existing bus to pick-up/drop off from Woodborough Garden Centre car park for families travelling from the direction

of Pewsey, to avoid the need for those cars to drive through Woodborough and park close to the school;

- Consider a revised fee structure for spare seats to encourage greater use of the scheme, e.g. reduced fee for more than one child from the same family. As well as reducing car travel to school, this would generate more income for Wiltshire Council.

Support from Pewsey Vale Councillor Paul Oatway and Woodborough Parish Council could be sought on this matter to facilitate discussions with Wiltshire Council.

Target 2: Set up and promote a car-sharing scheme

Detail of the issue:

While buses, walking and cycling are not an option for some families, car-sharing may be. There is already some informal car-sharing, but many parents may not know who lives close to them (or on their route), so there may be potential for many more families to share cars, which would reduce the numbers of cars travelling to school.

Options for actions:

- There is a Wiltshire CarShare website which could be used for parents to organise their own car-sharing: www.carsharewiltshire.liftshare.com However, many parents may not sign up to such a scheme.
- An alternative is for car-sharing to be facilitated by the school, if parents were willing to have their contact details shared with other parents living nearby.

Wiltshire Council's School Travel Plan Adviser may be able to help with options for setting this up.

Target 3: Identify overspill parking area for big events

Detail of the issue:

Several times each year there are large events at school, including Bonfire Night, Christmas plays, Parents' evenings and Summer Fete. All of these events mean that many more families travel to school by car as these are outside school bus timetables and whole families are travelling together. This results in even greater congestion and on-road parking around the school, particularly on the road towards the garden centre.

On some Friday afternoons, parents are invited to attend school meetings – these are mostly for parents of either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 pupils, but on occasions there are whole-school meetings. These can lead to similar problems with congestion and parking.

Options for actions:

- Identify a location for overspill parking within walking distance of school, for example:
 - *the hard-standing area on the left just before the railway bridge?*
 - *using the school playground for extra parking for indoor events?*

- Negotiate a 'park and ride' system for large events with the Garden Centre owners or other nearby facilities that have large car parks

Target 4: Improve daily traffic flow around school

Detail of issues:

Congestion around Smithy Lane and the Social Club is annoying and dangerous for everyone – local residents, parents and children. Several parents park on the road into the village towards the Garden Centre because of the conditions on Smithy Lane and in the Social Club carpark. Smithy Lane is too narrow for two-way traffic and the space in the carpark itself is very tight, making it difficult to get into and out of parking spaces and to turn around.

While the off-road footpath has greatly improved safety for pedestrians and reducing the number of cars is the priority, further action is needed to improve traffic flow.

Options for action:

Ideas have been raised for ways to reduce the 'turnaround' time for parents to drop children off and to provide alternative parking/drop-off options. The feasibility of these should be fully discussed within the school, with local residents and Wiltshire Council. The ideas are:

- Organise 'walking buses' from the Social Club carpark to school, led by volunteer parents, so that more parents can drop off and leave quickly, freeing up space for others arriving;
- Set up a 'ShareMyDrive' scheme with local residents to allow a designated car to park in their drive, making use of the number of large (and often empty) driveways around school. Users could still be required to buy a Social Club permit, making a contribution to the community through the scheme;
- Secure a long-term future for the footpath above Smithy Lane – even if a new car park is created next to the school, this may not provide enough spaces to replace the need for parking at the Social Club. While we recognise the constraints that this presents to the landowner of the footpath, it is important to explore options for retaining this footpath in the long term, e.g. school buying the footpath land, hedge planting as a screen with local houses and the horse paddock;
- Explore other options for improving traffic flow on Smithy Lane and within the social Club carpark itself, *e.g. improving the layout of parking spaces, finding an alternative exit route from the carpark.*

Target 5: Support and promote efforts to reduce traffic speeds near the school

Details of the issue:

As noted above, speeding vehicles are one of the main road safety concerns around the school. This discourages many families from walking or cycling to school and puts all pedestrians at risk on Broad Street, including those walking between the school and the Social Club or between Bottlesford and Woodborough.

Options for actions:

Woodborough Parish Council and Pewsey Vale Councillor Paul Oatway have worked hard with Wiltshire Council to secure funding and approval for a 20mph zone in Woodborough, including the area around the school. The potential for creating a continuous 30mph limit between Woodborough and Bottlesford should also be explored. When the 20mph zone is in place, the school and all families have a vital role to play in making it a success. This could also provide a good opportunity to promote a broader range of issues around transport, parking and road safety. Specific actions on this may include:

- Raising awareness among staff, pupils and families on the introduction of the 20mph zone and promoting it to all visitors, suppliers and contractors;
- Explore with Parish Council and Wiltshire Council the possibility of reducing the 40mph limit to 30mph between Woodborough and Bottlesford over the railway bridge and Beechingstoke junction (and creating a pavement from the bridge to school – see below).

Target 6: Create pavements along the village road up to the stream and down to the railway bridge

Several families are discouraged from walking to school by road safety concerns on the road through the village and towards the railway bridge. On the section of road from the crossroads up to the stream, there are already grass strips in front of each house which are often used informally by pedestrians. Cross-country public footpaths can be used from Bottlesford and Marden up to the railway bridge, but the stretch between the bridge and the school is dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

Options for actions:

- Create pavements alongside roads near school where possible.

This would improve road safety for those within walking distance of school and for other pedestrians at all times. The potential for this would need to be explored and may involve negotiating with the Highways Agency and Wiltshire Council.

The Parish Council supports the idea of a pavement up to the stream and is likely to bid for funding for this in 2017/8. Even if an 'official' pavement would be difficult to establish, a team of local volunteers may be able to create a suitable surface, if we can secure the permission of relevant authorities.