

Denend Primary School

School Travel Plan



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Cardenden

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Summary Page

The following travel plan is a collaborative plan as parents, children, staff and stakeholders were all involved in researching and devising the content, agreeing the actions and aims to make the overall journeys to and from Denend PS safer, healthier and more enjoyable by:

- Making journeys to and from school safer for everyone;
- Reduce traffic in front of the school by reducing the total number of cars used for the school journey;
- Increase awareness of active travel and educating all about road safety;
- Improving Active Travel facilities (bike and scooter storage, helmet storage, etc.);
- Promoting alternatives to car travel (cycling, walking and scooting), increasing the percentages of active travel.

The key issues and perception relating to journeys to and from school were identified as – inconsiderate parking around the school gate and surrounding streets, which causes problems including: -

- Congestion
- Blocked vision for walkers and cyclists
- Blocked vision for other drivers
- Low proportion of children actively travelling to school, especially in bad weather
- Concerns about road safety and speed of traffic

96% of those who answered this question within the survey highlighted that they lived within a 2-mile radius of the school.

Routes identified as safer routes to school were:

1. School Lane
2. Station Road
3. Cardenden Road

Proposed Behavioural Actions

Promote Active Travel School

Promote Safer Routes to School

Road Safety Education

Reduce Congestion around the school gate

Deliver Cycle Training School

This plan is valid for 6 years and will be reviewed during year 3.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 School background

Denend Primary School has two buildings. It is a co-educational non-denominational school and serves the areas of Dundonald, Bowhill and Auchterderran in Cardenden. It is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac near the station and has farmland on its western boundary.

The School main building, which was built in 1910 has twelve classrooms including a music /drama room, resources rooms and an ICT suite. The nursery building has a dining hall which is also used for P.E. activities. We have a Learning Support Teacher for 3 days per week. Selected P6 and P7 receive brass and chanter instruction.

Our vision at Denend is Building Bright Futures and our values are Belong, Believe and Be Kind.

The school has a Site Management Plan that informs users about the site rules for pedestrians and vehicles and will be displayed within the school.

2.0 POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Formation of Junior Road Safety Officers

To address the issues raised with congestion around the school gate and to work on future initiatives the school formed its travel action group which consists of Junior Road Safety Officers and members of the school parent council and parent volunteers.

The Junior road safety officers are:

Andre Lindsay (P4/5); Katie Mitchell, Tyler Hatton and Olivia Docherty (P5/6) and Sophie-Brown (P7). Auxí Sousa and Dale Mathieson are our Parent council representatives.

3. CURRENT TRAVEL PATTERNS

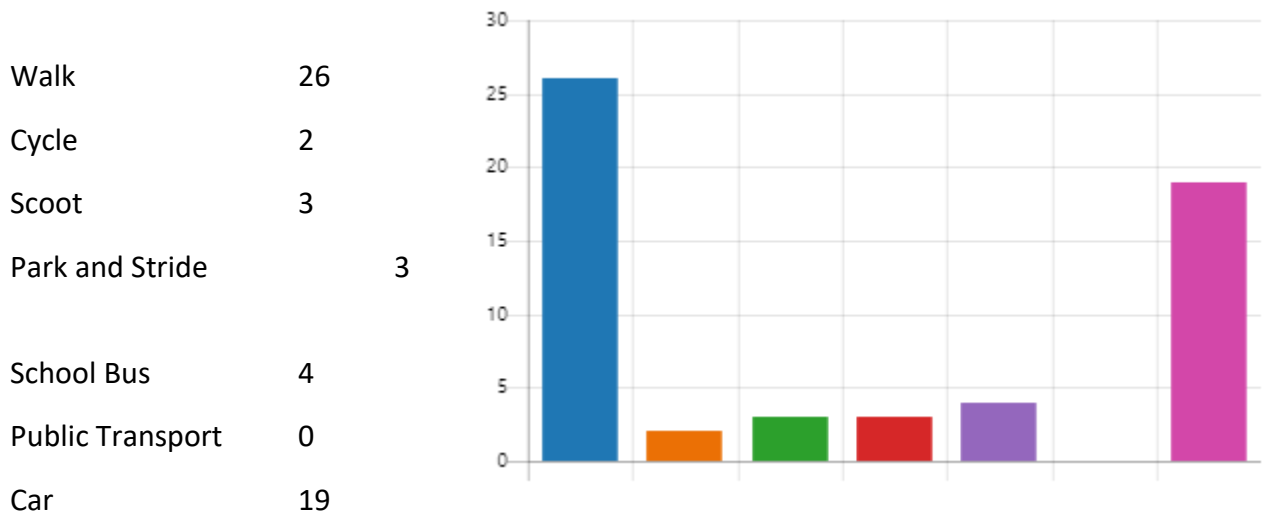
3.1 Questionnaire Surveys

During the consultation period **57** families and **16** staff members responded, and the following analysis is based on the data from those surveys.

3.1.1 Family Survey Data

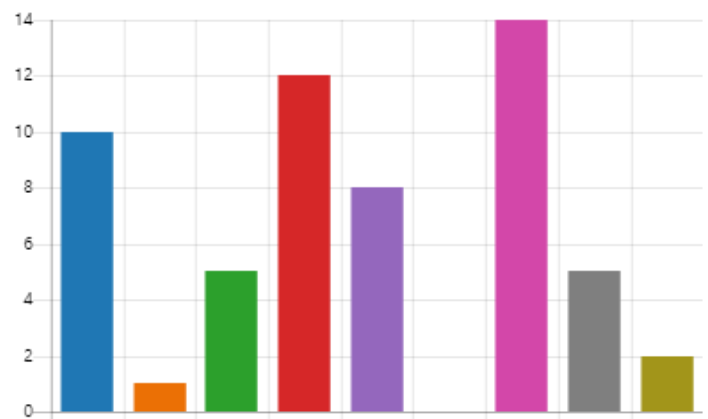
26 families highlighted that walking was the main mode of travel to school with an additional 5 families stating that they either cycled or scooted to school.

22 families stated that driving was there preferred mode of travel with 3 of those choosing to Park and Stride in the surrounding streets of Station Road and Ian Rankin Court.



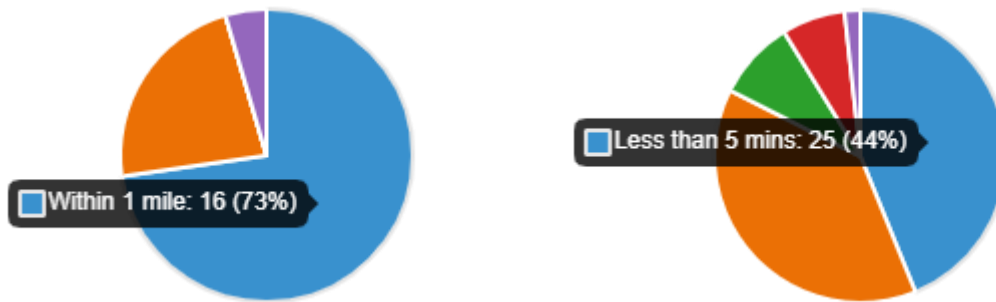
The main reasons given for travel mode choices are:

It is good for my child's health.	10
It is good for the environment.	1
There is limited parking around the school.	5
It is the fastest.	12
It is the safest.	8
It is the cheapest.	0
It fits in with my family routine.	14
It is the only mode of travel available to us.	5
It is too far	2



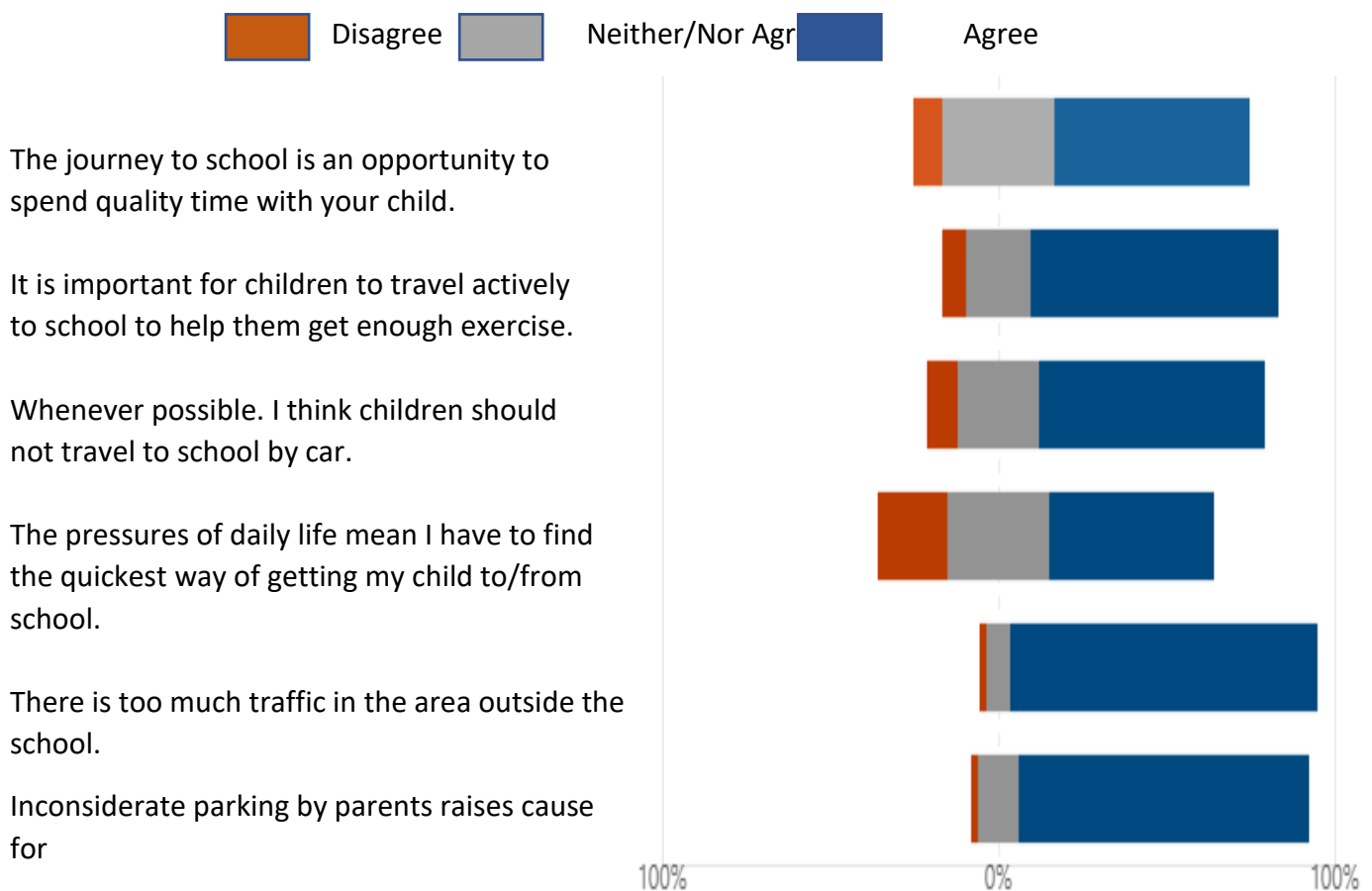
When asked how far from the school do you travel only 22 families answered the question with the majority living within 1 mile radius. However, when asked how long does your

journey take, 100% answered the question with the majority of those stating that their journey was less than 5 mins.



According to the survey 56% of parents are happy with the way their child/children travel to school with only 19% stating that they were somewhat dissatisfied, but none gave a reason to why they felt dissatisfied with their journey.

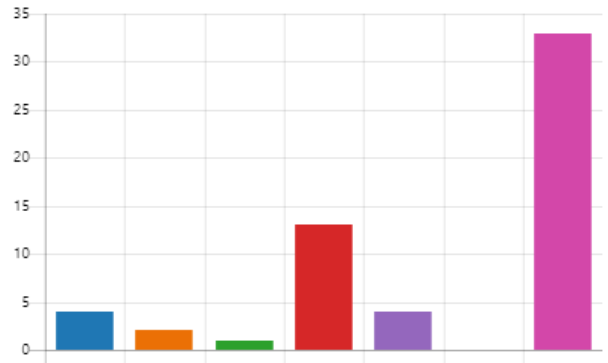
Parents were also asked “to what extent do they agree with the following statements about your child/children journey to school”.



concerns in allowing my child/children to travel

Parents then went on to state that the following factors have an impact on their decision on whether they would allow their child/children to actively travel to school.

- Safe crossing facilities on busy roads.
- Vehicle speed reducing measures.
- Knowing that other children are walking or cycling.
- Knowing that there was an adult walking the same route.
- More road safety for children.
- More information on the health and environmental benefits of walking and cycling.
- Reduction of inconsiderate parking at the gate.



Finally, when asked if parents are aware of the issues caused by parking in School Lane **100%** answered **YES** and when prompted to tell us anything else about their journey to school the majority of families responded.

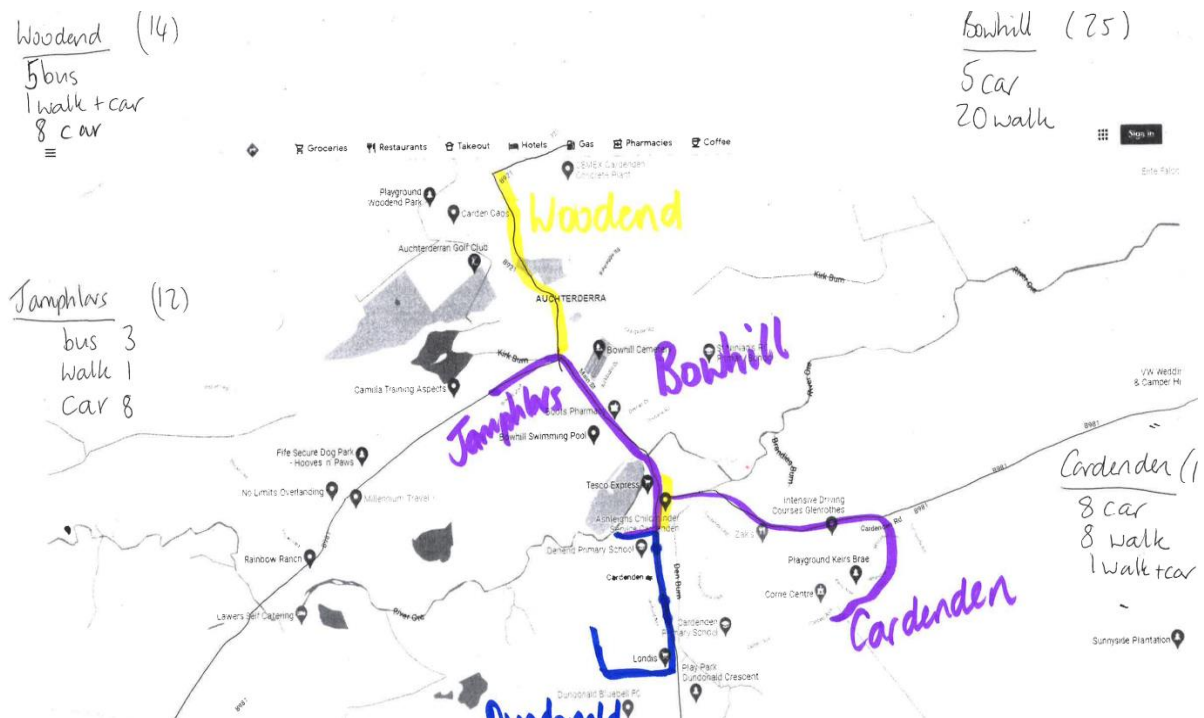
Full list of answers is held within **Appendix 1** of this document.



4.0 MAPPING WORK

A mapping exercise was carried out within the school to identify the routes pupils travelled. These were then analysed and the three main routes to school were identified.

Final Map and identified routes



5.0 ROUTE AUDIT OF KEY ROUTES TO SCHOOL

A site visit of the above key routes was carried out on the Thursday 25th November. The weather conditions were cold but bright. The routes walked were

- **School Lane**
- **Station Road**
- **Cardenden Road**

The issues around the school gate are caused by inconsiderate parent parking and will continue unless parents start to change their behaviours. The introduction of a park and stride site from either Station Road or the Train station would alleviate the congestion and make the school journey more enjoyable.

The parent council have secured a place on a trail project to close school streets but until this is implemented I would suggest the school continues to monitor and seek an agreement between Education and Transportation to install a footpath outside the school gate that connects to the existing footpath.

For full audit report please refer to **APPENDIX 2**

6.0 STAFF DATA

Members of staff undertook an online survey on how they travel to school and the impact this has on the school run. The following analysis highlights their mode of travel.

How far do you travel for work?

- Under 2 miles 3
- 2 - 5 miles 6
- 6 - 10 miles 5
- 11+ miles 2



Majority of staff cited that they drove to school and parked within the school grounds with one member of staff stating that they parked in a street around the school.

When asked what would encourage them to consider alternative modes of transport majority stated that nothing as they have other commitments outside school. Some stated that they would consider using public transport if timetables suited and the price was reasonable.

When asked about any improvements they could make to their journey to ensure the routes to school were less congested most stated that they arrive early and leave later to avoid the congestions, others no as the congestion was not an issue for them when undertaking their journey to and from school.



7.0 BEHAVIOURAL ACTION PLAN

Action	Solution	Action Owner	Target Date (Academic year)
Promote Active Travel	Take part in Active Travel Months	School/TAG	Term 2 & Term 4
	Take part in Bike Week	School/TAG	Term 4
	Take part in the Sustrans Big Pedal	School/TAG	Term 3
	Walk to school week	School/TAG	Term 2
Promote Safer routes to school	Upload map to website	School	Term 1
	Put information board up at parents nights	School/TAG	Term 2 Term 4
	Articles in school newsletters, social media and assemblies	School/TAG	Ongoing
Road Safety Education	Run poster campaigns	School/TAG	Ongoing
	Take part in Road Safety Week.		Term 2
Reduce congestion around school gate	Develop the following: Parking Pledge Park N Stride Site Walking Bus	School/TAG	Ongoing
Bikeability	Offer cycle training to all P6 and P7 pupils	School	Ongoing

8.0 Physical Measures

Action	Action Owner	Target Date
Investigate relining of zebra crossing on Station Road	Fife Council	2022
Investigate possibility of connecting pavement on School Lane once pilot project is complete or look at creating footpath through staff car park and restricting access to car park during peak times.	School/Fife Council	ASAP
Undertake Pilot School Street Closure	Fife Council	DTBC

9.0 MONITORING & EVALUATION

The JRSO's will continue to meet periodically to monitor progress and will review the Travel Plan on an annual basis.

Specific progress will be monitored by participation in the "Hands Up Travel Tally" each year and a repeat of the full travel survey will take place 6 years after initial launch.

The school's ongoing commitment to travel planning will be publicised in the school handbook, the school newsletters, the Parent's notice board and through assemblies.

10. DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

The following bodies will receive a copy of the School Travel Plan:

- Fife Council Assets, Transport and Environment via the Travel Plan Team
- Fife Council Education Service
- Fife Council School Estates Team
- Parent Partnership
- Active Schools
- Copies will also be made available to the parents from the School Office and via the school information site.

UPDATE Session 2023-2024 –

The school has been part of a School Exclusion Zones (SEZ) trial project this session. The aim being to prevent non-residential traffic from using School Lane. Fife Council introduced three trial exclusion zones to gather local data on effectiveness and acceptance by the community. The trial ends on May 28th and a decision to be reached about whether this is made to be permanent.

APPENDIX 1

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY TO SCHOOL?

- My child is disabled and requires a lot of attention she can't walk far without getting sore legs and she has no danger awareness so I need to park in school Lane.
- School Ln should be close for traffic during school entrance and exit times. An incident is waiting to happen
- When picking up/dropping off if school bus is not used it's actually awful the speed, parking and reversing of motorists in school lane, an accident waiting to happen
- I would be happy to walk any other children to school on my journey with the boys. Travelling from the top of Bowhill.
- It wouldn't let me choose that we walk and drive by car
- We park at the train station as the road outside the school is also unsafe to park on.
- We live in Kirkcaldy so have no option but to drive to Denend. I always park away from the school
- The walk to school is perfectly fine, it's school lane that is the issue.
- My daughter is in p5 she cycles, my daughter at nursery given her age needs an adult to drop her off given her age this is on route to work this is the reason for taking the car to drop off
- Something needs to be done in school lane as there has been a few near misses
- My son uses his scooter to go to school and he goes on his own
- I don't think it's just the parents causing concern by parking in the lane. My daughter is 6 and was almost hit by a teacher's car leaving the car park at 3pm. No one should be allowed in and out car park at same time as kids leaving its going to end in a terrible accident
- Don't think so. Other than to say I'd be happy to get involved with a walking bus if that's something that will help.
- Parking at School Lane is extremely hazardous. No staff should exit or enter car parks around the 10/15 minutes school goes in or comes out. I have witnessed many situations where there has been a near miss. Unless of some mobility issues this should be the case for pupils and parents also. Is there a way to organise a Walking Bus for Pupils within a certain radius and if Car drop Off is necessary is there a way

they can be dropped off at a designated drop off/collection point monitored by a parent/teacher which would reduced the need for Car parking?

- Concern raised by incosiderate driving and parking around school lane are somehow affecting kids autonomy. In my case, for instance, I'm too worried to let my child walking to school without being accompanied by an adult, despite living at literally 1 min walking distance from school.
- I think it would be fun for the kids to have different things to do every week. 1. Bike week 2. walk week 3. Beat your time 4. How many hops or jumps upto the school These were just top of my head and would encourage kids to want to walk and also parents
- My child enjoys walking to and from nursery on a daily basis
- I park in school lane and will continue to do so takeing my child up on the car is detrimental to his safety . I am a blue badge holder for my child and it is not illegal to park in school lane. What makes it difficult is teaching staff from denend parking cars in school Lane usually 4 cars . Their is an abandoned car for almost one year fife council have not moved it . Also parents who are lazy with vans etc blocking off parts of the road. Staff cars in school Lane is no difrent to parents cars. Their is far to many parents huddled round the gate also which is understandable since we can't go in the playground. A major safety factor is also the gate being left open constantly by parents.
- Some of us are disabled and driving is the only option as the school bus does not cover our area and we can not walk. Though I encourage my son to walk he has his own needs and this is not always the most viable option
- We walk to school and home from school as often as we can as it suits us as a family but there are occasions we have to use the car but weake sure that we dint park in the school lane as there is far too much traffuc here and we do not want any accidents to happen people do not realise how dangerous it can be for our children plus there is no need to park here as there is plenty of spaces at other areas away from the school.
- There are to many vehicles around the gate as children exit the playground.
- Yes, since the school has been focusing so much on school lane, it has now become a problem opposite the school, I am a resident and have seen near miss on children, and ambulances unable to attend den court due to overloaded parking by parents and also staff who are unable to get in the school car park.
- I have to use my car to drop my son off as I have to go straight to work after drop off.
- Since my oldest son went to denend there has been issues with people not adhering to rules about parking, I have seen a lot of dangerous things happening in those 13 years.
- We mostly take the car part-way then walk the rest, due to timing on the day, but do also walk the full way sometimes. There have been so many near misses right outside the school gate and also on the zebra crossings where drivers often do not stop even if people are mid-crossing, that I would not consider letting my child walk to school unaccompanied. A taxi driver drove right in front of my son and I last week

as we were in the middle of crossing the zebra crossing next to the rail bridge - we stopped halfway across as he drove past our toes. A couple of days later, a large SUV was manouvering right outside the gate just after the 3pm bell, and I watched my son have to stop suddenly to avoid being hit, literally 3 or 4 steps outside the gate, right where the 'Children' bollards are placed. It makes me feel furious, frustrated and anxious that this can continue to happen with no repercussions.

- my child's route to school passes by a busy main road with only a zebra crossing at Tesco's where some of the traffic do not slow down to let kids cross safely
- We live at the last house in Cardenden so would take too long in the morning to walk. Mornings are already stressful trying to get a child out the door. If we are running early I try and park at Tesco and walk from there
- Just moved to the area! We stay so far away to walk now but at our previous school we used to walk and my child used her scooter which was lovely!
- Now my child is older and has a full understanding of road safety and the issues outside the school I feel more confident allowing them to walk/scoot. However in previous years it has been a huge concern to us. Not only is school Lane dangerous the main street gets so congested that also poses a risk when they have to cross the little side streets on the hill. There is a bus for those who live further away maybe this should be advertised more to encourage less drop offs and pick ups.
- Occasionally have to drive to school if staying with a Grand Parent. The parking in school lane is unacceptable with people still trying to park there when children are entering and leaving school. Nobody should enter school lane unless they are disabled or for access to the staff car park. Either permanent permits for the immediate residents or close the road to everyone except disabled for 15 minutes before and after school. People who are late still try to nip in and drop off, this is when the street is at its busiest.
- The parking in school lane is awful people are so inconsiderate
- The crossing person down Bowhill was removed and I feel this needs to be reinstated as the crossing at the coop is not safe.
- There are far too many parents driving cars into the school lane. Cars are also parked on either side of the zebra crossing which makes it difficult for cars to see children trying to cross. Often I see children waiting at the zebra crossing for a while as cars keep going over it as they do not see them due to parked cars. This is an accident waiting to happen.
- I need to drive my child to school as he is autistic and would not walk. Also I need to park near the school (main road) so that he understands he is coming to school. I've tried parking further away and it causes issues and upsets him. He is also a flight risk and is capable of breaking free from me and running into the road- another reason I need to park as close as possible to the school. I do not EVER drive into school lane when there are children still coming into school although I do drive in when I pick my son up at 2:30 however we have always left well before school gets out.

- I/we require access to the disabled space which is located BEHIND the zigzags. I have reversing cameras and always give way to pedestrians but still often find it difficult to access the space due to unbadged or inconsiderate parking
- These issues have been ongoing since my child was in p1 I have witnessed near misses and adults shouting at children who are crossing sensibly to get to the path from the school gate. Children should be able to leave the school gates and cross the road safely and can't because inconsiderate parents are reversing into the school gate area. It is not a child's responsibility to stop and let the car reverse it is the adults responsibility not to park there. There is no excuse for adults parking there unless the child has a disability. We live in a small village and kids can easily walk to school, there is parking at the train station 5 minutes away they can park and walk down
- I normally walk my child to school. But work commitments means i have to drive sometimes. I park away from the school and walk her over
- Keep the children safe no parking at school gates
- The lack of parking around school is unbelievable therefore my child walks as it's the only option. Unfortunately him walking means increased risk if him being hit by a car that continues to park in an area that there is no parking.
- My main concern is the school lane at the school with constant cars going in and out causing bear misses

APPENDIX 2
FIFE COUNCIL
ASSETS, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT
DENEND PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNFERMLINE
ROUTE SAFETY AUDIT

INTRODUCTION

This report results from an Audit of key routes undertaken at Denend Primary School at the request of the school to facilitate their School Travel Plan.

The school is situated within a 20 mph zone at the end of School Lane in Denend. All pupils enter the school site from main gate which opens out onto School Lane. There is an additional entrance for the staff car park.

A site visit of the key routes was carried out on the afternoon of 25th November, 2021. The weather conditions were cold but bright and sunny. The audit team consisted of:

Marta Ramage	School Travel Plan Coordinator
Mrs C Wyatt	Head Teacher
	Parent Council
Andre Lindsay	JRSO'S
Katie Mitchell	
Tyler Hatton	
Olivia Docherty	
Sophie-Brown	

The key routes audited were:

School Lane
Station Road
Cardenden Road

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

School Lane

Issues

The site is the main drop off point for those driving pupils to school. As the street is a cul-de-sac congestion around the school gate is prevalent. There is no public footpath at the school gate, so pupils walk out onto the road where cars are reversing, turning and occasional parking. The street is marked with school keep clears and evidence of traffic calming measures can be seen, however the area is a bottleneck during school drop off and collection.

Proposed Solution

The best solution would be to insert a pavement outside the school gate that connects to the existing pavement, therefore allowing pupils to have a safe place to walk and cross the road where visibility is better. However, the school parent council have been petitioning to have the street closed off during these drop off and collection times and a pilot project is being developed at the time of this report.

Recommendations

The school travel plan team would recommend that the school continues to work with parents to promote awareness of the issue around the school gate, try to encourage more active travel and look at a park and walk site to alleviate the issue until the pilot project is in place.

Station Road

This is the main route through the village and is within a 20 mph zone. There is good crossing facilities and a school crossing patrol officer. However, one of the zebra crossings is faded and at times drivers are reported to not see it in time and pupils feel at risk.

Recommendations

Investigate relining of zebra crossing and look at creating a park and stride site within the car park on Station Road.

Cardenden Road

There were no issues reported along this stretch of road as visibility was clear, pavements were adequate, however, due to the ongoing housing development it would be beneficial to revisit this area once works are completed and pupil data is collated.

Recommendations

Run another survey once the housing development is complete.

SUMMARY

Denend Primary school although sited within a cul-de-sac is well served by existing crossing points and footways. There is also the possibility of creating 2 park and stride sites within

the area, one being within the car park on Station Road, behind the homeless shelter and the other being within the railway station.

The challenge at Denend will be encouraging parents to change their behavioural patterns and introduce active travel into their daily routine. The current issues will continue to cause problems unless parents change their behaviours.

The addition of a footpath and promoting safe walking routes and seeking the implementation of the recommendations should make the trip to school more enjoyable and encourage more participation in active travel.