

Walkability Audit

15th January, 2016



St Oliver's National School

**Ballylongford
Co. Kerry**

Roll Number: 19492F

School Description

St Oliver's National School is a mixed school located in the village of Ballylongford in North Kerry. The school has 63 students with 3 Teachers. The school started the Green-Schools Travel theme in September 2015. They have conducted a travel survey, carpooling survey, the mapping exercise and then decided to conduct their walkability audit on the 15th January, 2016. A recent travel survey showed that 83% of students travel to school by car, with 10% carpooling, 6% using the bus and 11% walking.



A **Walkability Audit** is a methodical examination of how pedestrian-friendly a route may or may not be.

The word **Walkability** means the “**ability to walk**”.

What did we do?

Members of the school population identified a possible walking route to school to audit.



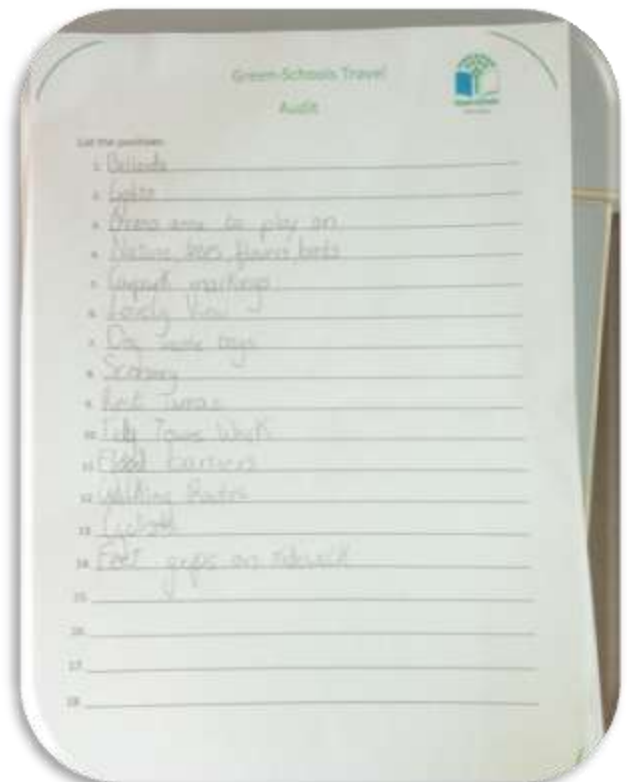
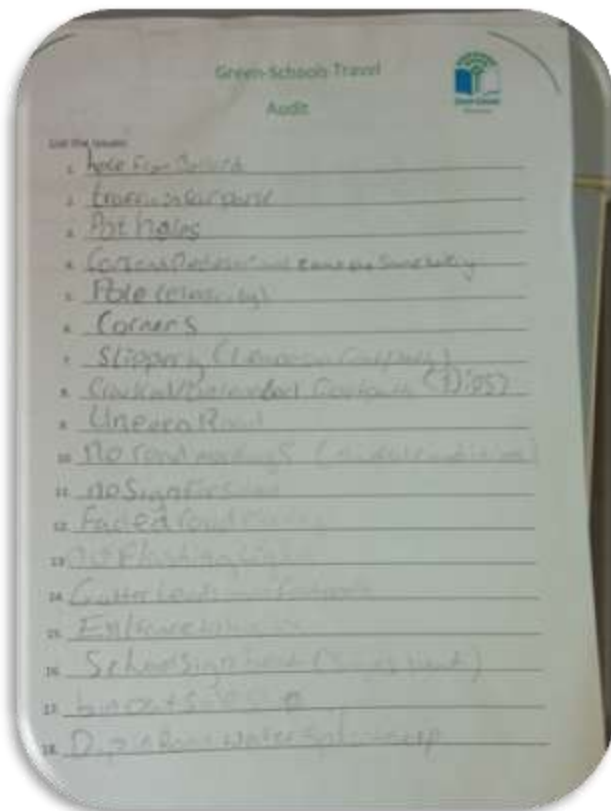
Objectives:

1. To see if it was safe to walk to school
2. To look at the barriers to promoting walking to school and propose possible solutions if any
3. To see if there is any park and stride location nearby
4. To raise awareness on road safety

What did we do?

We used a number of tools on the audit to record our findings:

- Recording sheets
- Measuring tape
- High-visibility vests
- Camera
- Pencils/Clipboards/Covers
- Analysis sheets



Where did we go?

Description of the route audited:

St Oliver's National School located in Ballylongford in North Kerry on the R551. This is a main route from Kerry to Limerick. On the 15th January, 2016, their Green-Schools Committee decided to conduct a walkability audit with their An Taisce Travel Education Officer to see how pedestrian friendly it felt to walk through the village to a possible park and stride location. They also conducted a traffic, road sign and litter survey.



Summary of our Findings

We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

Positive Points:

1. We have a lovely school grounds - lovely playground/field area/trees/birds/grass.
2. We have a wall round school.
3. We have a wide drive to our school building entrance.
4. We have lighting to left of drive into our school.
5. We have bollards in place at the end of our school drive – divides us from the car park area.
6. No cars are allowed onto our school grounds.
7. We park in the church car park.
8. We have a road sign on the Church car park – caution.
9. We have a pedestrian entrance and the car entrance is separate into the church car park.
10. We do have a footpath on one side of the road all the way from our school to the park and stride location.
11. The footpath is a good width.
12. In one direction there is a small white road sign high up – 'Caution School Ahead'.
13. There is a school ahead road sign but it is twisted.
14. There are parking spaces in the back of the local Centra shop – road signs and markings are in place by the entrance/exit to the car park area.
15. Street lights are in place through the village.
16. The footpaths on Sand Quay are in good condition.
17. We saw signs for walking routes on our walk.
18. We saw some lovely work by the Tidy Towns throughout the village.
19. There is a high raised grass area by river.
20. Doggie bags are available on route if needed.
21. We have a lovely view on route of the Castle.
22. The road surface on the R551 from the L6010 towards Asdee improves greatly and is very smooth.
23. Road signs for the road number, Wild Atlantic Way and for Asdee, Ballybunion etc are in place.
24. The speed through the village is 50km/h – road signs are in place.
25. It took only 7 minutes and 30 seconds to walk the route.
26. It is 850 metres away from our school.

More details and photos of these findings can be viewed in the pages following.

Summary of our Findings

We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

Negative Points:

1. You have to go through the Church car park to get to our school.
2. The Church car park does get busy during mass time, for weddings, funerals etc.
3. The entrance to the Church car park is very narrow and only one car/vehicle can use it at a time. This causes issues with traffic entering and existing the car park.
4. The pedestrian entrance is right next to the car entrance so you have to be careful as this area is busy before and after school.
5. The middle bollard at the end of the school drive is sometimes removed (for deliveries etc) so be careful walking past the hole in the ground.
6. ESB poles are outside the entrance so watch out for these.
7. There is only one continued footpath through the village. The footpath on the opposite side of the road stops and starts.
8. The footpath from our school is in very poor condition.
9. You need to watch out for the leaves on the footpath.
10. The road surface through the village is in very poor condition.
11. Our school is located on a bend – opposite the fire station.
12. There are no road markings either direction to indicate a school ahead on the R551 through the village.
13. This is a busy route to Limerick from Kerry so all types of vehicles use it.
14. A lot of traffic uses this route.
15. There are no road signs with flashing lights to indicate a school ahead in either direction on the R551.
16. There is no footpath over the bridge just pass our school so be careful walking here.
17. The double yellow road markings outside the fire station need to be repainted.
18. There is o road markings on the R551 throughout the village.
19. There are some down pipe/gutter running down some houses straight on the footpath – water from them goes straight onto the footpath so it can be slippy if is it is raining, frost etc.
20. There are drain covers on the footpath on route – if they get wet they are slippy.
21. You need to watch out for entrances to homes and businesses.
22. Moss in place on the footpath so be careful.
23. You need to watch out for the bin situated outside Centra as you could bang into it.
24. Puddles of water collect on the footpath by the Tidy Towns work – Sand Quay.
25. You need to watch out for the entrance and exit to the housing area on Sand Quay (Radharc na habhann estate).
26. The road R551 up to L6010 junction is in good condition but then is in poor condition from there through the village.

More details and photos of these findings can be viewed in the pages following.

Details of our Positive Findings



We have a lovely school grounds - lovely playground/field area/trees/birds/grass.



We have a wall/fence around the Church car park and our school.



We have a wide drive to our school building entrance.



We have lighting to the left of the drive into our school.

Details of our Positive Findings



We have bollards at the end of the school drive.



No cars come onto the school grounds.



Cars park in Church car park.



There is a road sign on the Church car park – caution.
This is much needed.

Details of our Positive Findings



The pedestrian entrance and car entrance is separate into Church car park



We do have a footpath on one side of the road from the school to the park and stride location



The footpath is a good width



In one direction there is a small white road sign high up – 'Caution School Ahead'

Details of our Positive Findings



There is a school ahead road sign but it is twisted.



There are parking spaces in the back of the local Centra shop – road signs and markings are in place by the entrance/exit to the car park area.



Good to have these in place.



Street lights are in place through the village.

Details of our Positive Findings



The footpaths on Sand Quay are in good condition.



We saw signs for walking routes on our walk.



We saw some lovely work by the Tidy Towns throughout the village.



There is a high raised grass area by river – helps if flooding.

Details of our Positive Findings



The speed through the village is 50km/h – road signs are in place



The road surface on the R551 from around the L6010 junction towards Asdee improves greatly and is very smooth



Road signs for the road number, Wild Atlantic Way and for Asdee, Ballybunion etc are in place



We look after our village. We found no litter on route

Details of our Findings



You have to go through the Church car park to get to our school. Raise awareness on road safety in school.

The Church car park does get busy during mass time, for weddings, funerals etc.



The entrance to the Church car park is very narrow and only one car/vehicle can use it at a time. This causes issues with traffic entering and existing the car park.



The pedestrian entrance is right next to the car entrance so you have to be careful as this area is busy before and after school.

Details of our Findings



The middle bollard at the end of the school drive is sometimes removed (for deliveries etc) so be careful walking past the hole in the ground .



ESB poles are outside the entrance so watch out for these.



There is only one continued footpath through the village. The footpath on the opposite side of the road stops and starts.



The footpath from our school is in very poor condition.

Details of our Findings



You need to watch out for the leaves on the footpath.



The road surface through the village is in very poor condition. Ask KCC to resurface the road.

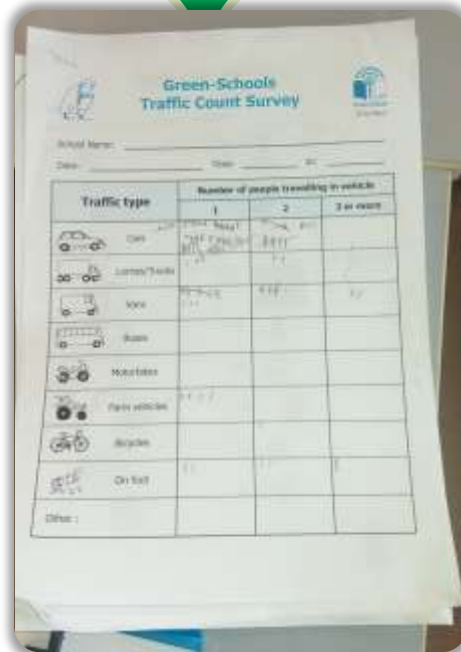


Our school entrance is located on a bend – opposite the fire station. This is why we need road markings and signs to indicate a school ahead. Ask KCC to add these.



There are no road markings either direction to indicate a school ahead on the R551 through the village. Asks KCC to add these.

Details of our Findings



A photograph of a 'Green-Schools Traffic Count Survey' form. The form includes fields for 'School Name', 'Date', 'Time', and 'By'. It features a table for recording traffic counts with columns for 'Traffic type' and 'Number of people travelling in vehicle' (subdivided into 1, 2, and 3 or more). The traffic types listed are Car, Caravan/Trailer, Van, Bus, Motorbike, Heavy vehicle, Bicycle, and On foot. There is also a 'Other' row at the bottom.

Traffic type	Number of people travelling in vehicle		
	1	2	3 or more
Car			
Caravan/Trailer			
Van			
Bus			
Motorbike			
Heavy vehicle			
Bicycle			
On foot			
Other			

This is a busy route to Limerick from Kerry so all types of vehicles use it . A lot of traffic uses this route pass our school. They need to know a school is in the village. There are no road signs with flashing lights to indicate a school ahead in either direction on the R551. Ask KCC to add these.



There is no footpath over the bridge just pass our school so be careful walking here.



The double yellow road markings outside the fire station need to be repainted. Ask KCC.

Details of our Findings



There are no road markings on the R551 throughout the village. Ask KCC about this.



There are some down pipe/gutter running down some houses straight on the footpath – water from them goes straight onto the footpath so it can be slippery if it is raining, frost etc. Watch out for these.



There are drain covers on the footpath on route – if they get wet they are slippery. Just watch out for these.



You need to watch out for entrances to homes and businesses if out walking or cycling. Raise awareness in school.

Details of our Findings



Moss is in place on the footpath so be careful walking. Could it be removed/cleaned?



Puddles of water collect on the footpath by the Tidy Towns work – Sand Quay so watch out for this.



You need to watch out for the bin situated outside Centra as you could bang into it. Raise awareness in school.

Details of our Findings



You need to watch out for the entrance and exit to the housing area on Sand Quay 'Radharc na habhann estate). Raise awareness in school and in the community.



The road R551 up to L6010 junction is in good condition but then is in poor condition from there through the village. Could the road be resurfaced through the village, road markings added etc. Ask KCC.

Our Key Findings Were:

1. You have to go through the Church car park to get to our school so be careful.
2. The Church car park does get busy during mass time, for weddings, funerals etc.
3. The entrance to the Church car park is very narrow and only one car/vehicle can use it at a time. This causes issues with traffic entering and existing the car park. Can anything be put in place to help with this? Ask Kerry County Council.
4. The pedestrian entrance is right next to the car entrance so you have to be careful as this area is busy before and after school.
5. The middle bollard at the end of the school drive is sometimes removed (for deliveries etc) so be careful walking past the hole in the ground.
6. ESB poles are outside the entrance so watch out for these.
7. There is only one continued footpath through the village. The footpath on the opposite side of the road stops and starts.
8. The footpath from our school is in very poor condition so ask KCC to look at this.
9. You need to watch out for the leaves on the footpath.
10. The road surface through the village is in very poor condition so ask KCC to resurface the road.
11. Our school is located on a bend – opposite the fire station. This is why we need road markings and road signs to indicate a school ahead as this is a main route. Ask KCC.
12. There are no road markings either direction to indicate a school ahead on the R551 through the village. Ask KCC to add these.
13. Our traffic survey showed us that this is a busy route to Limerick from Kerry so all types of vehicles use it. A lot of traffic use this route.
14. There are no road signs with flashing lights to indicate a school ahead in either direction on the R551 so ask KCC to add these.
15. There is no footpath over the bridge just pass our school so be careful walking here.
16. The double yellow road markings outside the fire station need to be repainted. Ask KCC.
17. There is o road markings on the R551 throughout the village so ask KCC to add these.
18. There are some down pipe/gutter running down some houses straight on the footpath – water from them goes straight onto the footpath so it can be slippy if is it is raining, frost etc. Just be careful passing here.
19. There are drain covers on the footpath on route – if they get wet they are slippy.
20. You need to watch out for entrances to homes and businesses.
21. Moss is in place on the footpath so be careful. Could this be removed/cleadned?
22. You need to watch out for the bin situated outside Centra as you could bang into it.
23. Puddles of water collect on the footpath by the Tidy Towns work – Sand Quay. Be careful.
24. You need to watch out for the entrance and exit to the housing area on Sand Quay ‘Radharc na habhann estate).
25. The road R551 up to L6010 junction is in good condition but then is in poor condition from there through the village. Could the road be resurfaced through the village?
26. A lot of traffic use the road outside out school throughout the day – raise awareness on safety. Always wear a high-visibility vest .

Thank You

Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

Green-Schools Travel Education Officer

Name: Angela Wall

Email: awall@eeu.antaisce.org

Phone: 0877833986

School Details:

Name: Elizabeth O' Sullivan (Principal)

School: St Oliver's National School

Ballylongford

Co. Kerry

Email: ballyns.ias@eircom.net

Phone: 068 43477