

Clyst Vale Community College

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Background

Clyst Vale Community College is for students' aged between 11-18. Their catchment area comprises of students from 60% rural areas and 40% more urban areas. A recent travel survey was carried out highlighting that 45-50% of pupils' travel to the college by public transport whereas the majority of the rest travel in by car (A high proportion of students' car share 25%). Only 5% of students involved in the survey walked.

Key Issues Highlighted:-

1. Congestion

During peak times many cars park **illegally** blocking access to the school, restricting the flow of traffic resulting in congestion problems and the delayed arrival of school transport.

2. Safety

- There are **strong safety concerns** for students when they are travelling to and from school (two fatal accidents have occurred in the last few years).
- The majority of the routes to the School involve **travelling on country Lanes** where there is poor visibility and high exposure to cars.
- Around the school there are **no designated crossings**- leading to many students placing themselves in a vulnerable position.
- There are no pavements around the school or linking the school to the main bus stop forcing students on to the road.
- During peak times many **cars park inappropriately** blocking access, thus many students are forced onto the roads and weave amongst the cars.
- Due to safety concerns the Principle of Clyst Valley does not feel in a position to support walk/cycle to school initiatives.

3. Access to After School Activities

- There is a high dependence on school transport – many pupils cannot attend after school activities as there are poor public services outside school hours. Thus many students do not receive the benefits of after school learning as well as clubs and activities.

4. Bus

- There is a lack of information at certain bus stops around the school (no timetable).
- Poor frequency and reliability.
- For many students there are no direct bus routes to the school E.G Students from Silverton and Clyst Valley (village) have to go via Exeter or rely on cars.

Recommendations For The Next DLTP (2006-2011)

1. Cycling

The provision of cycle routes would encourage a greater number of students to travel to school by bike offering a safe alternative way to travel to school.

2. Bus

- Establishing designated waiting areas.
- Regular/reliable bus services after school and out side of term time.
- Increased information – timetables on all bus stops.

3. Safety

- Reduce the speed limit on Collumpton Road.
- Insert Safe crossings around the school.

4. Alternative Transport (self help schemes)

Investigate the co-ordination of self-help schemes e.g. fare cars / mini buses.

5. Parking

Stronger measures to prevent inappropriate parking.

DEVON LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – 2006-2011

Handouts

The following handouts were issued to support this paper: -

Panel Discussion: -

- The students produced the schools Green Travel Plan highlighting their travel concerns. Senior management have been using this document whilst liaising with the County Council (Alison McGregor green travel plan co-ordinator).
- The students highlight that if the bus routes were improved and there was a greater provision of information they would remain using public transport when they were old enough to get a car.
- Currently due to safety concerns many parents prevent the pupils from cycling to school a cycling route would reduce these concerns.
- Secondary issues that would further encourage cycling would include the provision of a bike shed and an area where clothes can be stored.
- Cycle courses would contribute to increased safety.
- Generally behaviour on the buses is good, however some bad behaviour on buses has deterred some students from taking the main bus. It has also contributed to a poor relationship between drivers and the students.
- Self-help alternative transport can be as simple as laying on a minibus. – Important as many students are currently missing out on after school activities and learning There are also holiday GCSE revision sessions that many students cannot physically get to.
- The main issues that Clyst Valley would like to see in the next DLTP include improving accessibility, addressing safety concerns and improving availability of public transport.