



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

The Ridgeway Primary School

(870/2020)



Inspire, motivate & challenge

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

2015

Contents

1. Our School

- 1.1 Introduction*
- 1.2 School Details*
- 1.3 Current Involvement*

2. School Travel Survey and Consultation

- 2.1 Survey Details*
- 2.2 Survey Results*

3. Journey to school Consultation

4. Problems and Opportunities

5. What we want to achieve

- 5.1 Objectives*
- 5.2 Targets*

6. Planning for Change

7. Keeping Track

- 7.1 Monitoring*
- 7.2 Review*

8. School Travel Plan Agreement

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Reading Buses Network Map*
- 9.2 Reading Cycle Routes & Network Map*
- 9.3 Pupil Postcodes and Walking Distance Map*
- 9.4 School Location Plans*
 - 9.4.1 Site Plan*
 - 9.4.2 Town Plan*

1. Our School

1.1 Introduction

The aim of our school travel plan will be to encourage and facilitate safe and sustainable travel to and from our school for our pupils, parents and staff.

We would like to achieve this in a variety of ways, to consider the needs of all of our families, whilst at the same time inspiring our children to take an active role in implementing new and exciting schemes.

Our children, parents and staff have completed travel questionnaires. From this we have been able to capture the issues that they face on their daily journeys to school, in order for us to review fit-for-purpose solutions to tackle travel burdens.

New Development

One of the reasons for us updating our school travel plan is that the school will be expanding to a full three form-entry school. This will be achieved by building a new two-storey teaching block containing 12 classrooms and support spaces. As well as a second block that will accommodate a new entrance, kitchen, hall and staffroom. External play areas will be expanded to meet the needs of the expanding school which includes the provision of a synthetic turf pitch. The vehicle route to the school is also changing leading to the new entrance with a visitor car park. This means that we will be caring for an additional 60 pupils per school year group. For us, this makes a focus on safe and sustainable travel a school-wide goal for the forthcoming years.

1.2 School Details

The Ridgeway Primary School caters for pupils aged 4 to 11 years old. We have 330 pupils in the school at present. Currently we have no SEN pupils with specific transport needs attending the school.

The school day starts at 9:00 am, although our doors are open and we begin supervision from 8:50am. Children finish school at 3:15pm. The school also provides a breakfast club from 7:45 am and an after-school club until 6:00 pm

The areas that our pupils are travelling to the school from can be seen in the 'pupil postcodes & walking distance map' in the appendices.

School location

For location plans for our school, please refer to the 'site plan' & 'town plan' in the appendices.

Transport Links

The current Reading Bus' and Reading Cycle network maps can be found in the appendices. These maps indicate which routes serve our school and which onward connections could be used for travel where necessary.

1.3 Current involvement in school travel activities and education

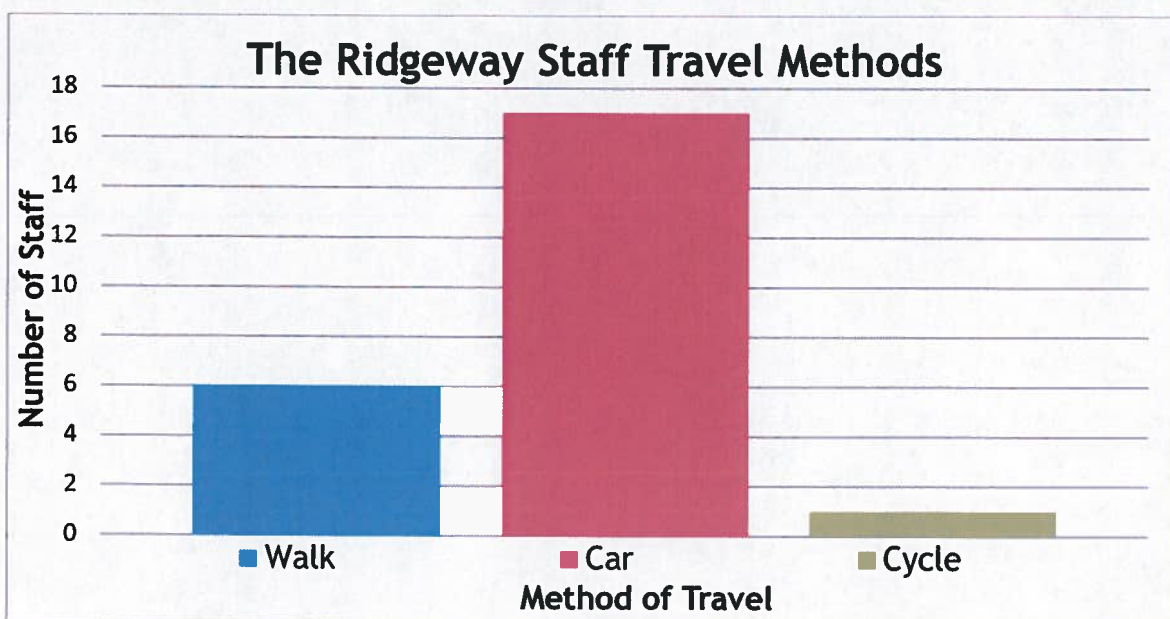
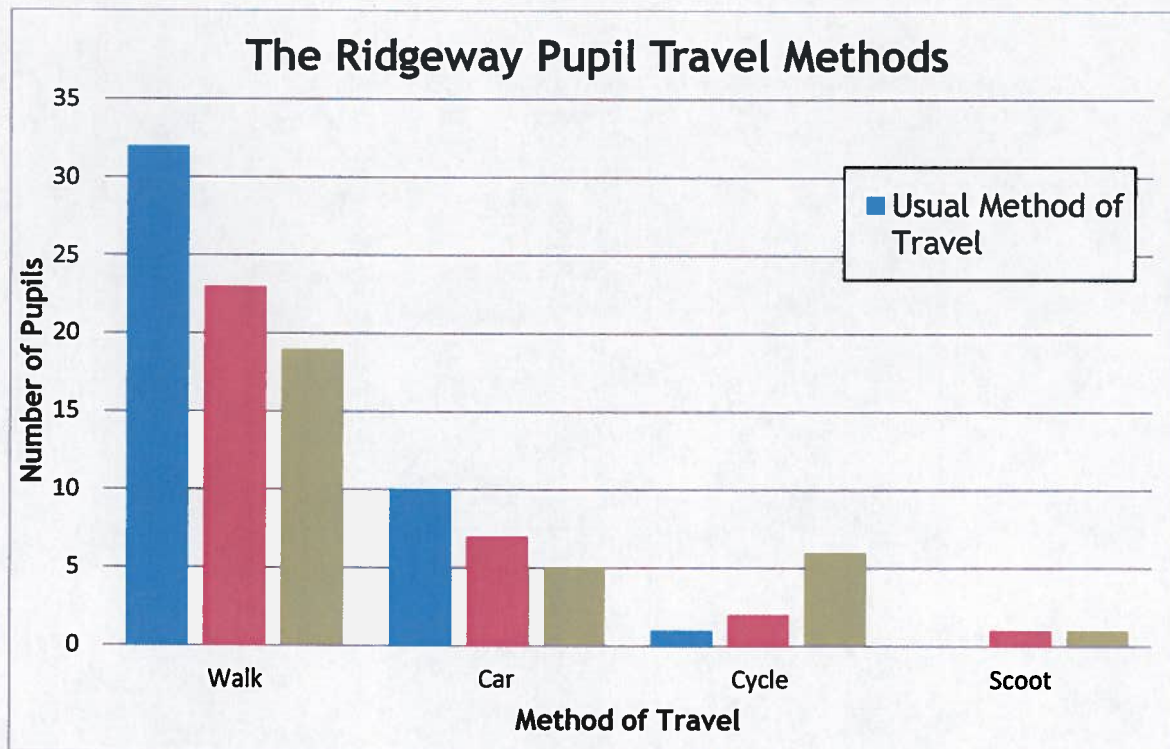
- Beat The Street – an annual summer term initiative to encourage walking to school.
- Walk to School Week – an annual event to encourage children to walk to school and support the health benefits associated.
- Bike Week – an annual opportunity to promote cycling to the children as a source of fitness and fun which included free cycling events to provide everyone an opportunity to get on their bikes.

2. School travel survey and consultation

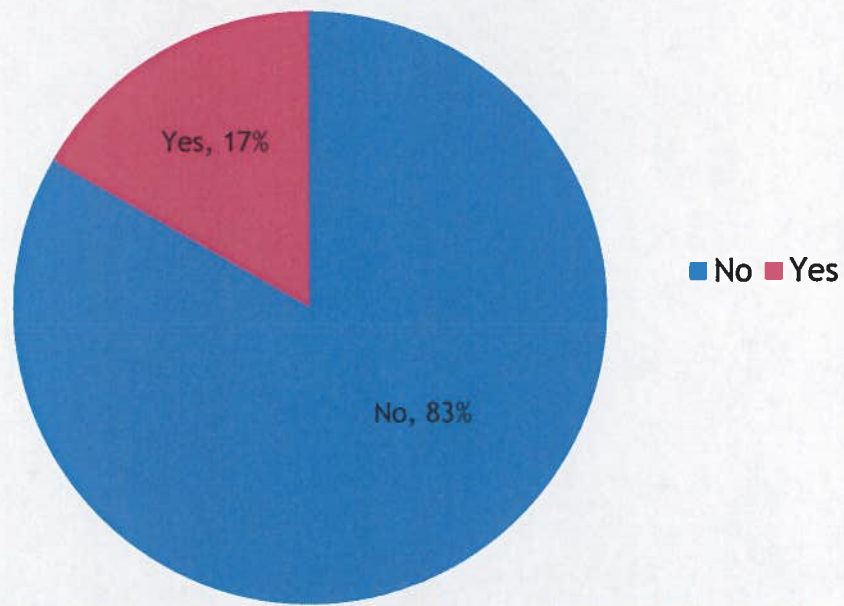
2.1 Survey details

In 2014 parents, pupils and staff were asked to complete a written survey about how their children get to school. The survey was completed by 39 pupils and 24 members of staff. From this we have been able to capture the issues that they face on their daily journeys to school, in order for us to review fit-for-purpose solutions to tackle travel burdens.

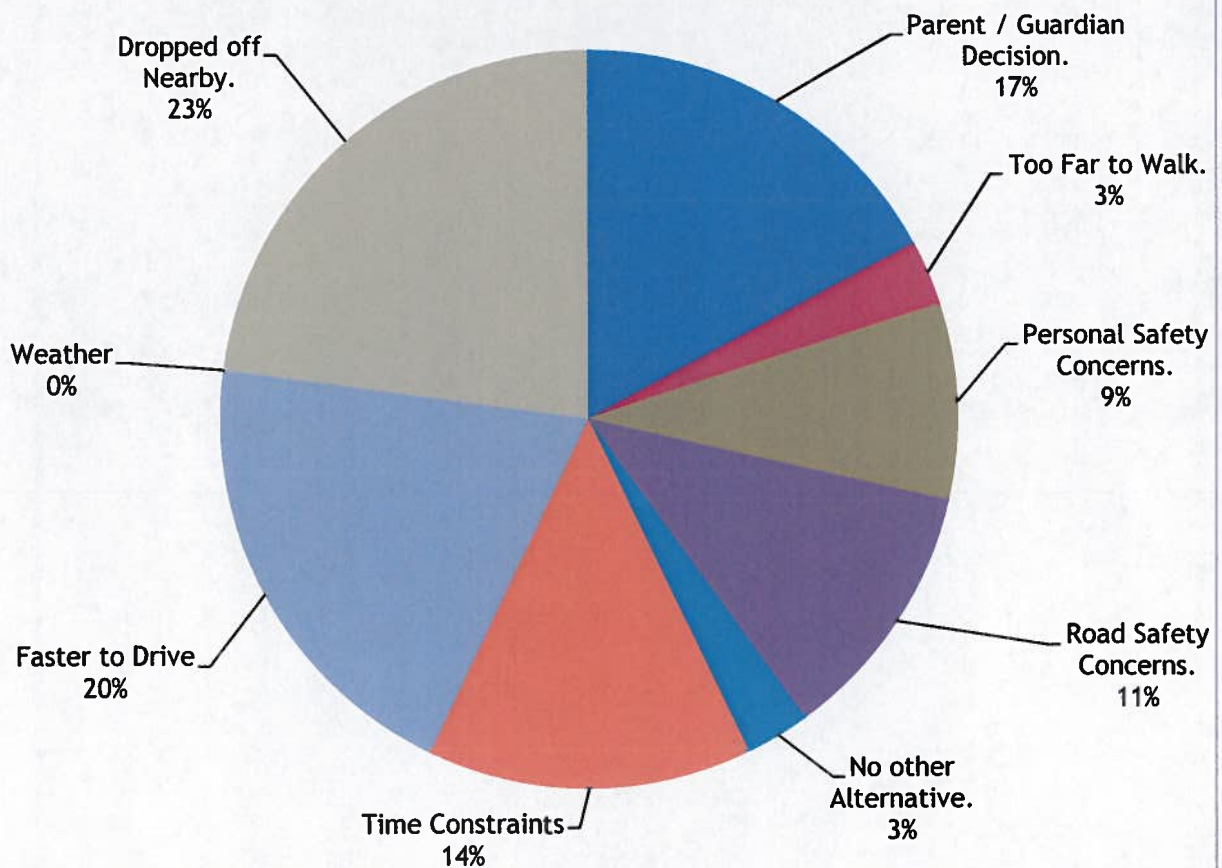
2.2 Survey results



Pupil Car Sharing



Reasons for Car Usage



3. Journey to school consultation

As part of the travel to school questionnaires pupils, parents and staff were all given the opportunity to put forward their thoughts and views on their journeys to school. This helps to identify any key and overarching issue or problem that different groups face on their journeys to school. The questionnaire has also given the people who make their journeys to school every day the opportunity to put forward their suggestions and what they would like to be done towards solving these issues.

Parent and pupil comments;

Concerns with journeys to school

- Cars being parked on the pavement forcing pedestrians, wheelchair users and pushchairs to use the road
- During the Winter months, Willow Gardens and Linden Road are not always gritted creating slip hazards on ice and snow
- Congestion caused by traffic from M4 and A33
- Inadequate road surfaces and pot holes
- No cycle paths
- Main crossroad by local shops not well synced and bus stop directly after traffic lights causing congestion
- Overgrown bushes on the footpath between Whitley Wood Road and the school

Suggestions for improvements to the journey to school

- Make Linden Road one-way to help traffic flow during peak times
- Make areas of Linden Road residents only parking or permit parking and encourage parents to park further away to spread the congestion
- Make improvements to the road surfaces making it safer for drivers
- Move bus stop by local shops further up the road so that it is not directly after the traffic lights
- The school could offer a lockable covered bike shed to encourage more children to cycle/scoot to school with the option of leaving their bike/scooter there during the school day
- Introduce a zebra crossing at the top of Cressingham Road, possibly with a lollipop man or lady
- Have speed bumps on Linden Road, Sycamore Road and Hazel Crescent to make the road safer for children walking to school
- Ensure the footpath is kept clean and that bushes are regularly maintained

4. Problems and Opportunities

	Problems	Opportunities
Walking	Crossing roads near to the school. A few parents are worried about their safety when walking to school	Pupil training to improve their road safety skills. Take part in walk to school weeks.
Cycling	Parents have expressed that they would be more inclined to walk with their children to school whilst they cycled if lockable covered shelters were available.	Look at the possibility of installing additional cycle parking at the school. Encourages staff who do not own a bike but would like to, to look at the bike to work scheme. Distribute cycle maps to staff and parents. Offer pupil training in safe cycling to improve their road safety skills.
Public Transport	Many live too close to the school for public transport to be a viable option.	Have up to date bus timetables available at school reception for those who wish to travel by bus.
Car	High levels of traffic around the school are also a concern for those on foot or cycling. Many parents park their cars inappropriately on Linden Road and Willow Gardens making it dangerous for parents/pupils to walk along the footpaths and cross the roads. The parking also aggravates local residents when their driveways are affected.	Encourage car sharing to reduce the number of car trips to the school site. Write to parents reminding them to be considerate when driving to and from school. Ask traffic wardens to carry out spot checks around the school to discourage illegal behaviour. Introduce traffic measures to prevent people parking on Willow Gardens and blocking appropriate access.

5. What we want to achieve

5.1 Objectives

The objectives for our school travel plan are to;

- Increase the amount of pupils and staff who walk and cycle to school.

5.2 Targets

The targets that we hope to achieve through our school travel plan are;

1.	Liaise with the RBC to provide equipment to create temporary road markings for cycle routes. This could be changed each term to encourage the children to cycle to school.
2.	Provide the students with Bikeability training to promote safer cycling and the health benefits associated.
3.	To provide more information to prospective parents about local footpaths and public transport to school. This will be to encourage walking and cycling rather than parents parking on Hillbrow or Linden Road. This information will include local bus routes, walking distance maps and local cycle routes (as shown in appendices 9.1, 9.2 & 9.3).
4.	Liaise with RBC Highways to review initiatives to reduce the number of vehicle trips to the school along Willow Gardens and Linden Road.
5.	Add additional bike shelters in an appropriate location within the school grounds to encourage children to cycle and scoot to school with the option of somewhere to leave their bikes/scooters during the school day.

6. Planning for Change

Action	Person / Team Responsible	Other Parties Involved	Target / Objective	Timescale for Implementation
Provide new covered cycle/scooter shelter	The Ridgeway	RBC expansion project	To encourage pupils to scoot/cycle & walk to reduce car traffic	Within the next academic year
Pupils to create posters and signage to provide warnings and information to road users e.g. 'No parking', 'Slow down-School Children'	Pupils at the schools	RBC team, Police advisory team, etc.	To teach children about safe places to park and where to cross roads & to make parents/road users more aware via personal posters	Within the next academic year
Provide copies of walking routes to the school	School to work with RBC team, contact Marian Marsh		To encourage walking to school via recognised preferred pedestrian routes marked with appropriate signage	Within the next academic year
Provide copies of bus timetables at school reception	The Ridgeway	Reading Buses	Increase awareness of public transport in effort to reduce car traffic	
Provide pupils with Bikeability training	The Ridgeway	Bikeability	Teach the children how to safely cycle to and from school	Within the next academic year

7. Keeping Track

7.1 Monitoring

Our school travel plan will be monitored on a termly basis as part of the School Council's meetings, to ensure pupil involvement. The team responsible for delivering the action plan will also monitor the travel plan on a termly basis to keep track of any progress made towards any of the actions.

7.2 Review

Our travel plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. We will assess our progress towards the targets set out in this plan using the national school census data. We will also review our entire action plan at this stage and update and modify it as necessary in preparation for the new school year each September.

In addition any review of our travel plan will consider pupil travel needs arising from new developments in education and transport provision and our School Travel Plan will be revised as necessary to take account of these.

8. School Travel Plan Agreement

We support the content of our school travel plan

Head teacher

Name: MADELEINE COSGROVE

Signature: *M. Cosgrove*

Date: 21/3/16

Chair of Governors

Name: MARIAN LIVINGSTON

Signature: *M. Livingston*

Date: 29/4/16

Reading Borough Council (Education Sign Off)

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Reading Borough Council (Transport Sign Off)

Name:

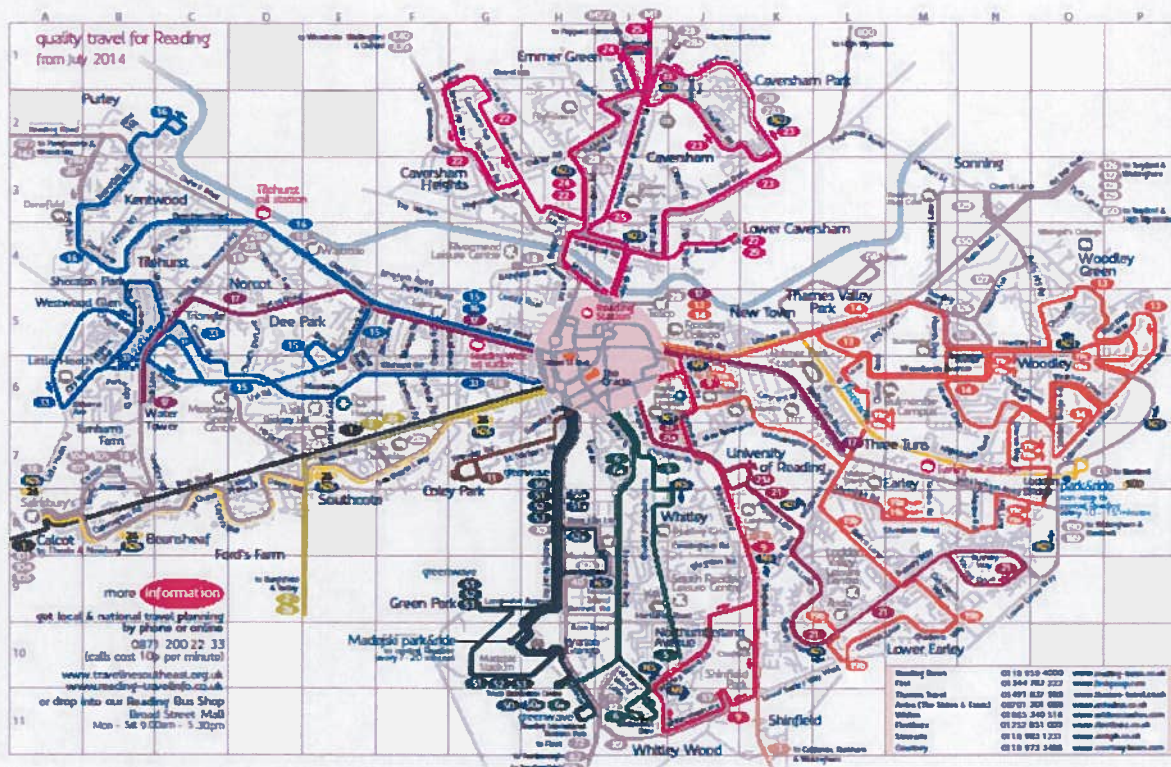
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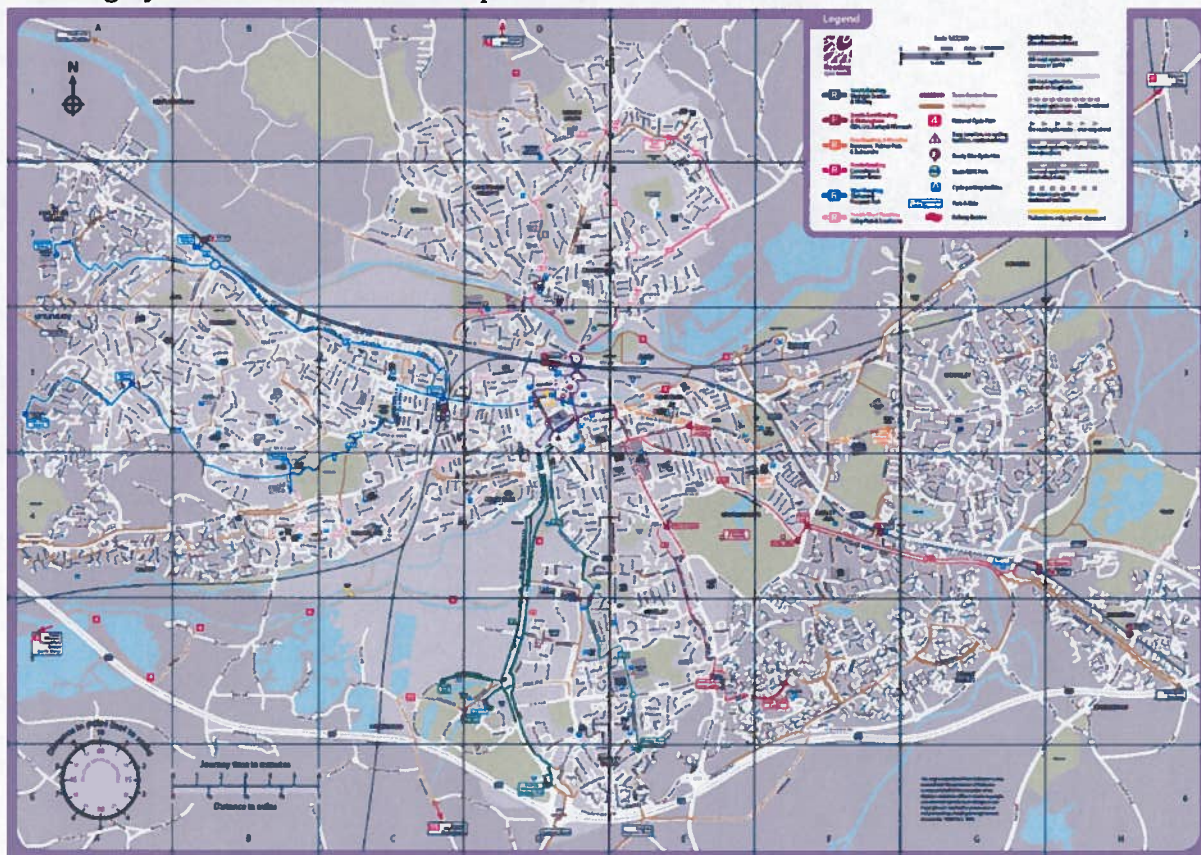
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9. Appendices

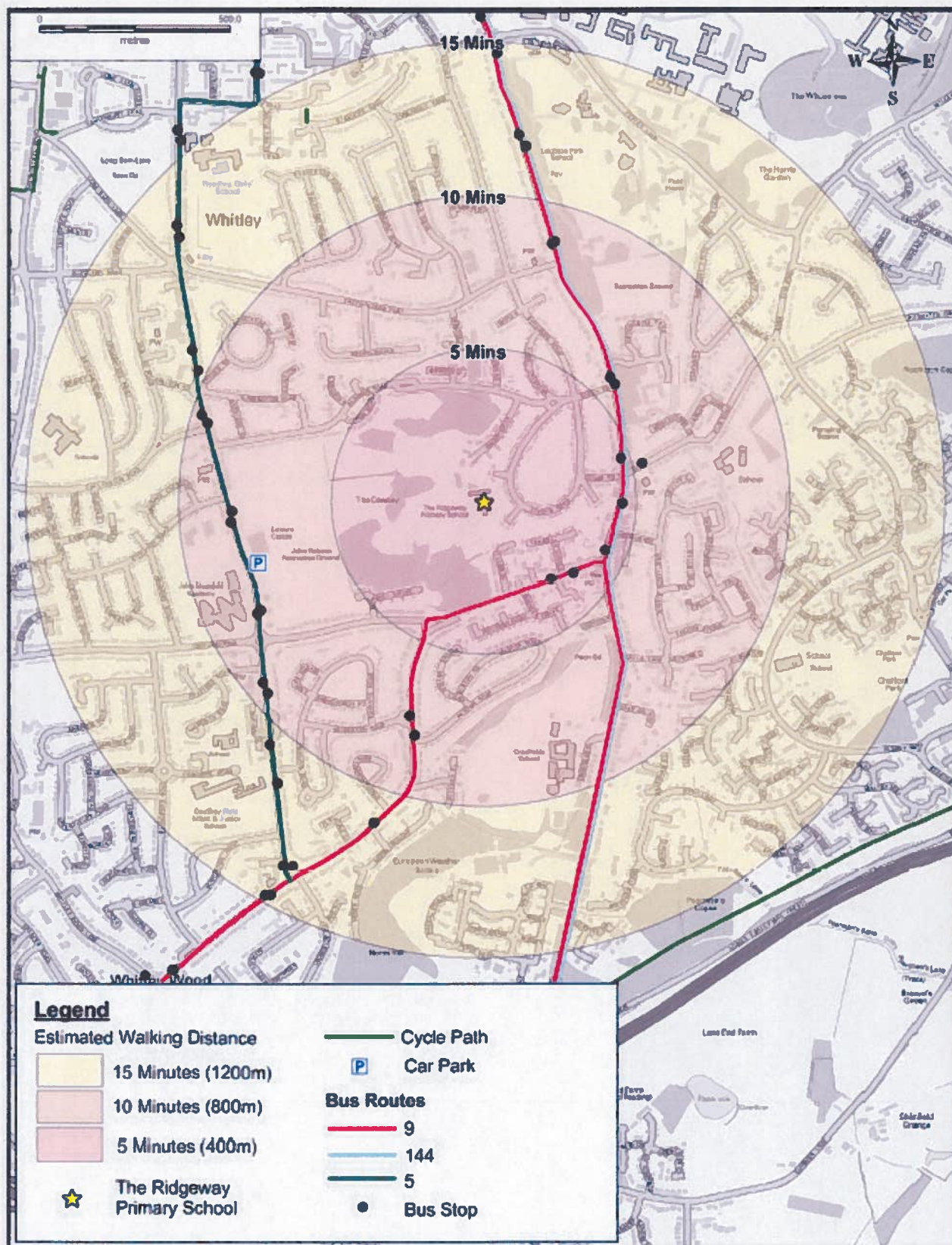
9.1 Reading Bus Network Map



9.2 Reading Cycle Routes Network Map



9.3 Pupil Postcodes and Walking Distance Map



The Ridgeway Primary School Transport Options

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Date: 23/06/2014

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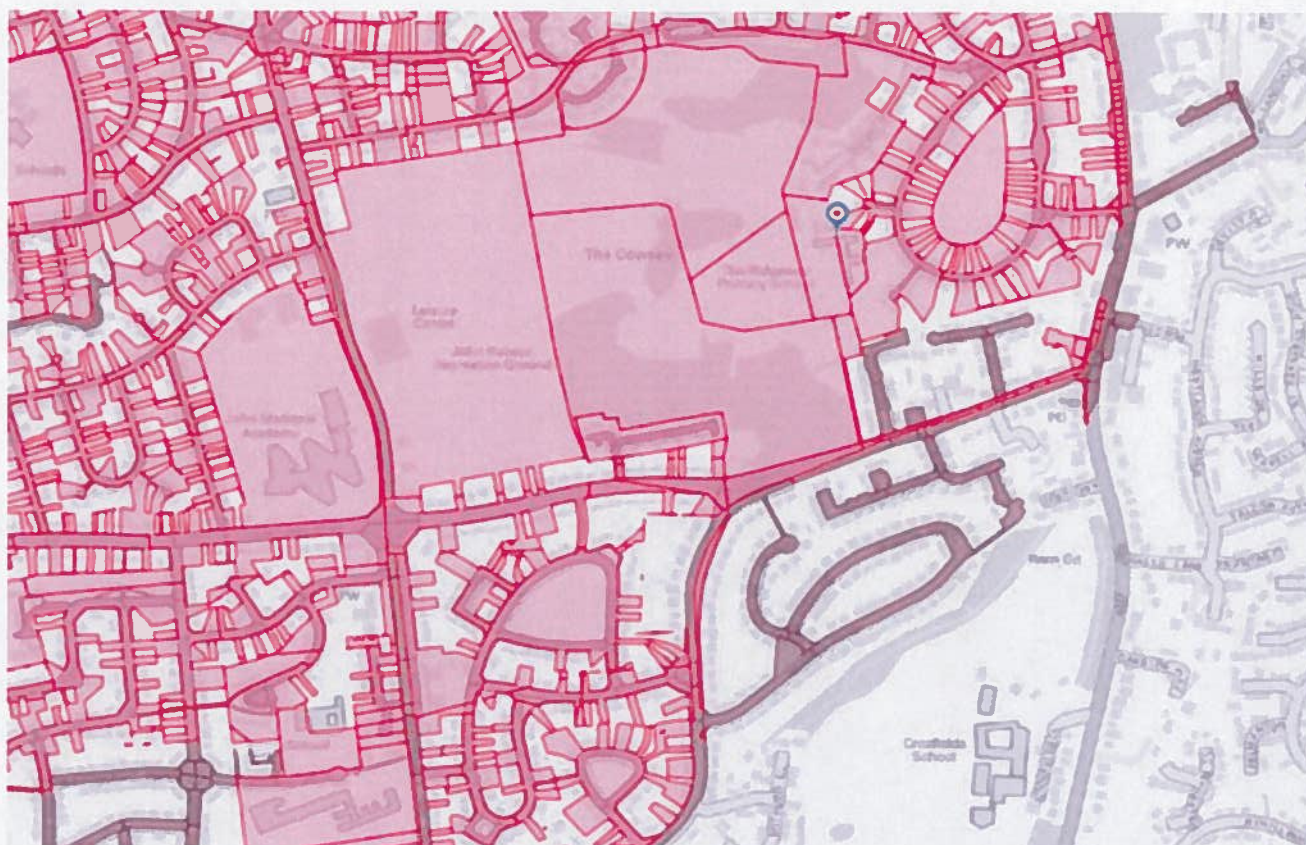
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9.4 School Location Plans

9.4.1 Site Plan



9.4.2 Town Plan

