

**Brighton & Hove**

**Safer Routes to School  
Initial Schools Consultation Report  
May 2011**

## South Portslade

Benfield School  
Portslade Infant School  
St Mary's RC Primary  
St Nicolas C of E VA Junior School  
St Peter's Community Infant and Nursery  
School

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## **1. Introduction to the Safer Routes to School Project**

Safer Routes to School aims to make journeys to school safer and easier for children, their parents or carers and staff to walk or cycle to school.

Safer Routes to School started as a pilot project in the Brighton and Hove area in the autumn of 1997, following successful trials in Leeds and York. Since 1999 Brighton & Hove City Council has worked with 17 schools on Safer Routes to School schemes, installing new pedestrian crossing points, pedestrian refuges and other road safety engineering measures.

Brighton and Hove City Council are fully committed to the Safer Routes to School project, aimed at using a data led approach to identify areas where collisions are occurring on journeys to and from school, and to address the issues in these areas.

## 2. Criteria for selection for the scheme

The criteria for selecting area for this project included:

- Results of a city wide search for clusters (four or more) of collisions within a 25m radius over three years involving cyclists and pedestrians at school journey times during term time only.
- Proximity of schools to concentrations of those clusters
- Eliminating areas already being addressed by other schemes planned or already underway
- Analysis of the general severity of injuries and the specific circumstances and impacts on children of these collisions
- An assessment of whether engineering solutions could have mitigated those specific circumstances
- Comparison of student postcode data to determine relevance of area to school catchments.

The following information (gained from approved School Travel Plans and postcode data) was also used to help support the schools' inclusion in the project:

- the main travel routes used by children
- an audit of facilities to aid pedestrians/cyclists at or on route to the school including:
  - the presence or otherwise of formal pedestrian crossings
  - pedestrian refuge islands
  - dropped kerbs
  - guard rails
  - cycle lanes to the appropriate standard and cycle sheds/racks within the school sites

### 2.1 Development of the project

In applying the above criteria, the following schools were selected and are participating:

**Benfield School**

**Portslade Infants School**

**St Mary's RC Primary School**

**St Nicolas C of E VA Primary School**

**St Peter's Community Infant and Nursery School**

The first stage of developing the project was to carry out a questionnaire survey of the pupils, parents and staff of the three schools. This was carried out in the Spring term of 2011.

The primary objectives of the survey were as follows:

- i. to identify the main mode of travel to and from school
- ii. to determine levels of daily exercise amongst pupils
- iii. to identify the main travel routes to the school including key crossing points
- iv. to obtain the views of respondents on:
  - Children's preferred modes of travel to and from school
  - Parents' perceived danger of different modes of travel
  - Parents' and children's views on dangerous locations on route to school
  - Staff travel choices, journeys and modal preferences.

St Nicolas' and Portslade Infant schools began a joint review of their travel plans, taking account of their adjacent sites, in 2010. St Mary's RC Primary, St Peter's Community Infant and Nursery school, and Benfield School will all use the results of this survey to update their own STPs.

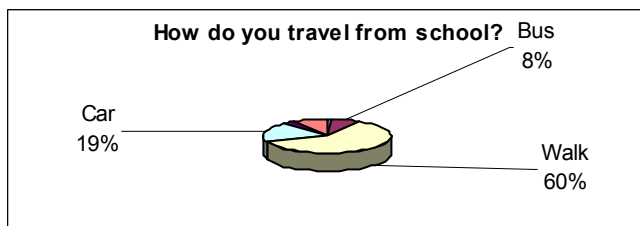
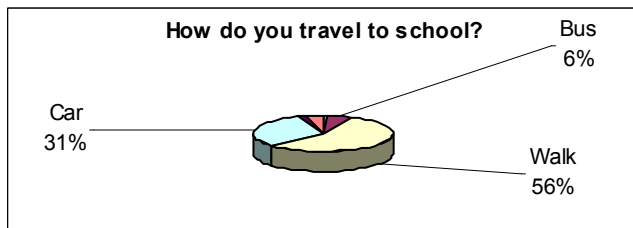
The scheme is proposed to be implemented in the Winter of 2011-12.

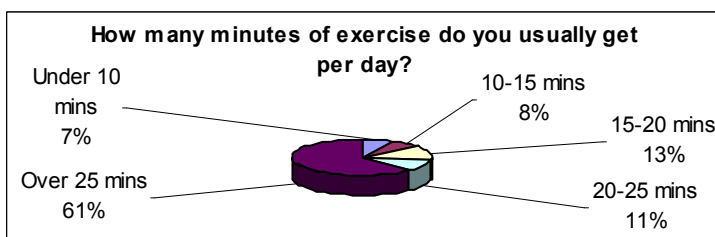
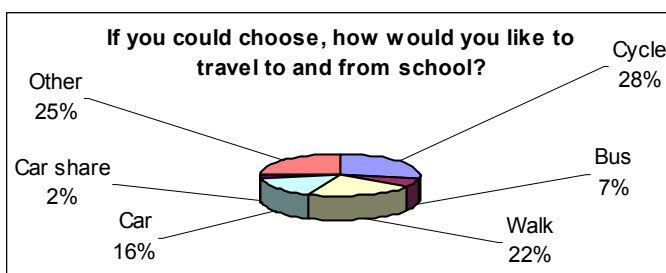
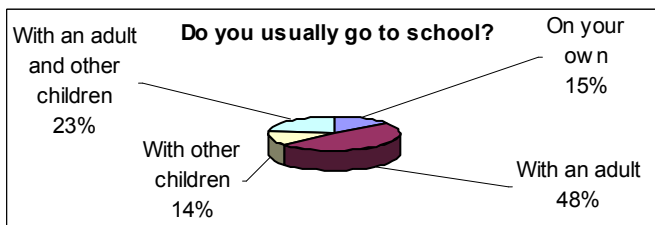
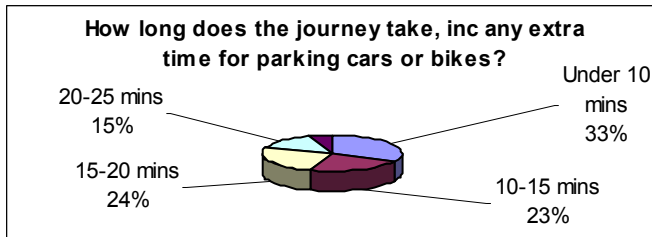
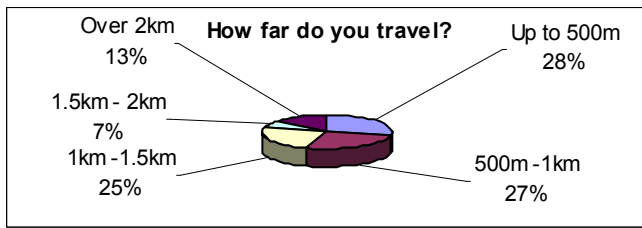
### 3. Background and Results of surveys

#### 3.1 Benfield School

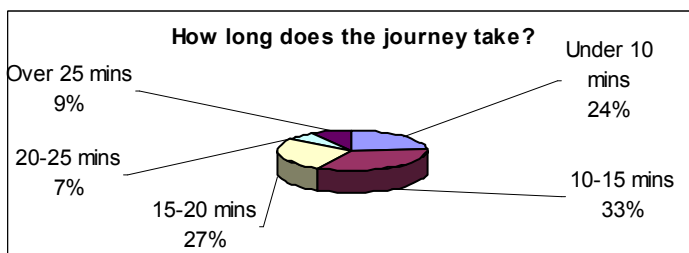
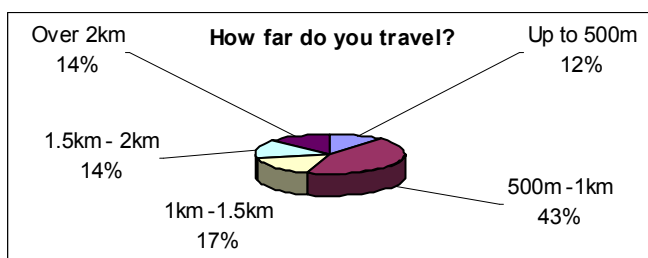
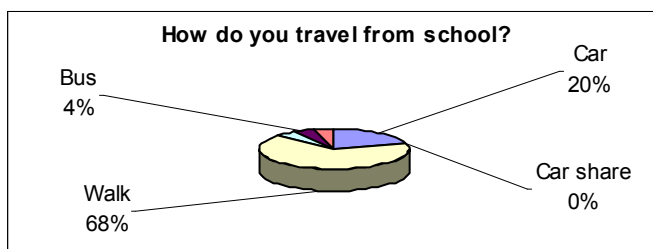
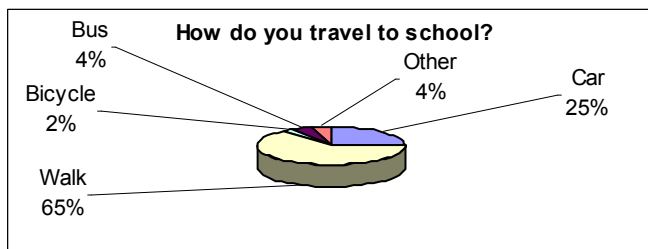
The school conducted surveys with all children and sent out questionnaires to parents and carers in March 2011 in order to determine information regarding their pupil's journeys to school. The results are as follows:

##### Pupil Results (129 Juniors surveyed)





**Parents Results (45 responses)**



**Parent/Carer Comments:**

- Boundary Road – cars driving on wrong side to access Portland Rd when railway barriers are down
- Pedestrian crossing on Victoria Road near Southdown Ave is dangerous
- Southdown Ave – Parents parking/ dropping off create problems (2 respondents)
- Trafalgar Road between 8.30 and 9am impossible to cross unless drivers choose to stop
- Old Shoreham Road near Foredown Drive – crossing needs to be nearer school
- Southdown Rd should be residents only parking (2 respondents)
- Car park at East end of Victoria park should be sealed as parents only

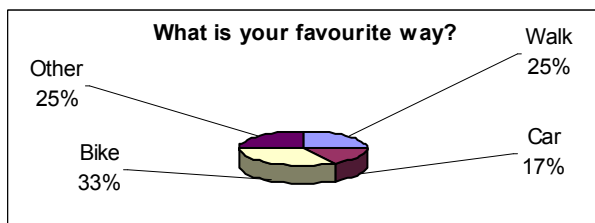
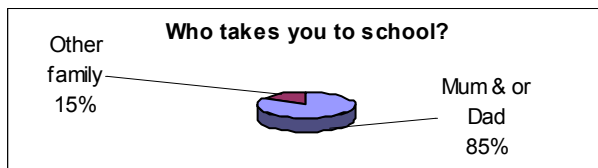
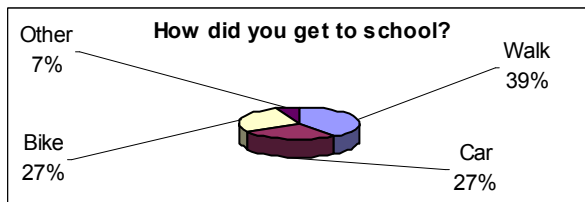


- drop off/ collection point (2 respondents)
- Stop people driving right up to both entrances
- Lollipop lady needed on OSR near Foredown Drive
- Parents parking in Vale road are creating hazards
- Speeding in the area is a problem

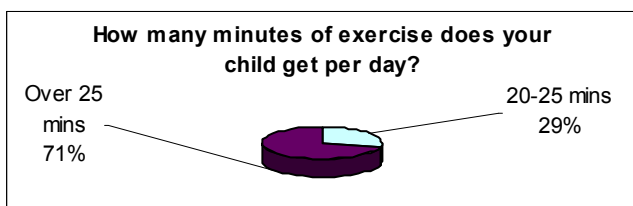
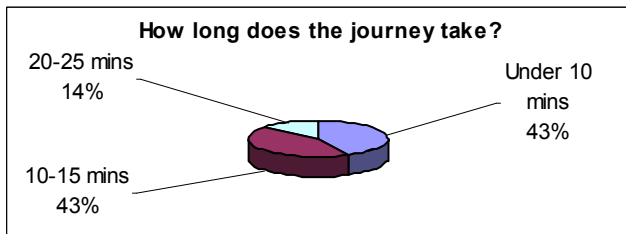
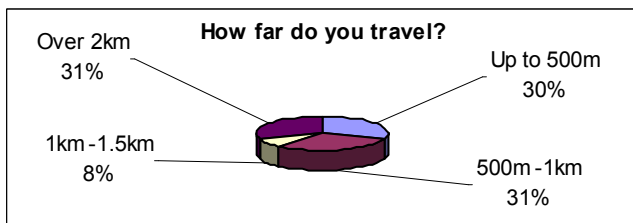
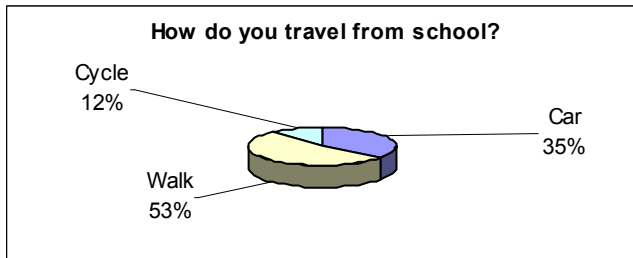
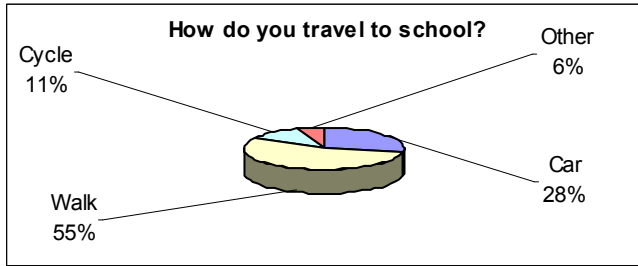
### 3.2 Portslade Infant School

The school conducted surveys with all children and sent out questionnaires to parents and carers in March 2011 in order to determine information regarding their pupil's journeys to school. The results are as follows:

#### Pupil Results (11 Infants surveyed)



#### Parents' Results (18 responses)



**Parent/Carer Comments**

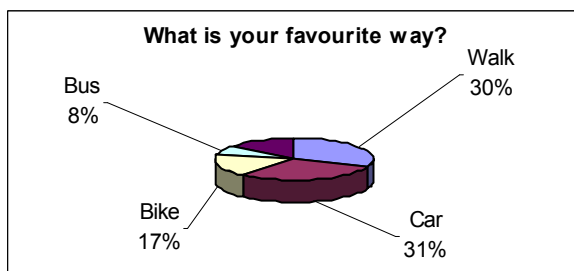
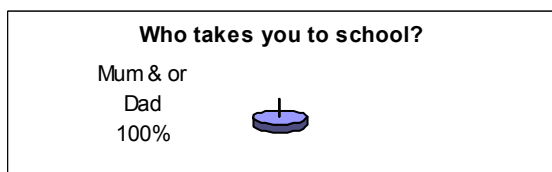
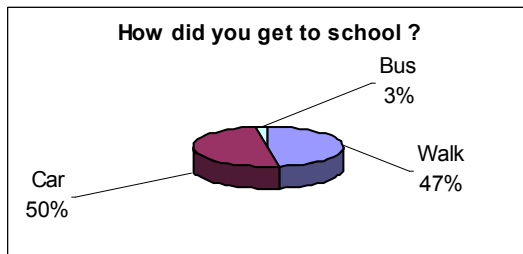
- Large numbers of illegally parked cars and disabled badges on Locks Hill (2 respondents)
- Should be a bike purchase scheme for parents/ children
- Bend by church where South St meets Locks Hill needs Slow Children crossing sign
- Walking bus from Park side of tunnel would prevent dangerous parking on Locks Hill

- Can take up to 5mins to cross Carlton Tce due to heavy traffic.
- Large number of parked cars and trucks on Victoria Road
- Junction of Locks Hill/ OSR – many near misses due to cars mounting pavements

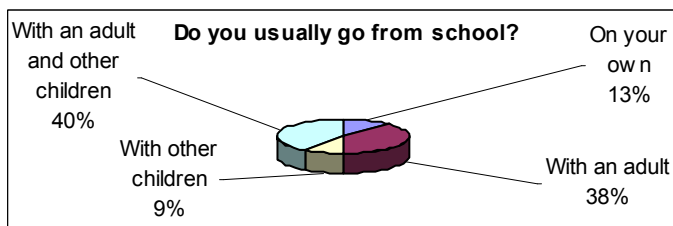
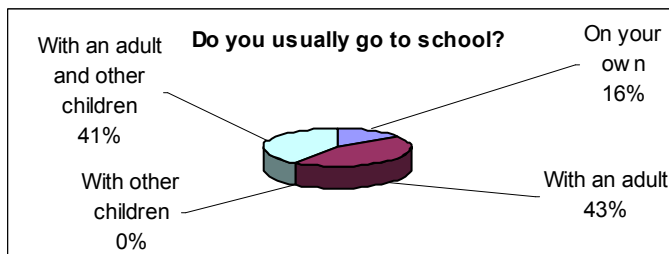
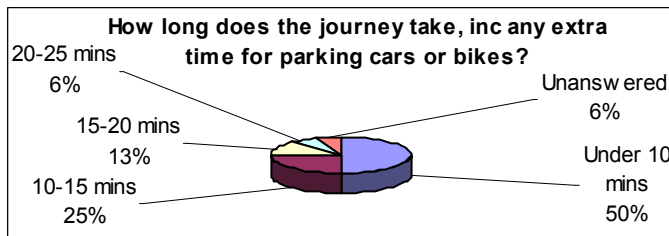
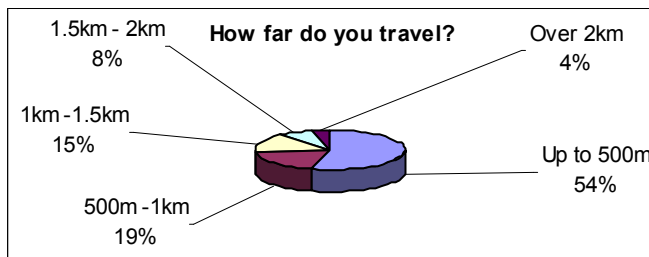
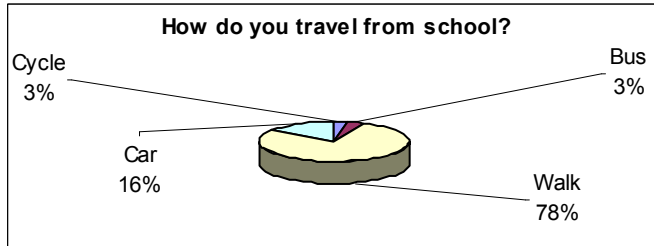
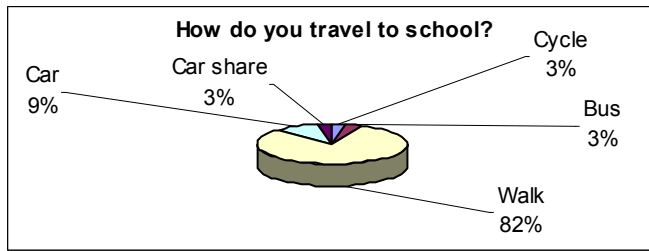
### 3.3 St Mary's RC Primary School

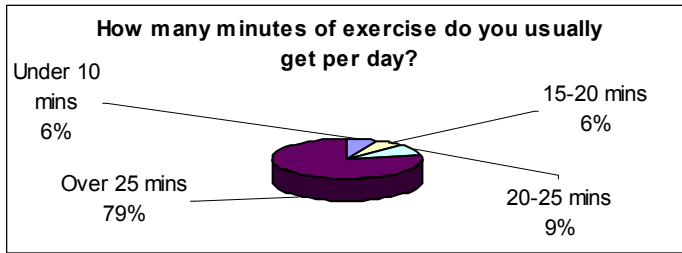
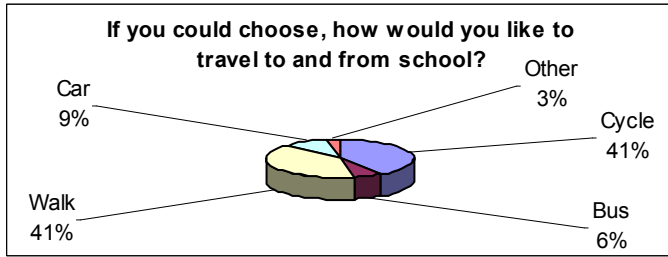
The school conducted surveys with all children and sent out questionnaires to parents and carers in March 2011 in order to determine information regarding their pupils' journeys to school. The results are as follows:

#### Pupil Results (37 Infants surveyed)

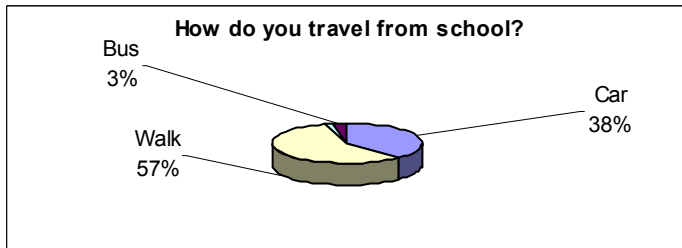
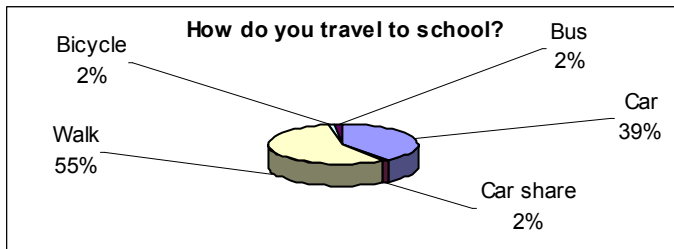


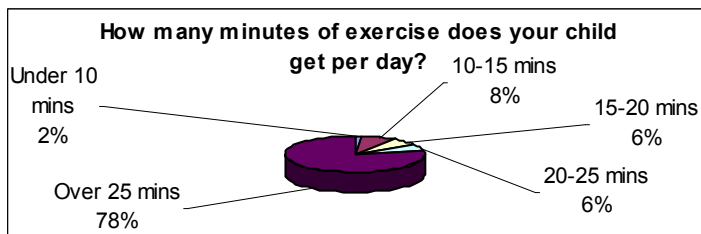
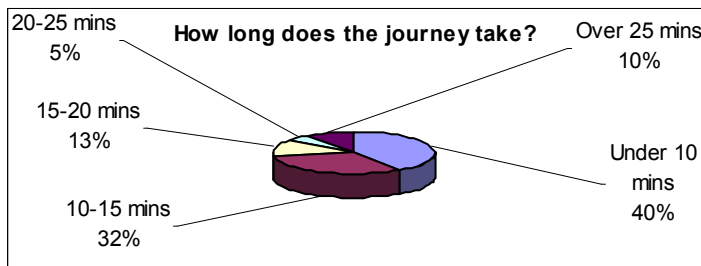
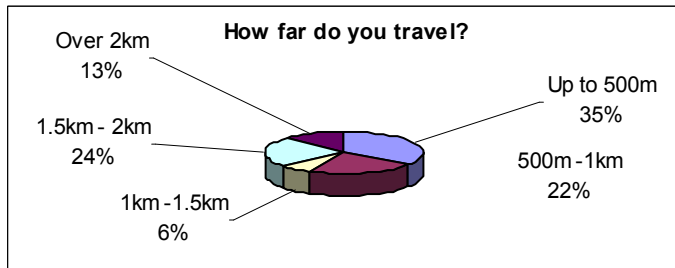
**Junior Results (31 Students)**





**Parent/ Carer Results (63 responses)**





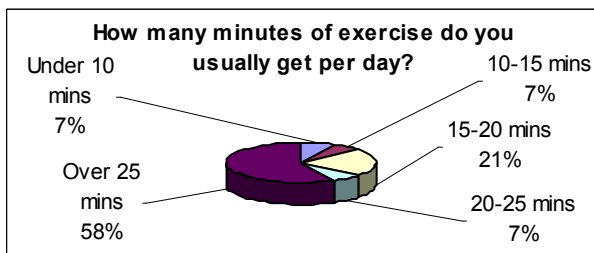
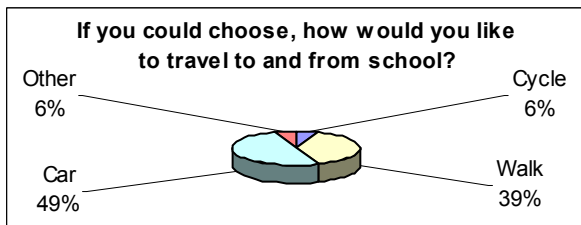
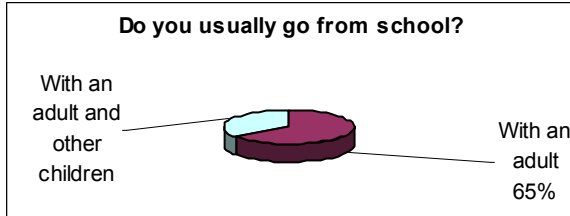
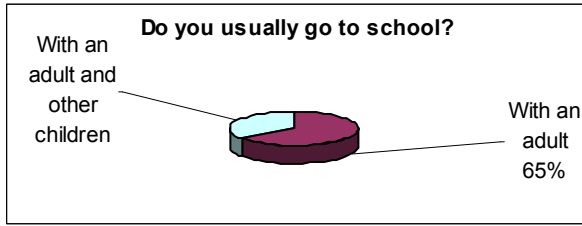
**Parent/Carer Comments**

- Church road /Trafalgar road is extremely busy always full of traffic.
- Pavement's too narrow (6 respondents)
- Vale road is extremely busy
- Pedestrian crossing on Trafalgar Road
- Cars ignore Lollipop lady
- Cars do not indicate at roundabout
- Speeding in Gladstone Road
- Parents parking in Vale Road (2 respondents)
- Speeding in the area (2 respondents)
- Lollipop ladies are great but we need more (2 respondents)
- Crossing in Gardner Street – no lollipop

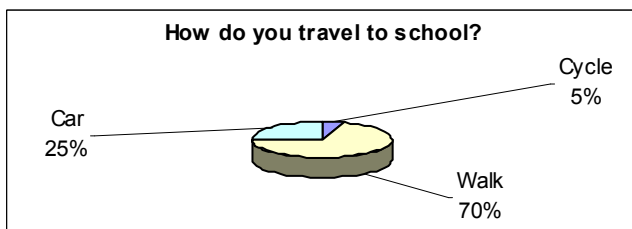
**3.4 St Nicolas C of E VA Junior School**

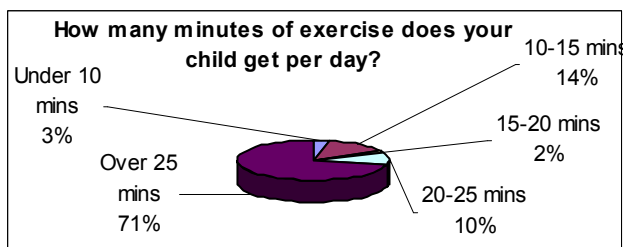
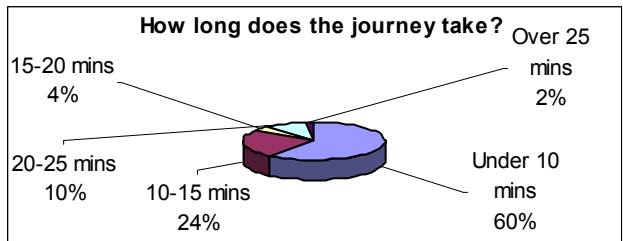
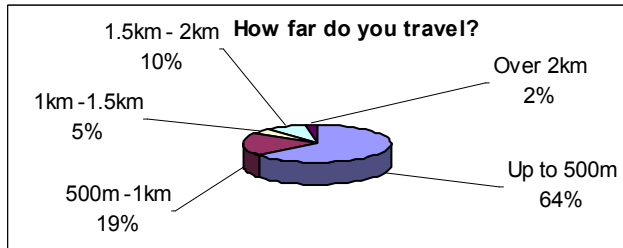
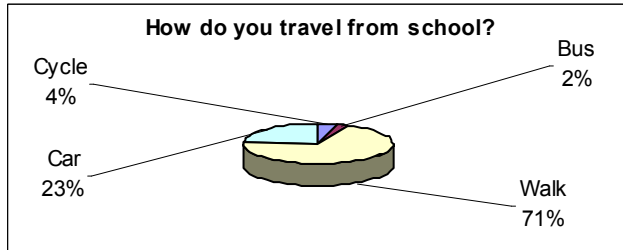
The school conducted surveys with all children and sent out questionnaires to parents and carers in March 2011 in order to determine information regarding their pupils' journeys to school. The results are as follows:

**Pupils' Results (17 surveyed)**



**Parents' results (61 responses)**





**Parents' comments**

- Applesham Way very dangerous (2 respondents)
- Children cycling on pavements
- Trafalgar Rd used by HGV's going too fast
- Easthill Way/ St Nicolas crossing point needs raised table
- High St Old village has no safe crossing point (2 respondents)
- There are safe routes, but OSR is a danger (2 respondents)
- Crossings at Shelldale Road(nr Gardner St) and Gladstone Rd are difficult
- Cars jump lights at Southern cross so dangerous to children
- Parking on Highlands Rd on SKC markings/ pavements (2 respondents)
- Highlands Rd parking makes it dangerous for cyclists
- Fox Way jn with Crestway needs zebra crossing
- Bus stops too close together cause congestion on Locks hill.
- Buses travel too fast on Locks Hill (2 respondents)

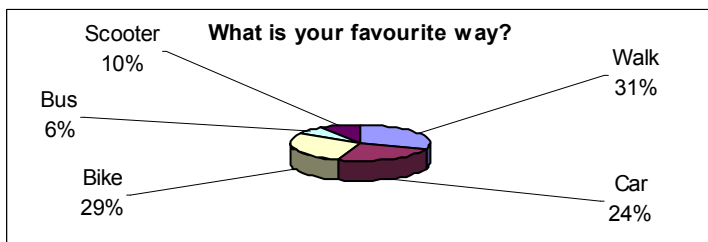
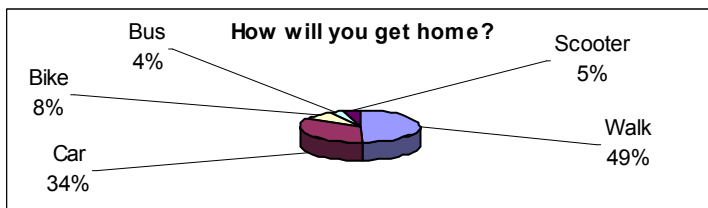
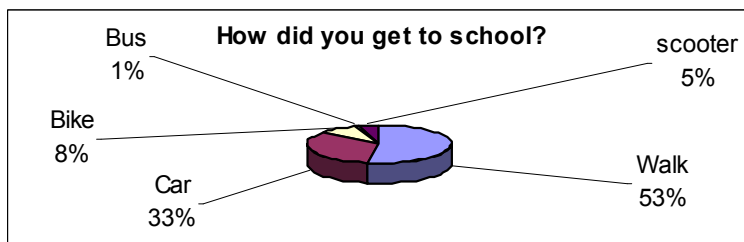


Parents parking on yellow lines needs enforcement action (4 respondents)  
 Locks hill needs Speed bumps/ other controls (3 respondents)

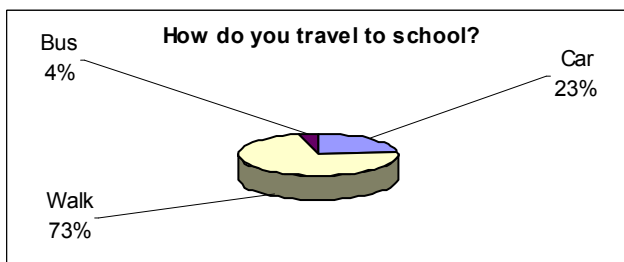
### 3.5 St Peter's Community Infant and Nursery School

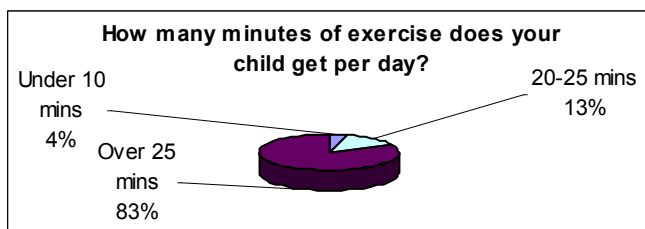
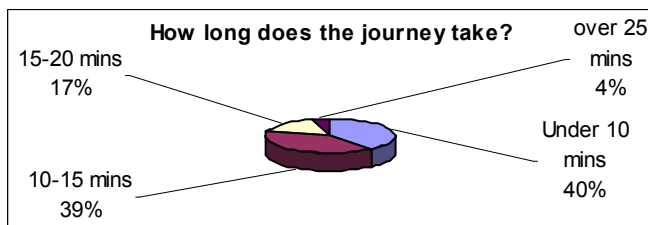
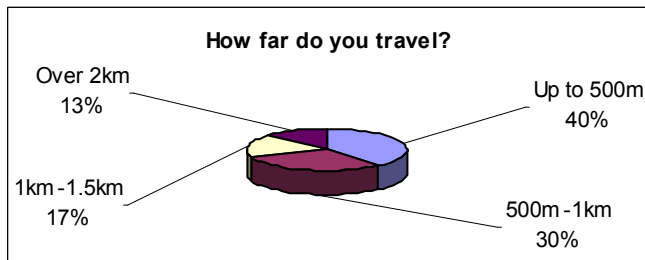
The school conducted surveys with all children and sent out questionnaires to parents and carers in March 2011 in order to determine information regarding their pupils' journeys to school. The results are as follows:

#### Pupils' results (83 surveyed)



#### Parents' results (26 responses)





**Parents' comments**

Busy roads around school

Dog mess

Visibility poor

Junction of North St & Church rd due to speed & large lorries (2 respondents)

Manor road rat run

Gladstone road rat run

Gladstone road bad visibility due to parked cars

Corner of North st and Church Rd dangerous as cars mount the pavement (2 respondents)

Crossing Seaford road to North street very dangerous and needs a pedestric crossing

Highlands road – corner where cars reverse and park on pavement is dangerous

Trafalgar rd/Church rd, large lorries, speeding. Worse on bin day

## 4. Main findings

- The majority of children would like to be able to walk or cycle to school
- Many of the junctions along the Old Shoreham Road are considered dangerous, with speed, poor signalling and failure to obey traffic signals both cited as major problems, particularly around the Southern Cross Junction, Benfield Way and Foredown Drive.
- Southdown Ave and the crossing near its junction on Victoria Road is widely seen as dangerous, particularly by Benfield parents and children.
- Parking on Victoria Road is felt to cause visibility problems at drop off and collection times.
- High Street in North Portslade is thought difficult to cross.
- St Nicholas parents are concerned about parking and congestion on Highlands Road at drop off/ collection times.
- Parking and speed on Locks Hill, particularly around both school entrances is a cause for great anxiety and concern.
- The speed of buses and the proximity of stops on Locks hill are criticised by parents.
- Soft measures such as encouraging a 'park and stride' from the car park at Victoria Park for Portslade Infants Pupils would be supported, and might ease illegal stopping on Locks Hill near the school and Highlands Road.
- Parking on Vale Road is also a problem, which a 'park and stride' from the car park in Vale Park might ease.
- The noise and speed of Heavy vehicles on Trafalgar and Church Roads accessing sites at Shoreham harbour is a cause for concern.
- Traffic and speed, together with narrow pavements are a concern on Trafalgar Road/ Church Road for the two schools nearby.
- The Church St/ North St junction is a concern because vehicles mount the pavement while turning.
- Side streets are used as rat runs around St Peter's, and parking in these streets makes people nervous about crossing due to poor visibility from the pavements.

## 5. Proposed Improvement Measures

Following the consultation exercise with the schools, a visit to the area by the School Travel Officer and a Road Safety Engineer was undertaken to identify feasible measures at the sites that were identified. See Site location map (Appendix 2).The initial proposed measures are outlined as follows:

- At the junction of Shelldale road and Trafalgar road (roundabout) realign the junction eastwards to allow greater visibility. Enlarge the pedestrian refuge to allow access for buggies and children.
- At the junction of Trafalgar road and Victoria road (roundabout) realign footway westwards to increase footway and allow visibility beyond the bus stop. Enlarge the pedestrian refuge on Victoria road to allow access for buggies and children.
- On Carlton terrace north of the junction with Victoria road install a pedestrian refuge. Remove existing build-outs on both sides of carriageway.
- On the Hangleton Link slip road at Old Shoreham road install hatching to carriageway to encourage vehicles away from footway.
- At the junction of Church road and North street realign existing lane lines southwards to increase lane size for traffic turning into North street. Raise curbs along northern corner of junction to discourage vehicles from mounting footway.
- Install school warning sign onto carriageway of St Peter's road.
- Improve the existing zebra crossing on Victoria road by repainting road markings.

## **6. Timescale and Consultation**

### **Spring term 2011**

- Pupils, parents and staff surveyed.
- results analysed.

### **Summer Term 2011**

- Report to Cabinet Member's Meeting.

### **Autumn Term 2011**

- consultation with ward councillors, parents, children and staff at schools.
- consultation with local community groups and residents.
- detailed plans drawn – exhibitions to be held in three school playgrounds, with displays at the other two, and with two further displays at Portslade Library and Hove Town Hall for residents to access.
- Online consultation portal with full plans and opportunity for residents to respond.
- Paper copies of the survey available at all display sites and via post on request from the Road Safety team.

- report to Cabinet Member's Meeting with final design

**Winter 2011/ 2012**

- Construction of scheme

**Spring 2012**

- Post scheme monitoring

## **7. Conclusions and final remarks**

- The results of the surveys from the participating schools indicates that there would be strong support for a range of measures that would create a Safer Route to School.
- Following the application of the Safer Routes to School Criteria, the School Travel and Road Safety Team feel that the schools identified are suitable for inclusion in the scheme for 2011/12.
- Given the number of children who travel to school on foot or who require good access to their school, the schools and local community has the potential to gain much from the scheme.

