

Travel Wisely

Ideas for Action

Congestion Around Public Places and Spaces

Congestion impacts upon the lives of people in many different communities. It can involve the congestion around:

- Local schools at the start and end of school days
- The roads near to a football ground on match days
- The roads near to places of worship when services are taking place
- Playing fields when there are Sunday league and other sporting events taking place
- The roads leading to out of town stores
- Lorries queuing to deliver to a supermarket in the centre of a town
- Local beauty / tourist spots which attract people from a wide area

Example of actions that have made a difference

Below are several ideas for action that have been and can be taken by individuals, groups, councils and other authorities.

Safety Cameras

Figures from June 2004 showed a 40 per cent reduction in people killed or seriously injured at camera sites in the 24 Safety Camera Partnership areas. This means that there were 870 less people killed or seriously injured and 105 fewer deaths, saving £221m in NHS and other costs. There was a 7 per cent reduction in average speeds at new camera sites and a 71 per cent fall in speeding.

Source: Department for Transport/University College London

Traffic Calming

In Hull where traffic calming and 20 mph zones have been installed at 116 residential locations, in consultation with the emergency services.

- Total crashes have been cut by 56 per cent,
- Crashes involving child pedestrians are down 74 per cent.
- Road crash casualties fell by 26 per cent

Hull has set targets of cutting the number of people killed or seriously injured in road crashes by 50 per cent by 2010, 75 per cent for children.

Source: Hull City Council 2005

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Christian Ecology Link

Christian ecology link provides guidance for Churches and their members

“As Christians we should be concerned about the rightness of our actions and about the effect of these on the quality of life for other people. Our concerns must include those 30% of households in Britain which do not have access to a car for whatever reason.

Our decisions about transport ARE part of our Christian responsibility to simplify our lifestyles as good stewards of God’s creation, standing against:

- The wasting of resources
- The dire effects of pollution, including aeroplane pollution
- The disruption of people’s lives

How, throughout the year, can we show our Christian responsibility in our travelling? Consider implementing as many of these suggestions as you can.

- Whenever you think of making a journey, ask yourself whether it is really necessary.
- Walk or cycle all journeys of less than a mile, if you can.
- For longer journeys, use the bus or train, and if you need a car, hire it at the other end.
- Organize a car-sharing scheme.
- Check if your church has a cycle-rack as well as a car park.
- Put pressure on your local Council to give priority to people rather than vehicles, through traffic calming schemes, cycle facilities, pedestrian crossings, and lorry restrictions.
- Continue to press the government to give higher priority to an integrated public transport system with simplified ticketing and easily accessible information, and to take firm measures to reduce car and lorry journeys.
- If purchasing a parish or community bus choose one which is fuel efficient. In the future it may be possible to consider buying a gas powered bus which is less polluting.
- If organizing a pilgrimage for a church group use public transport but try to avoid ecologically damaging jet travel.
- When organizing a local church outing also avoid ecologically damaging travel.
- Roll back a piece of asphalt from the church car park and let living trees and plants flourish.
- Find out whether in your denomination the church leader gets an allowance for cycle mileage as well as car mileage. www.christian-ecology.org.uk“

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International Walk to School Month

October 2006 was the first ever International Walk to School Month and schools across the UK, and in 40 countries across the globe, took part in events to celebrate. The aim is to get parents and children to think about how they get to school, rather than automatically getting into the car. The walk to school provides many opportunities:

- Quality time to share - Parents can use the walk to school to talk and play games with their children, meet their friends, learn about what is happening in their family's lives, or even just walk the dog.
- Time to get healthy - A brisk 30 minutes to school and back, twice a day, is a great way for parents and children to fit regular exercise into their daily routine.
- Time to learn - The walk to school is an opportunity for children to find out about their neighbourhood, practice their road safety skills, or be tested their times tables.
- Time to save money - Driving the average school run for a year costs at least £400.
- Walking to School reduces air pollution. Short car journeys are more polluting, mile for mile, than longer journeys because cold engines produce 60% more fumes, and use more fuel, than warm engines.

www.walktoschool.org.uk provides many examples and promotes the idea of a Walk Once a Week - WOW

Useful websites include:

www.tescopoly.org - for campaigns against Tesco

www.foe.co.uk

www.sustrans.org.uk

www.transport2000.org.uk

www.livingstreets.org.uk

www.stopurban4x4s.org.uk

www.dft.gov.uk

Informal Learning Pack
Updates 2007

