



SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOL

Draft Delivery Plan

Ennis National School

Kilrush Road,

Ennis,

Co. Clare

V95 DE44

Roll Number: 15042A



Green-Schools

An Taisce



Purpose of Outline Delivery Plan

This Outline Delivery Plan contains concepts of interventions to improve infrastructure outside and on the routes to school with the aim of increasing the number of children who walk, cycle or scoot to school. These proposed interventions are based on survey findings, audits, consultation with the school, the Local Authority, and the NTA and have been developed by the Safe Routes to School Officer. The plan will be submitted to the Local Authority, the NTA and the school.

The proposed interventions will require further work including detailed design, and input from stakeholders such as landowners and the local community. Some interventions may require planning permission.

It is important to note that concepts and agreed solutions may not progress at the same time and some concepts may not be suitable, however all parties aim to work together to improve infrastructure in and around schools.

There is currently funding available to Local Authorities from the NTA to progress works arising from the Safe Routes to School programme.

Prepared by: Safe Routes to School

Prepared for: Clare County Council

Date: June 2024



School Summary

- Ennis National School is a mixed primary school with 611 students serviced by approx. 70 staff.
- The school is located on the outskirts of Ennis off the Kilrush Road and N68. The speed limit on the Kilrush Road and N68 approaching the school is 50 km/h. Access to the road leading to the school is from a roundabout where the Kilrush Road and N68 meet.
- The school is 400 metres away from the roundabout. There is one new housing estate along the road leading to the school, however, most of the surrounding land is zoned residential.
- School starts at 9:10 and finishes at 1:45 and 2:45.

Key Audit Findings

- School grounds and the surrounding area are heavily congested by vehicles.
- There is a large car park / set-down on school grounds.
- The car park fills quickly at collection time with parents double parking and blocking visibility at zebra crossings on school grounds.
- Outside the school grounds, parents park along the access road, throughout a neighbouring housing estate, on traffic islands and the middle of the lane at the last roundabout approaching the school.
- School staff and volunteers assist students to cross at the zebra crossings to ensure safety.
- The Kilrush Road is a busy road which would benefit from traffic calming.

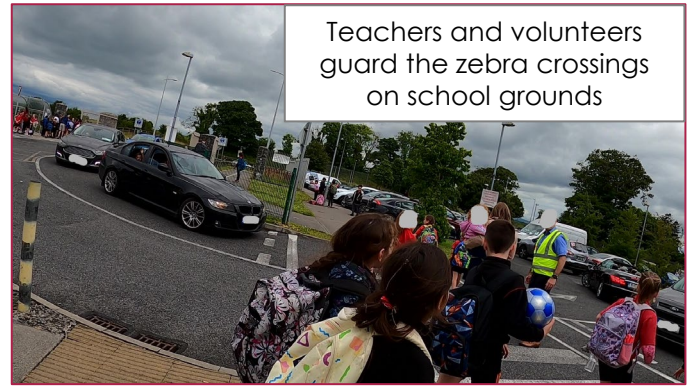
Supplementary information

- Ennis National School had one of the most successful walking buses in the country with over 200 children a day Park and Striding from a nearby retail park to the school. However, the location used as the drop-off/collection point became unsuitable. All other potential locations in the surrounding area are unsuitable but the school does still operate a less successful walking bus from the Éire Óg GAA club.
- There is a separate staff car park on school grounds.
- The proposed Limerick Road Active Travel scheme will benefit the school as it will upgrade the temporary bi-directional cycle lane on Clonroadbeg which leads to Éire Óg GAA club and continue to the town centre.

Current Front of School Environment



Parents park along double yellow lines close to the school gate



Teachers and volunteers guard the zebra crossings on school grounds



Parked cars blocking visibility at zebra crossings



Double parked cars throughout the car park



Cars parked on crossings/refuge islands at the roundabout approaching the school



Ennis National School is located at the end of a 400 metre access road. There is a shared pedestrian and cycle path leading from the main road to the school on both sides of the road. This is segregated from the road by a wooden barrier. There is insufficient traffic calming and crossings along the access road.

There is a large car park / set down area on school grounds which fills up quickly in the afternoon with parked cars. There is a separate teachers car park that is also on school grounds. Parents double park and park on double yellow lines throughout the car park and surrounding area blocking visibility at crossings which are manned by school staff and volunteers. Parents also park along the access road and in the neighbouring estate.

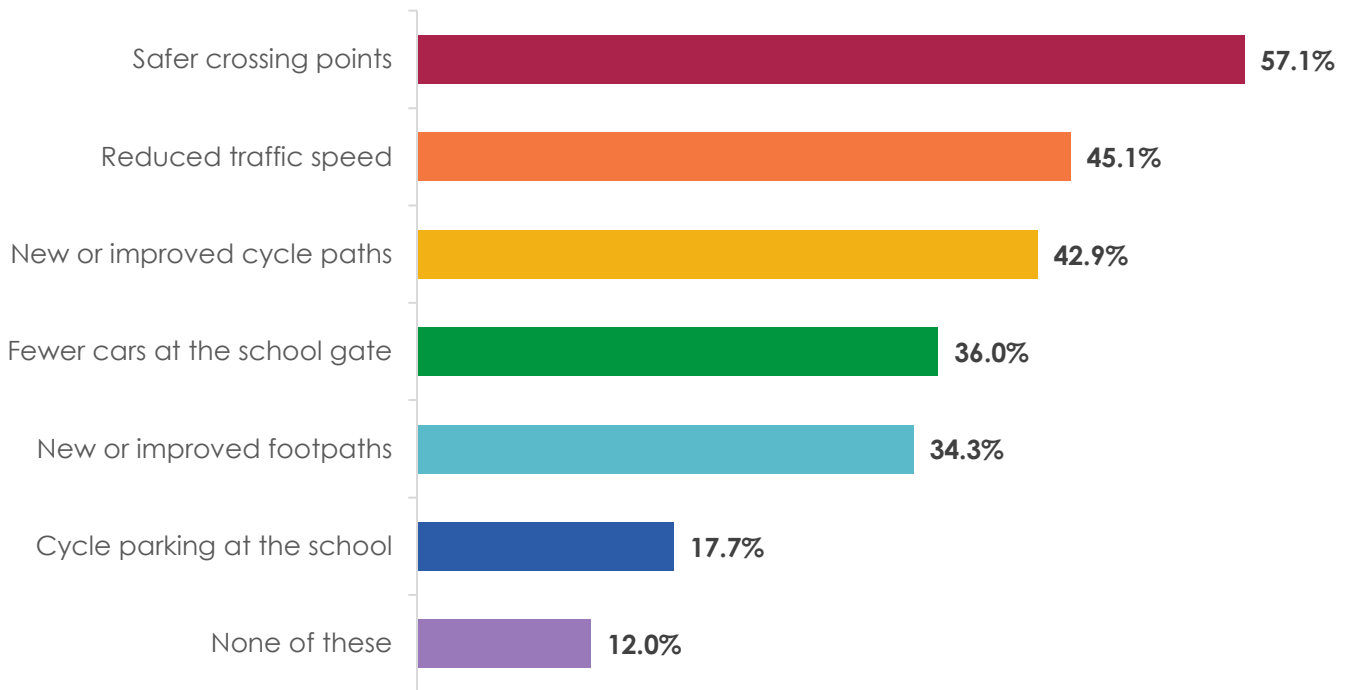
Although there is severe traffic congestion on school grounds there is a significant percentage of students who get to and from school by active travel.

Key Survey Findings

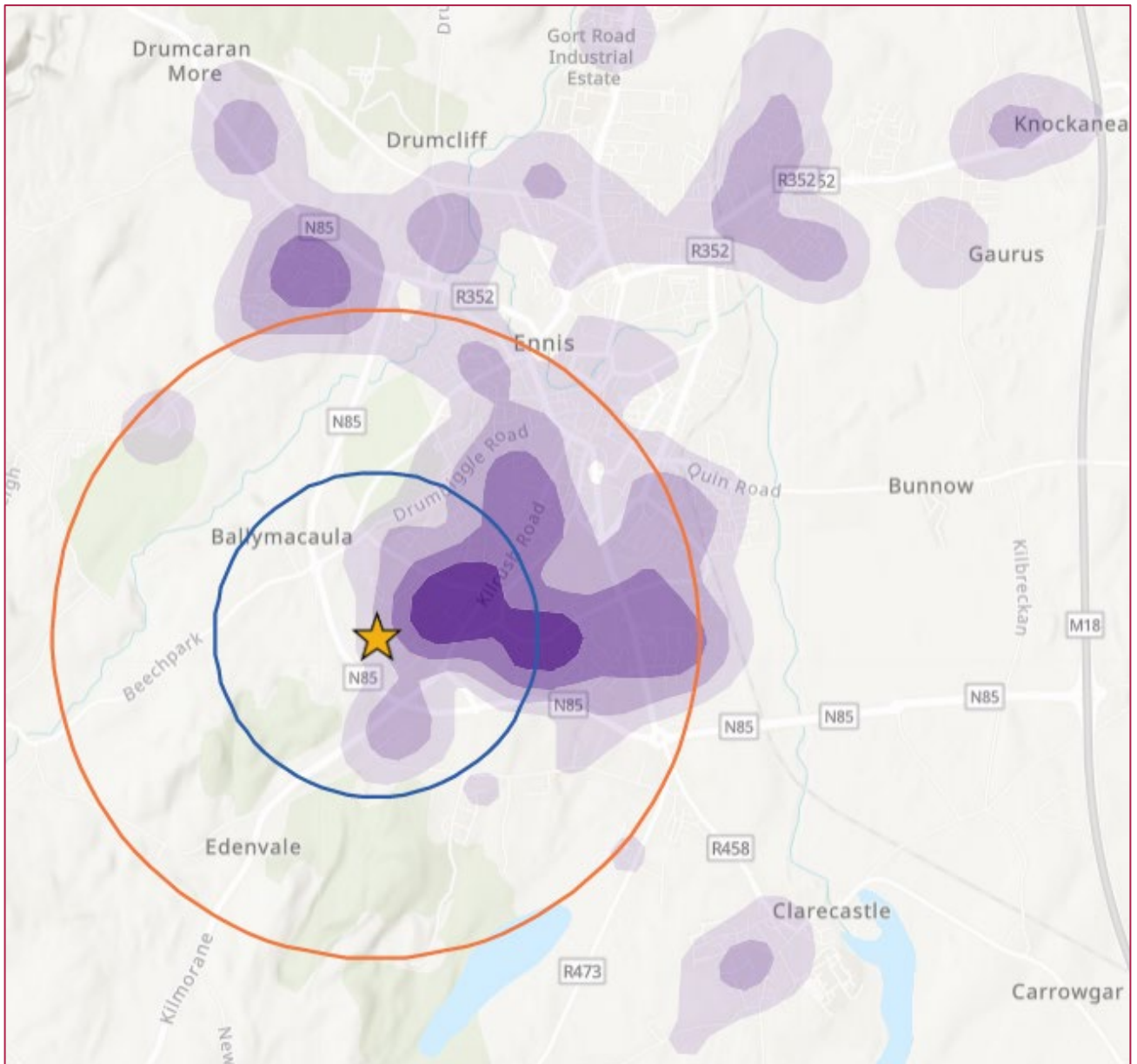
The school distributed the SRTS Parents Survey to all families of Ennis National School. There was a 43.7%* response rate to the survey.

- **64.0%** of parents surveyed agreed that **road safety is a problem** around the school
- **91.4%** of parents **would support works at the front of school** that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first
- **96.0%** of parents **would support works that would improve the walking and cycling links** to school

Parents selected the following, when asked what improvements would support them walking, cycling or scooting to school:



Where students are travelling from



★ School location

○ 1km radius

○ 2km radius

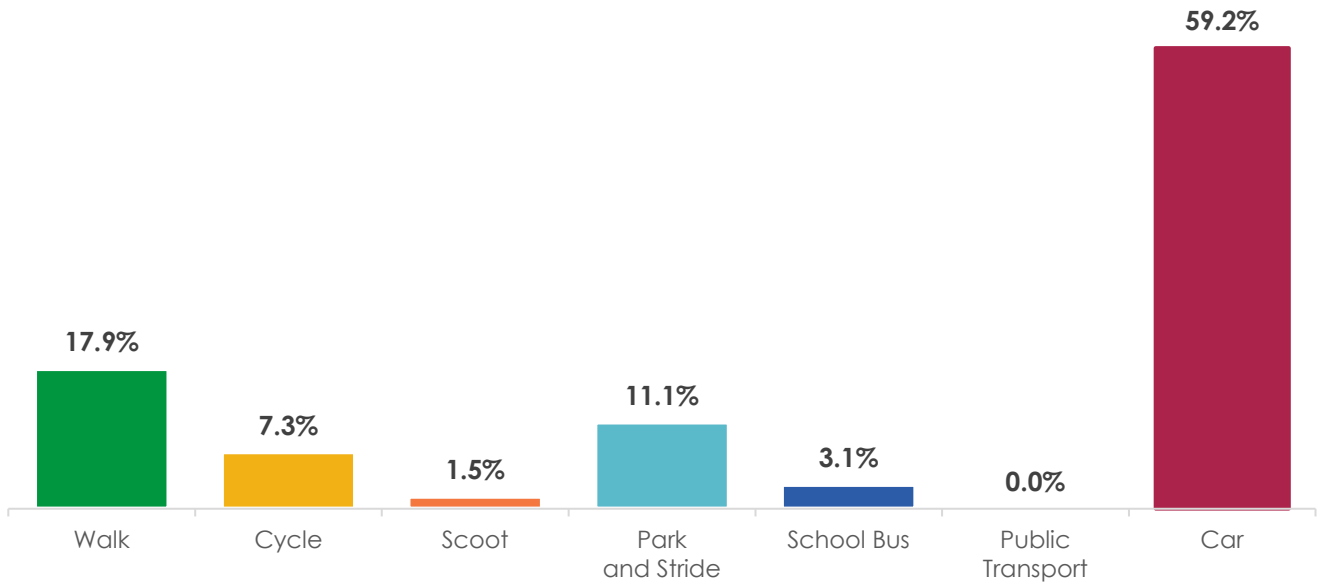
■ Higher density of students travelling from this area



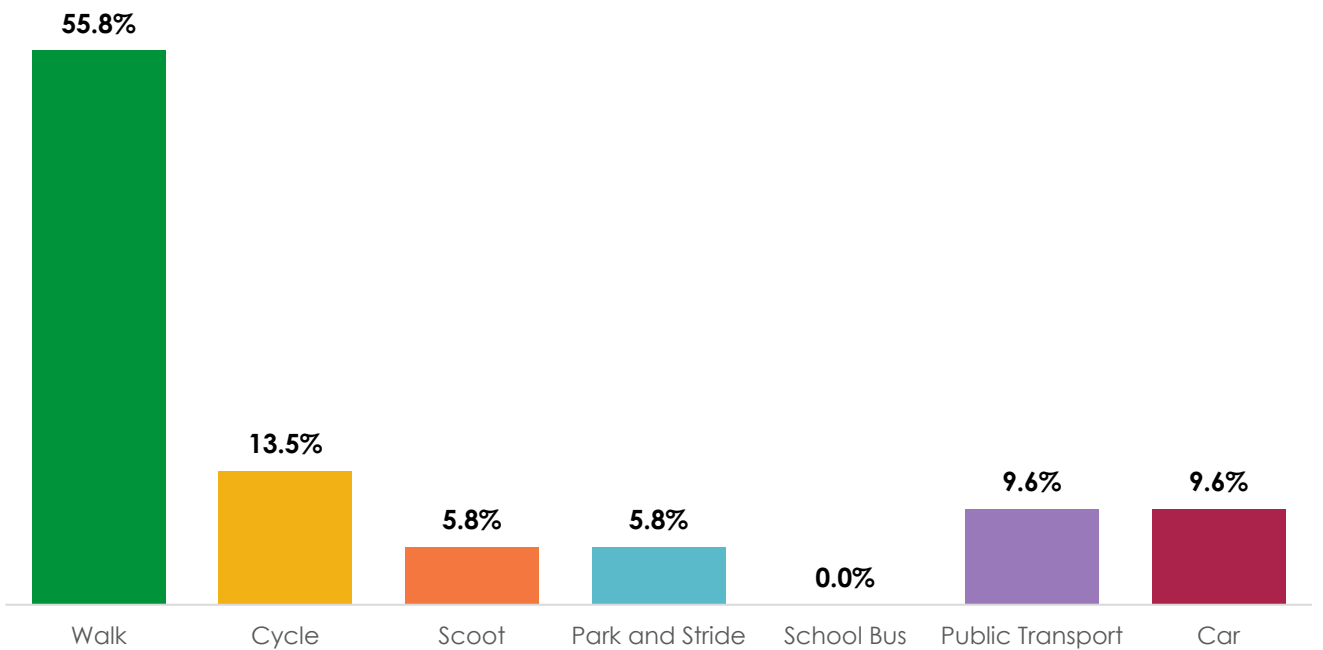
■ Lower density of students travelling from this area

24% of students start their journey within a 1km radius of the school
 66% of students start their journey within a 2km radius of the school

How students surveyed (262) are travelling to school



How students within a 1km radius (24%) are travelling to school



27% of students get to school by walking, cycling or scooting. Over 80% of those living within 1 km of the school travel to school actively.

Front of School Improvements

The addition of a raised zebra along the access road will provide a safer crossing point and calm traffic. Continuous footpaths at the junction mouths will provide a safer route to school. Removal of opportunities for dangerous parking with pencil bollards will improve visibility and create a safer environment.



Ennis N.S.



Gateway elements



Crossing facility



School Zone



Junction treatment

Note: 'SZ' references relate to the [SRTS Design Guide Appendix 2](#). Further details of the individual elements are available in the [SRTS Design Guide](#) and the [Rapid Build SRTS Front of School Improvements Advice Note](#).



Gateway elements

Gateway elements are intended to communicate to all road users that they are entering a space where vulnerable road users should be prioritised. Consider introducing any, or all, of the following:

1. Colour themed school zone gateway poles (SZ-134).
2. School zone road markings (SZ-114).
3. Band of buff surfacing at gateway.
4. Horizontal/vertical deflection.

School zone

A school zone aims to communicate to all road users that this is a space where there is a high concentration of vulnerable road users, who should be prioritised. Consider introducing any, or all, of the following elements:

1. Consider the use of pencil bollards to remove opportunities for dangerous parking.
2. School zone road markings and coloured roundels at front of school (SZ-114).



Crossing facility

1. Consider upgrading the existing crossing to a raised zebra (SZ – 102)

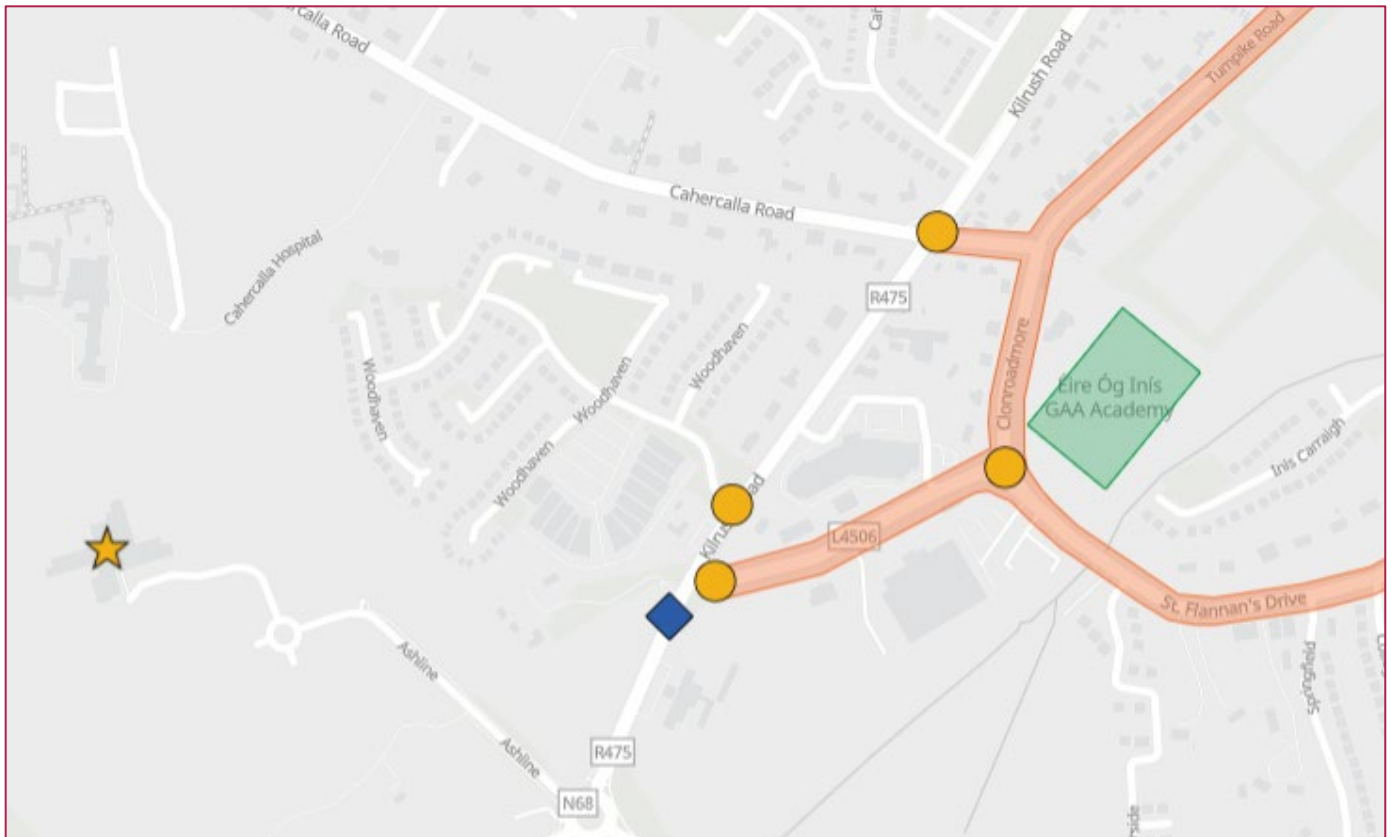


Junction tightening

1. Consider tightening of junction radii and/or continuing footpath across junction mouth to increase pedestrian priority.

Routes to School Improvements

Raising the existing zebra crossing will have a traffic calming effect on the route to school from the Éire Óg playing fields currently in use as a park and stride location while tightening junctions will make that route safer.



Ennis N.S.



Crossing facility



Park and Stride location



Junction treatment



Active travel scheme

Crossing facility

1. Consider raising the existing zebra crossing on the Kilrush Road.

Junction treatment

1. Consider junction treatment (SZ – 105) to tighten corner radii and/or providing a continuous footpath across the junction mouth to increase pedestrian priority.
2. Investigate the feasibility of junction tightening / raised table at the junction of Clonroadbeg and the Kilrush road.
3. Consider junction tightening at the junction of Clonroadbeg and Clon Road.

Appendix A Parent Survey Results



The school distributed the SRTS Parents Survey to all families of Ennis National School via their usual communications methods, during January 2023. Reminders were also issued.

Responses received: 175

Students represented: 262 = 43.7% of school population (based on a total of 599)*

Q1. How many of your children attend this school?

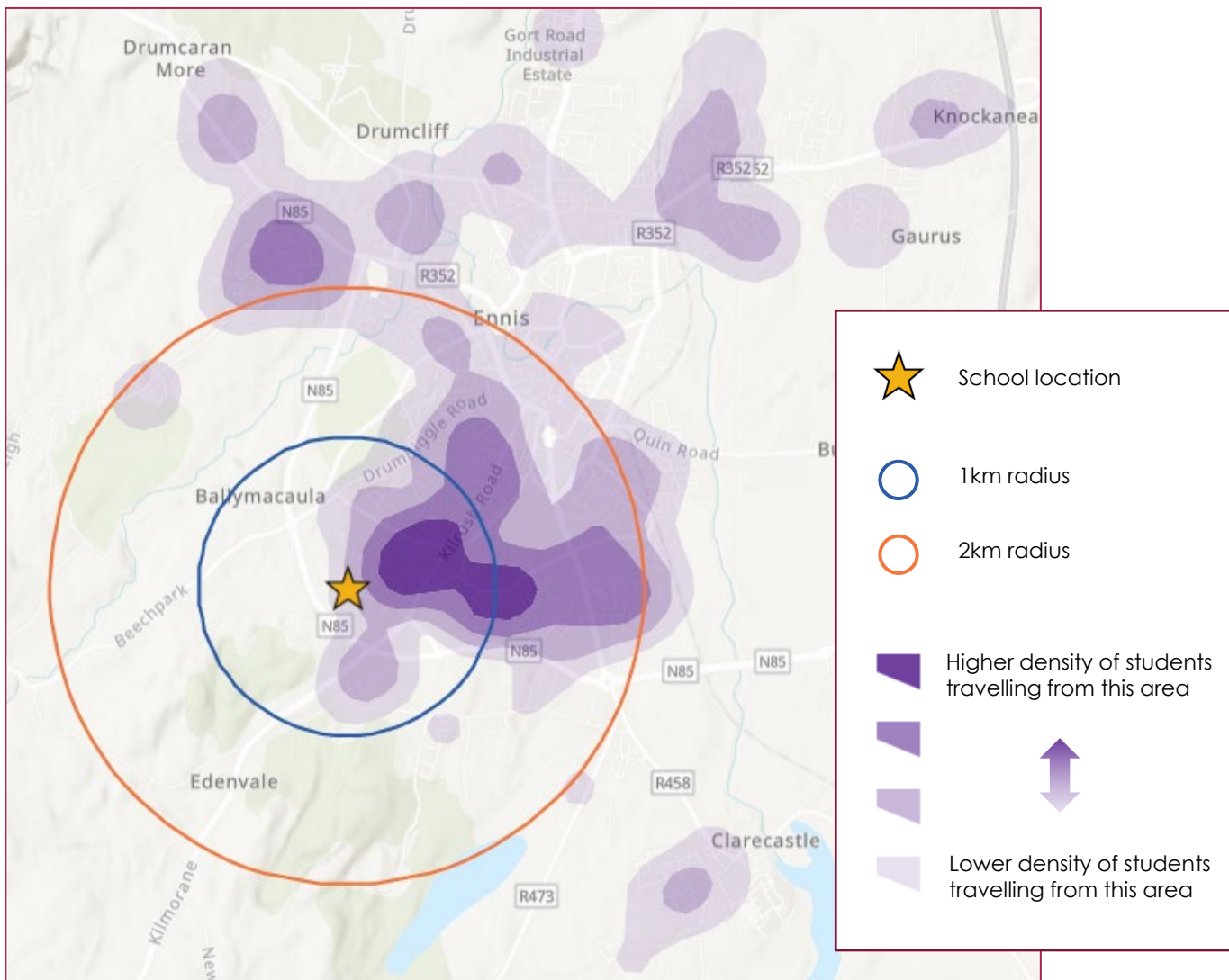
57.1% of parents who responded have 1 child attending the school

36.0% of parents who responded have 2 children attending the school

6.9% of parents who responded have 3 children attending the school

Q2. Where does the journey to school begin?

Where students are travelling from



*4.5% margin of error at a 95% confidence level

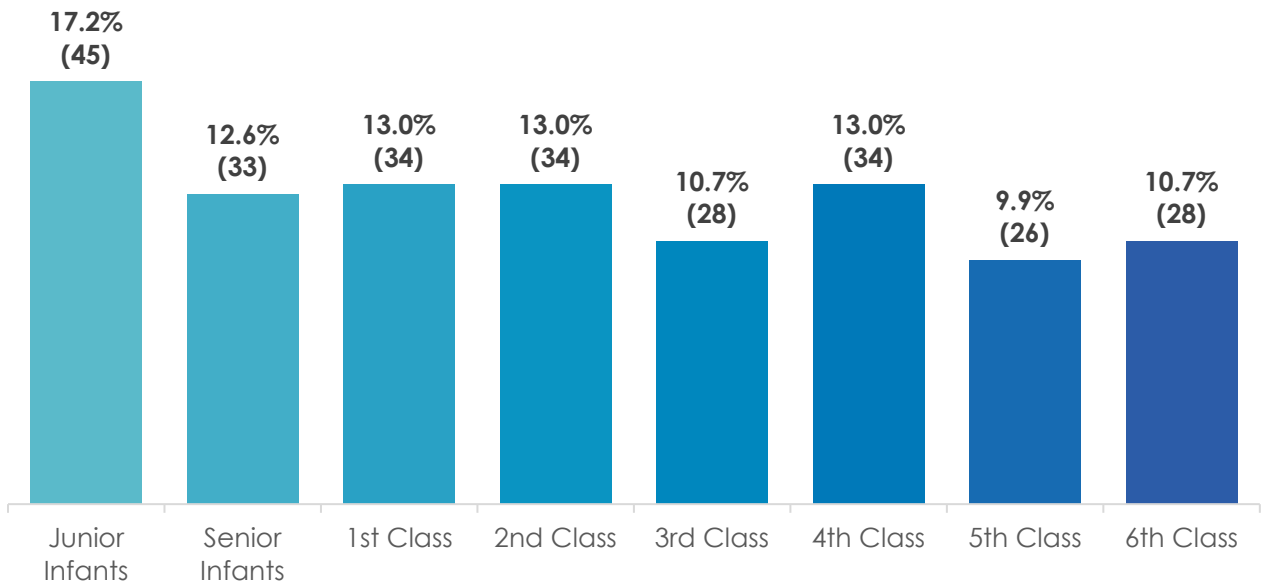
Q3. For each child, choose their gender

44.7% Female

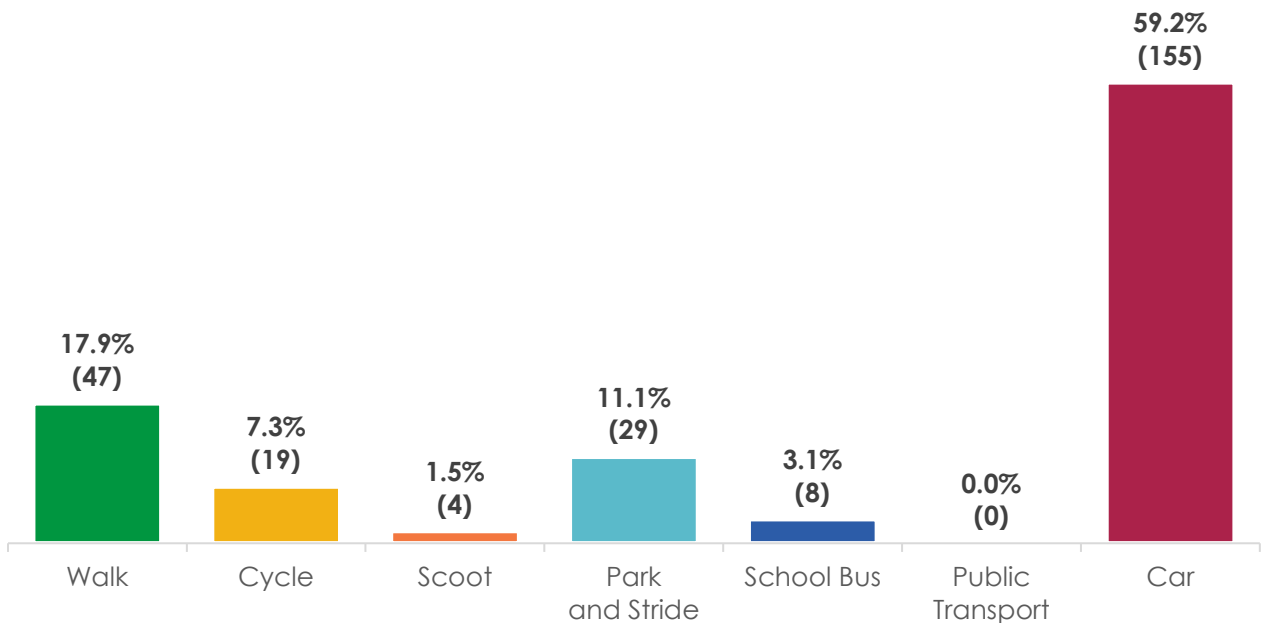
53.1% Male

2.3% Prefer not to say

Q4. For each child, choose their class



Q5. For each child, choose how they usually travel to school



Q6. Do you think road safety is a problem around your school?

64.0% selected Yes

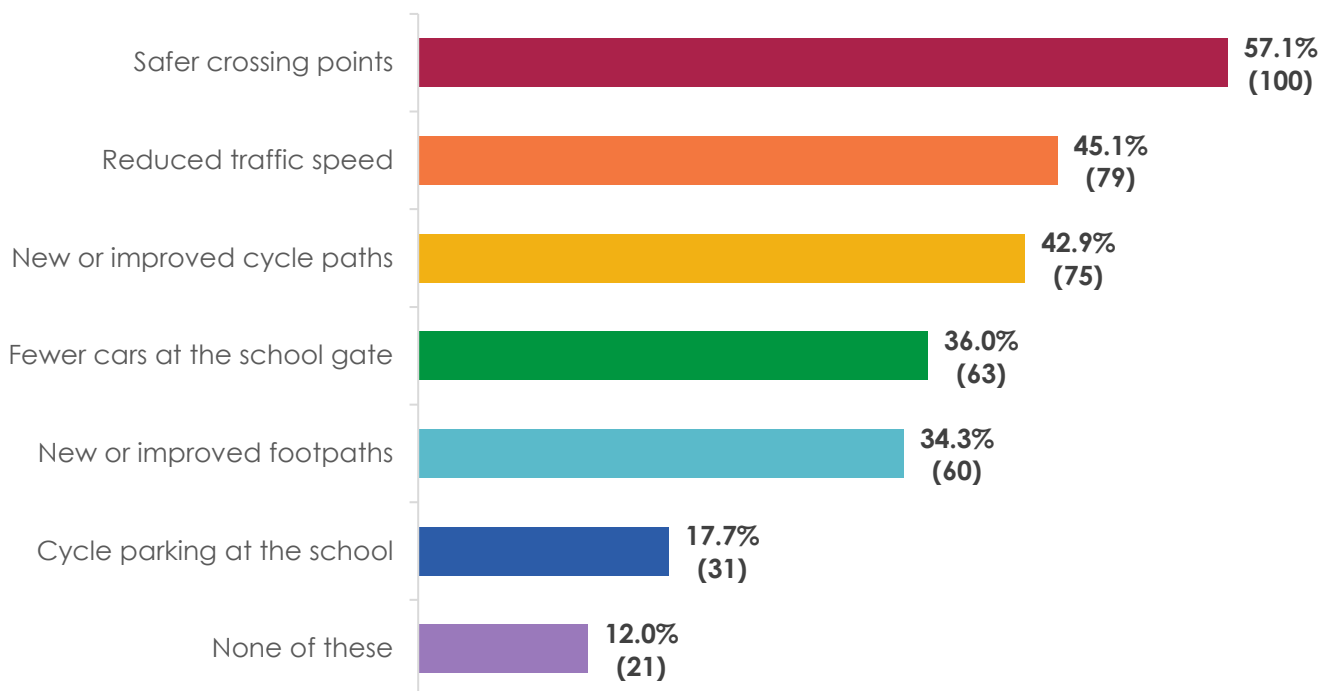
Q7. Would you support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first?

91.4% selected Yes

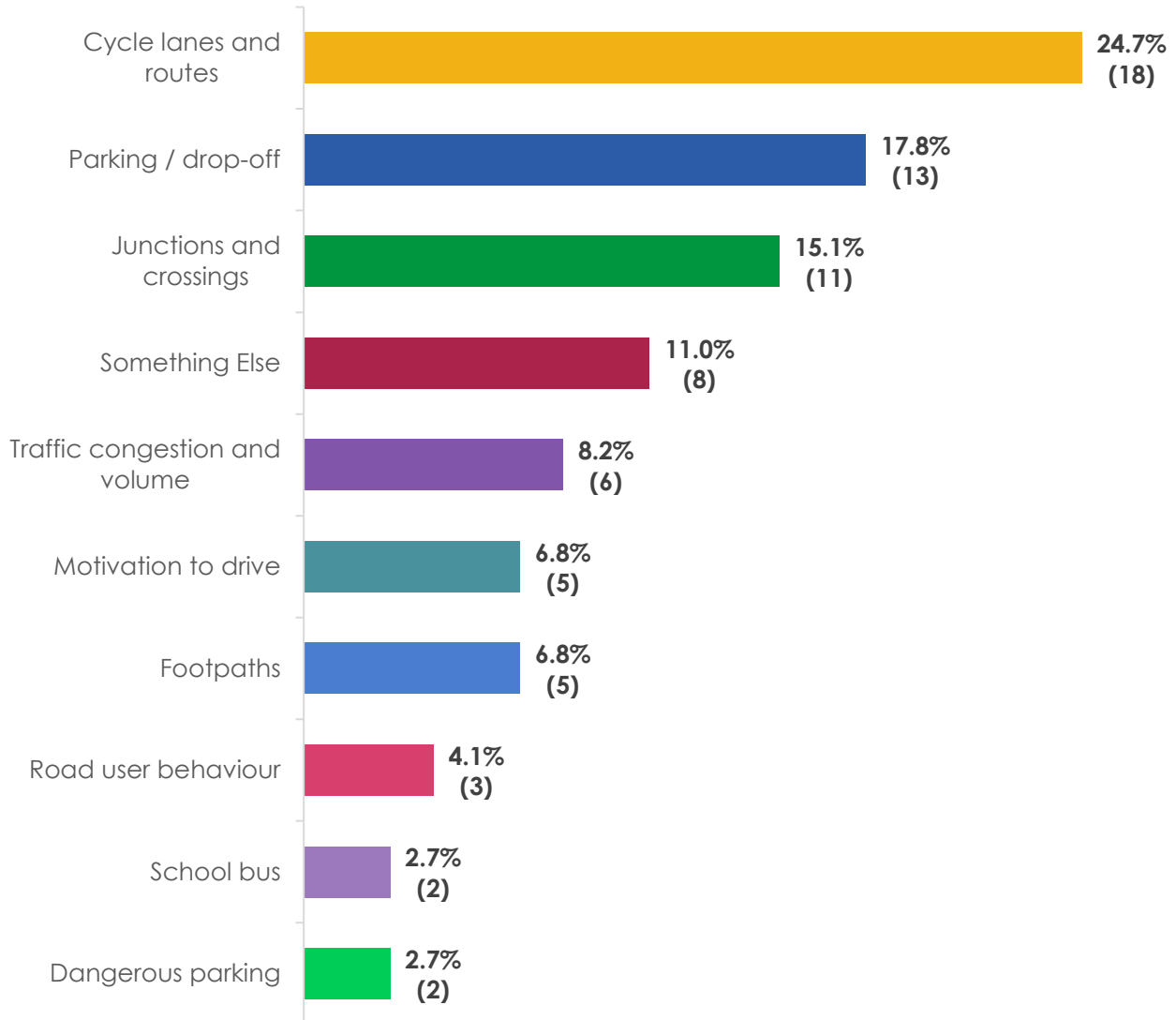
Q8. Would you support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to your school?

96.0% selected Yes

Q9. What improvements would support you to walk, cycle or scoot to school?



Parent Comments



73 parent comments were received in total and have been categorised in the chart. Each comment was placed in the [one] category most applicable, even if there was crossover into another category.

Safe Routes to School Parent Survey Questions

Q1. How many of your children attend this school?

- Select a number (from 1 – 8) from a drop down

Q2. Where does the journey to school begin? *(Parents selected a location on a map)*

- To help improve routes to school, we want to get an idea of the locations from where students are travelling to school. Please indicate where your school journey begins on the map. It does not have to be directly on your home. It can be a point nearby, such as your estate entrance.

Q3. For each child, choose their gender:

- Select Male, Female or Prefer not to say

Q4. For each child, choose their class:

- Primary: Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class, 2nd Class, 3rd Class, 4th Class, 5th Class, 6th Class
- Secondary: 1st Year, 2nd Year, 3rd Year, 4th Year, 5th Year, 6th Year

Q5. For each child, choose how they usually travel to school:

- Walk, Cycle, Scoot, Park 'n' Stride, Car, School Bus, Public Transport
 - If **Cycle** selected (Primary School Survey), Please tell us how each child cycles to school:
 - On their own bike unaccompanied
 - On their own bike accompanied by an adult
 - As a passenger on an adult's bike
 - As a passenger on a cargo bike
 - If **Scoot** selected, Please tell us how each child scoots to school:
 - Push Scooter
 - Electric Scooter
 - If **Park 'n' Stride** selected, Please tell us where you Park 'n' Stride from:
 - If **Car** selected, Please tell us where does the car go after driving to school:
 - Home (including working from home)
 - Work
 - Another school
 - Creche/Childminder
 - Nowhere – I work at the school
 - Nowhere – my child drives themselves to school (Secondary School Survey)
 - Other
 - If **Public** Transport selected, Please tell us what form of public transport is used:
 - Bus
 - Train
 - Tram
 - Taxi

Safe Routes to School Parent Survey Questions Continued

Q6. Do you think road safety is a problem around your school?

- Select either Yes or No

Q7. Would you support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first?

- Select either Yes or No

Q8. Would you support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to your school?

- Select either Yes or No

Q9. What improvements would support you to walk, cycle or scoot to school?

- New or improved footpaths
- New or improved cycle paths
- Safer crossing points
- Reduced traffic speed
- Fewer cars at the school gate
- Cycle parking at the school
- None of these

Comments box (optional) up to 500 characters.

Appendix B Audit Report



Overview

The following Audit Report captures the existing conditions of the front of school environment of Ennis National School and specified routes within 1km of the school.

The SRTS Infrastructure Officer conducted the audit to assess the safety and accessibility of the front of school and opportunities to facilitate active travel on routes to school.

A separate GIS analysis of where students started their journey to school identified the primary routes to school.

Findings from the audit support the key recommendations outlined in the delivery plan for the school.

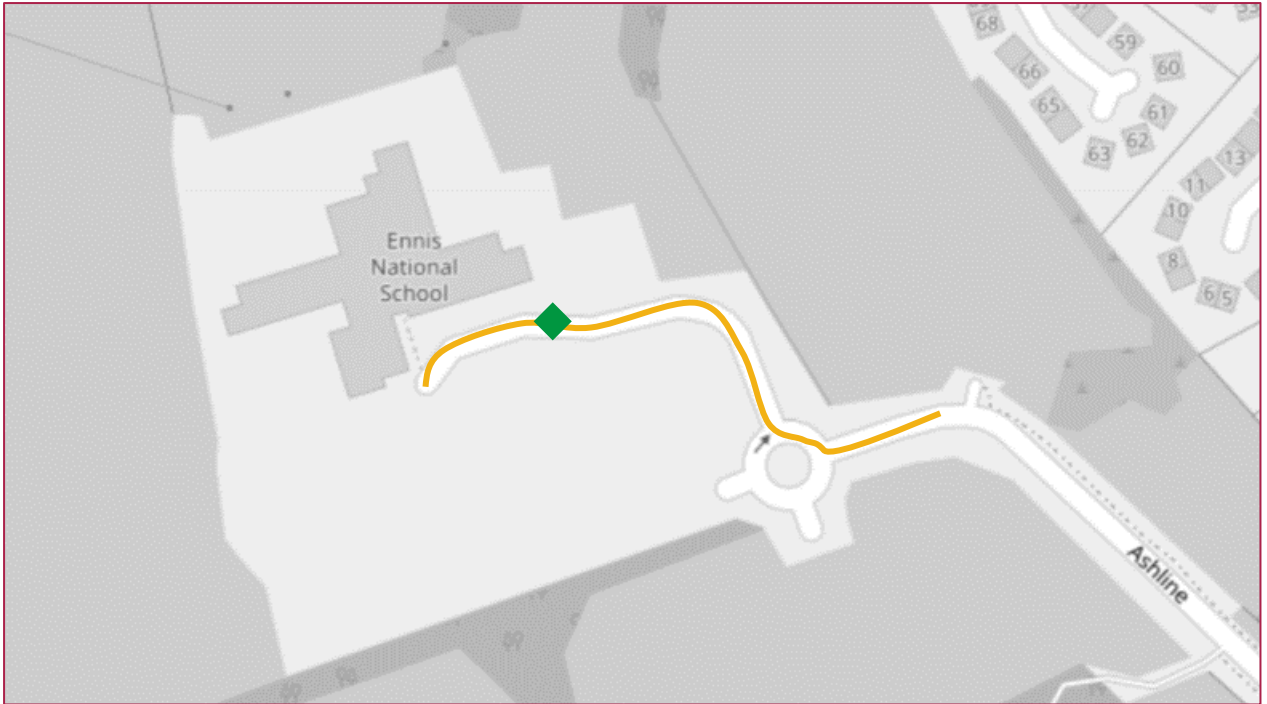
Prepared for: Clare County Council

Date: March 2024

Prepared by: Safe Routes to School

Findings at the Front of School

Front of School Area



- Extent of Front of School audited
- ◆ School Gate



Front of School Findings

Item ID: FOS-13637

Item Category: Roads and Surfaces - Road layout

Notes: The school uses traffic cones to prevent drivers parking on the road at the entrance gates. Consider the use of pencil bollards to prevent illegal parking and a ramp at the gateway to calm traffic entering the school grounds.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.830403333333334,-9.002265

Item ID: FOS-13640

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed

Notes: Consider a raised crossing. Traffic island is parked on at school collection time, consider the use of pencil bollards to prevent dangerous parking.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.830283333333334,-9.001291666666667

Item ID: FOS-13641

Item Category: Opportunities - School Zone/School Street

Notes: Consider as location for Gateway.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.830226666666675,-9.001104999999999

Item ID: FOS-13643

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed

Notes: Consider a continuous footpath across junction mouth.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.830324999999995,-9.00046

Item ID: FOS-13657

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Parking too close to crossing

Notes: This area is parked in at collection time which blocks visibility at the crossing. Consider the use of pencil bollards to prevent dangerous parking.






Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.83030999999999,-9.002623333333334

Findings on the Routes to School

Map of Routes Audited and Proposed Active Travel Schemes

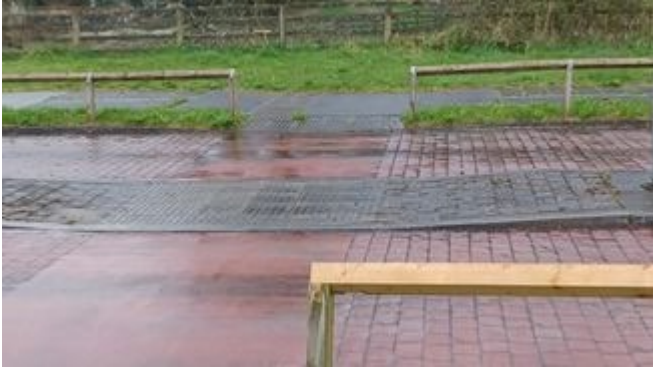


-  Route Audited
-  Proposed Limerick Road cycling Scheme
-  Proposed N85 Cycle Facility

Item ID: A-13644

Item Category: Roads and Surfaces - Ramp width/depth

Notes: Consider a speed ramp / raised crossing at this location.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.82987,-8.999381666666666

Item ID: A-13645

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed

Notes: Consider a raised zebra crossing



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.82897166666667,-8.99781

Item ID: A-13646

Item Category: Roads and Surfaces - Road width

Notes: Investigate the feasibility of removing the right-turn lane to reduce road width.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.829359999999994,-8.997126666666666

Item ID: A-13647

Item Category: Roads and Surfaces - Road width

Notes: Investigate the feasibility of removing the right-turn lane to reduce road width.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.829768333333334,-8.996776666666667

Item ID: A-13648

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed

Notes:

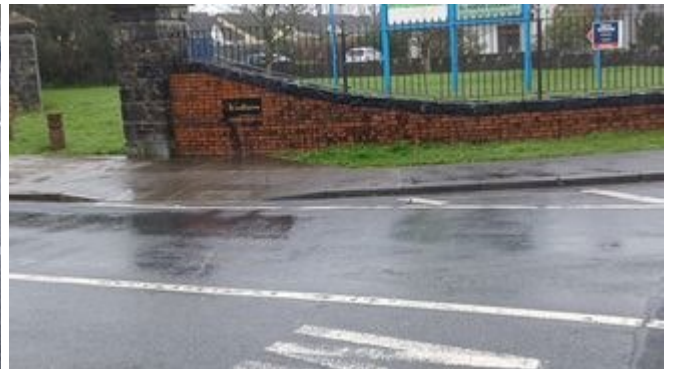


Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.829809999999995,-8.996711666666666

Item ID: A-13649

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Junction width

Notes:



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.831059999999994,-8.995671666666668

Item ID: A-13650

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed

Notes:



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.83123333333333,-8.99544

Item ID: A-13651

Item Category: Footpaths and Verges - Overgrown vegetation

Notes:



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.82879333333334,-8.997828333333333

Item ID: A-13652

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed

Notes: Consider the feasibility of raised zebras on all arms of the roundabout



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.82879500000001,-8.997800000000002

Item ID: A-13653

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Poorly-located crossing

Notes: Consider the feasibility of locating this crossing at the Kilrush roundabout



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.82791666666667,-8.998973333333334

Item ID: A-13654

Item Category: Cycle Infrastructure - No physical segregation

Notes: Assess the feasibility of upgrading this shared pedestrian and cycling route to current design standards with a buffer between it and the road.



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.82783166666666,-8.999151666666668

Item ID: A-13656

Item Category: Junctions and Crossings - Junction width

Notes: Consider junction tightening



Location: www.google.com/maps/place/52.82422166666666,-9.004018333333333

Appendix C

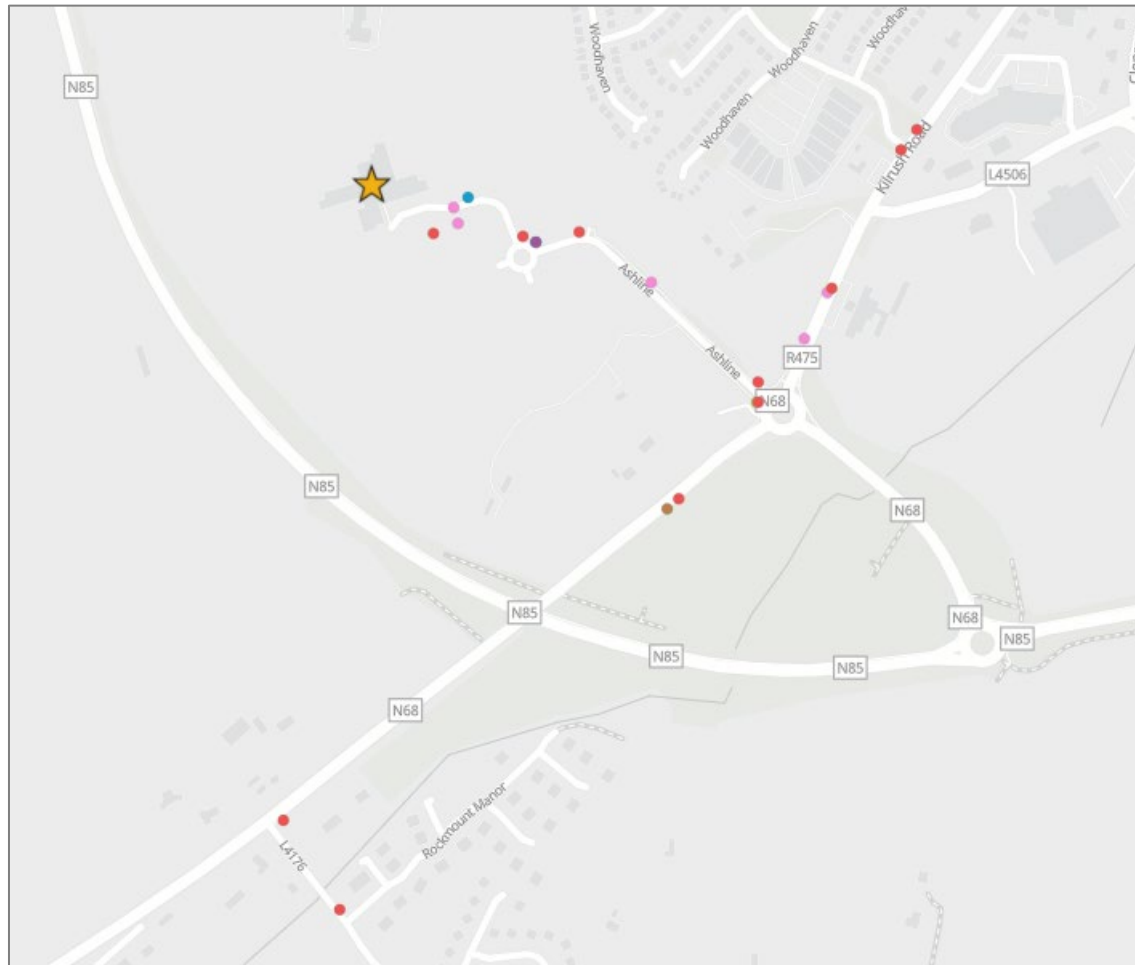
Audit Summary



Audit Summary

School: Ennis National School, Ashline Kilrush Road Ennis Co. Clare, V95DE44

Prepared for: Clare County Council



- Junctions and Crossings
- Opportunities
- Footpaths and Verges
- Road User Behaviour
- Front of School
- Signage and Road Markings
- Roads and Surfaces
- Cycle Infrastructure
- Accessibility

Item Category	Route	Item ID	Location
Footpaths and Verges - Overgrown vegetation		A-13651	www.google.com/maps/place/52.82879333333334,-8.997828333333333
Roads and Surfaces - Road width	Front of School	FOS-13638	www.google.com/maps/place/52.83053666666667,-9.002328333333333
Roads and Surfaces - Road width		A-13646	www.google.com/maps/place/52.829359999999994,-8.997126666666666
Roads and Surfaces - Road width		A-13647	www.google.com/maps/place/52.829768333333334,-8.996776666666667
Roads and Surfaces - Road layout	Front of School	FOS-13637	www.google.com/maps/place/52.830403333333334,-9.002265
Roads and Surfaces - Ramp width/depth		A-13644	www.google.com/maps/place/52.82987,-8.999381666666666
Junctions and Crossings - Poorly-located crossing		A-13653	www.google.com/maps/place/52.82791666666667,-8.998973333333334
Junctions and Crossings - Parking too close to crossing	Front of School	FOS-13657	www.google.com/maps/place/52.830309999999999,-9.002623333333334
Junctions and Crossings - Junction width		A-13649	www.google.com/maps/place/52.831059999999994,-8.995671666666668

Item Category	Route	Item ID	Location
Junctions and Crossings - Junction width	No route assigned	U-13655	www.google.com/maps/place/52.82503166666667,-9.00486
Junctions and Crossings - Junction width		A-13656	www.google.com/maps/place/52.824221666666666,-9.004018333333333
Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed	Front of School	FOS-13640	www.google.com/maps/place/52.8302833333333334,-9.001291666666667
Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed	Front of School	FOS-13643	www.google.com/maps/place/52.8303249999999995,-9.00046
Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed		A-13645	www.google.com/maps/place/52.82897166666667,-8.99781
Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed		A-13648	www.google.com/maps/place/52.8298099999999995,-8.996711666666666
Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed		A-13650	www.google.com/maps/place/52.831233333333333,-8.99544
Junctions and Crossings - Formal crossing needed		A-13652	www.google.com/maps/place/52.828795000000001,-8.997800000000002
Road User Behaviour - Illegal or dangerous parking	Front of School	FOS-13642	www.google.com/maps/place/52.8302266666666675,-9.001101666666667

Item Category	Route	Item ID	Location
Cycle Infrastructure - No physical segregation		A-13654	www.google.com/maps/place/52.82783166666666,-8.999151666666668
Opportunities - School Zone/School Street	Front of School	FOS-13639	www.google.com/maps/place/52.83063666666667,-9.002105
Opportunities - School Zone/School Street	Front of School	FOS-13641	www.google.com/maps/place/52.830226666666675,-9.001104999999999

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