

## EVINGTON SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS SCHEME Leicester City Council

This is an area wide SRS initiative in Leicester, taking in three primary and three secondary schools in the Evington area, located some 2 to 3 miles east of the city centre. It developed out of several separate traffic management initiatives for the area being drawn together:

- Local safety schemes to address accident problems in the area
- Development of the Green Ringway and NCN route 63 through the area
- Area traffic control team introducing satellite navigation on bus route 22 through the area (Star Track)



The budget for 2000 / 01 was £800k (excluding the bus information project), with 95% of the construction complete at the time of the visit. The scheme has entailed:

- Extensive user consultation
- The creation and promotion of a network of safe routes, including Toucan crossings, new signalled junctions, ASLs, cycle lanes and traffic calming.
- New cycle parking at the schools
- Cycle training for secondary school pupils

User consultation started with a survey of travel habits, following which school representatives were invited to a one-day conference at the City Council in June 1999. This included the following:

- Planning for real
- Workshops on cycling issues
- Problems faced when walking / cycling (disposable cameras issued 2 weeks before conference)
- How to promote change within schools
- Probe into results of surveys
- Pledge boards

The proposals devised were made available for consultation in the local library and the park, with staff on hand to discuss issues.

The engineering measures include several features of note:

- Evington Lane: two 1.5m mandatory cycle lanes on a 9.1m carriageway, reinforced by occasional traffic islands with bollards to deter drivers from encroaching onto the cycle lanes. Resulted in 8-10mph speed reduction (30mph limit with before speeds at around 43/44mph). A similar scheme in Spencefield Lane without traffic islands only reduced speeds by 4-5mph.
- At ASL on Ethel Rd at Goodwood Rd, initial design for a nearside feeder lane



was altered in response to comments from children using it. Scheme now requires left turning traffic to cross cycle feeder lane to reach left turn lane. Also short section of cycle lane was added beyond ASL to guide cyclists through the junction.

- Cycle lanes taken to within school grounds
- Outside schools, continuity of cycle lanes is maintained by continuing green surfacing and marking yellow 'School Keep Clear' on top.
- Tidal parking restrictions in cycle lanes, 8-9am and 2.30-4pm.

A leaflet has been produced for the scheme, with further promotional initiatives to follow once works are completed.



School involvement has varied very much between schools. Judgemeadow Community College has been heavily involved due to a committed staff member, whilst the other secondary schools who do not have such a 'champion' are progressing much more slowly. Within the SRS project area the council has allocated a budget of £10k p.a. for facilities at each school. This has enabled Judgemeadow to install new cycle parking:

- Design, colour and location chosen by kids
- Equipment lockers available only for those who cycle

- Cycle parking relocated next to school entrance, removal of parking spaces.
- Already an increase from 15 to 50 cycling

The Star Track system provides real time bus information within the schools.

In parallel to this, cycle training has been offered to pupils in year 7 at the secondary schools. Provided through the County Council, this is designed to build on the on-road cycle training already provided at primary level. Many of those entering secondary school lack confidence in cycling, and the course was designed to address this. The training was carried out after school, covering both theory and practical. A three-mile on-road circular ride was devised, which also served to test the facilities being implemented and resulted in changes to the design of some. So far only one of the schools has taken up the cycle training, and of the 40 pupils invited only 8 did it. The cycle training also gives confidence to parents that their kids can handle the road.

#### Peer assessment of this initiative (December 2000):

- ✎ Overall holistic approach
- ✎ Workshops / Conference
- ✎ On-site consultation in park / library
- ✎ Disposable cameras for kids
- ✎ On-road Secondary School cycle training
- ✎ Real time bus info in schools
- ✎ Grants to schools for cycle parking
- ✎ Green cycle lane surfacing under 'School Keep Clear' markings



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