

## Sustrans Scotland School Travel Update

Philippa Cochrane has managed the School Travel team at Scotland since 2003 which has includes the management of the Tackling the School Run Programme since 2006/07. William Methven, School Travel Manager Northern Ireland, takes over the post in January 2009 whilst Philippa has moved onto the new post of Outreach and Special Relationships manager.

### **Philippa Cochrane: School Travel Manager 2003 – 2008.**

A School Travel Programme has been run by Sustrans in Scotland since 2001. I began working with Sustrans in 2003 when closer partnership working with and then later investment from the Scottish Executive (and then Government) helped to significantly expand the work we were able to achieve. From effectively two posts in 2003 we now have six staff working full time on school travel projects. Our budget for project delivery has also massively increased from £20,000 in 2003 to £3,800,000 in the period 2007/08.

Whilst the School Travel Programme has expanded our core principles remain the same:

*All young people should have the right to a safe environment in which to walk and cycle on the school journey; young people should be empowered to take action to improve the school journey.*

Many young people in Scotland now find it easier to walk or cycle to school and are encouraged to do so because of the significant investment in cycle storage, safer path networks and soft measures programmes delivered through Sustrans and School Travel Coordinators. Much of this investment has come from the Tackling the School Run funding made available by the Scottish Government and managed by Sustrans.

### **William Methven: School Travel Manager 2009 -**

I take over the role of School Travel Programme Manager in January 2009 moving from School Travel Programme Manager with Sustrans in Northern Ireland to Sustrans Scotland. In addition to my experience gained through Sustrans, where I recently managed the highly successful Rural Safe Routes to Schools programme, I also bring with me a wealth of career experience in management and work with environmental organisations.

The delivery and success of the **Tackling the School Run** programme is evidence of the great foundation laid by Philippa Cochrane and the school travel team. My aim is to help the Sustrans Schools team to further develop their contribution to the continuing huge potential that exists in Scotland for active travel. Scotland has shown great leadership in the area of active travel and I am keen to get involved to support current strategies and help develop new ones with our partners so that Scotland continues to lead the way.