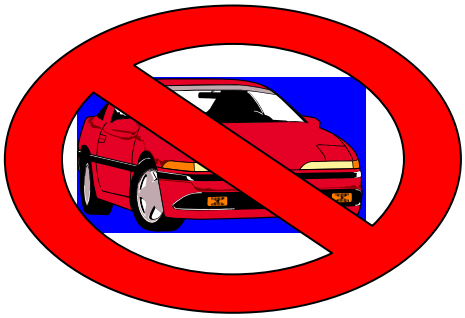


Muthill Primary School

Travel Plan

By the Eco-Committee

CONTENTS

Introduction and Aims ……..3
School Description ……4
Map of Muthill ……...5
How People Travel to School ……6
Summary of Traffic Problems ……..7
Ideas for Improving our Traffic Problem ……...10-12
What The School Can Do ……13-14
How Perth and Kinross Council Could Help …….15
What We are Doing Already ……16
Monitoring and Evaluation ……..17

Introduction

The Scottish Executive wish to improve the health and safety of pupils travelling to and from schools in Scotland.

As part of Muthill Primary School's Eco-School work, the School's Eco Committee agreed to write a Travel Plan. This would highlight safer routes to school and encourage exercise, therefore addressing the Road Safety and Healthy Living areas of the curriculum.

Aims

- To encourage pupils to walk/cycle to school.
- To improve the safety of our journeys to and from school.
- To have less traffic for the environment.
- To help stop congestion.
- To help parents keep healthy too!
- To raise awareness of healthy, eco-friendly possibilities.

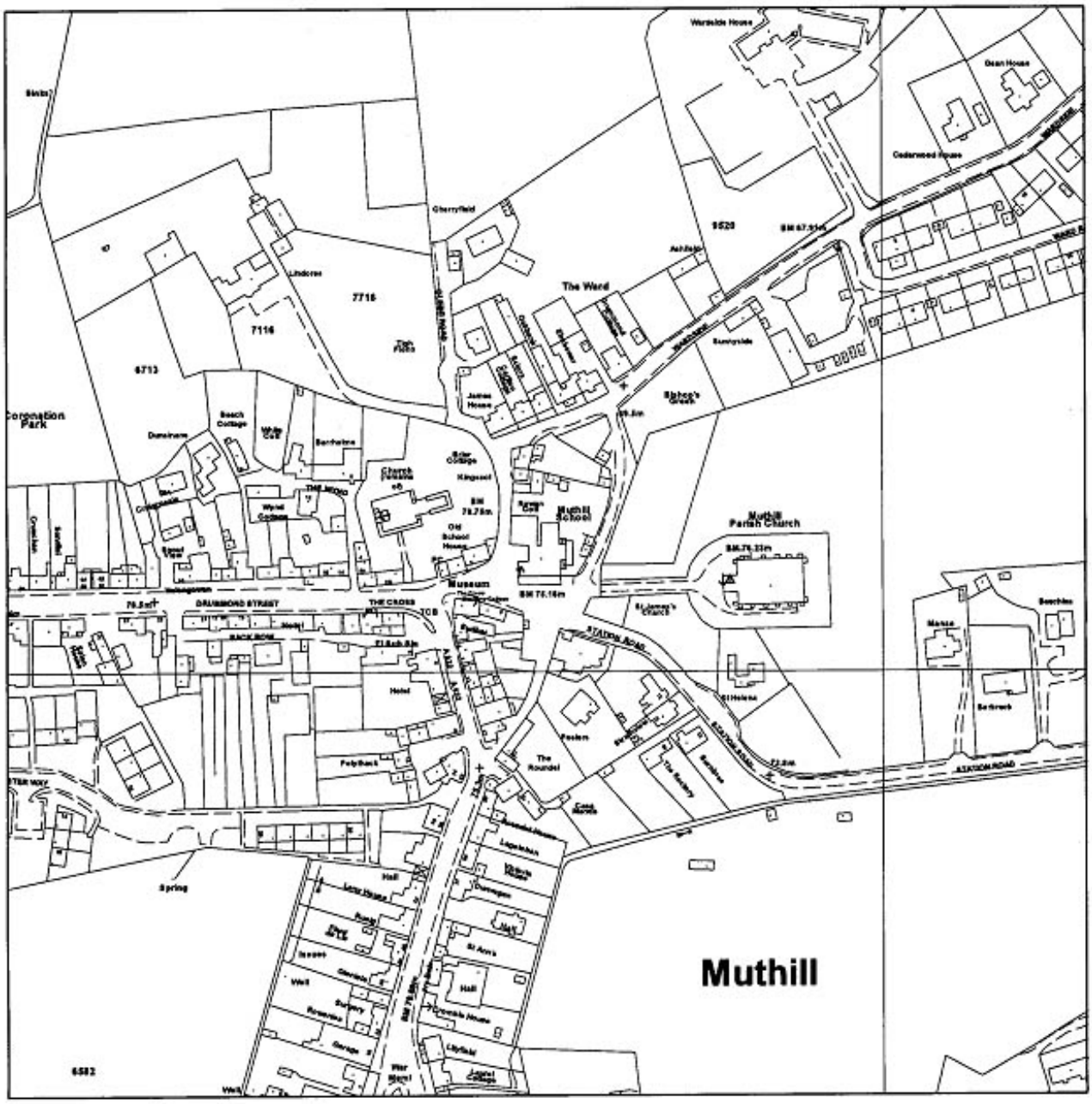
School Description.

Muthill Primary School is a small school in rural Perthshire. We have a road all around us and we have to cross a road to get to our pitch. We also have to cross and travel up a road to reach our gym hall.

Many of our pupils travel in from outside the village.

We have 86 pupils, 5 teachers, 1 Classroom Assistant, 1 Secretary, 1 Support for Learning Assistant, 1 Cleaner, 1 part-time Janitor and 5 visiting teachers who come regularly.

Muthill PS



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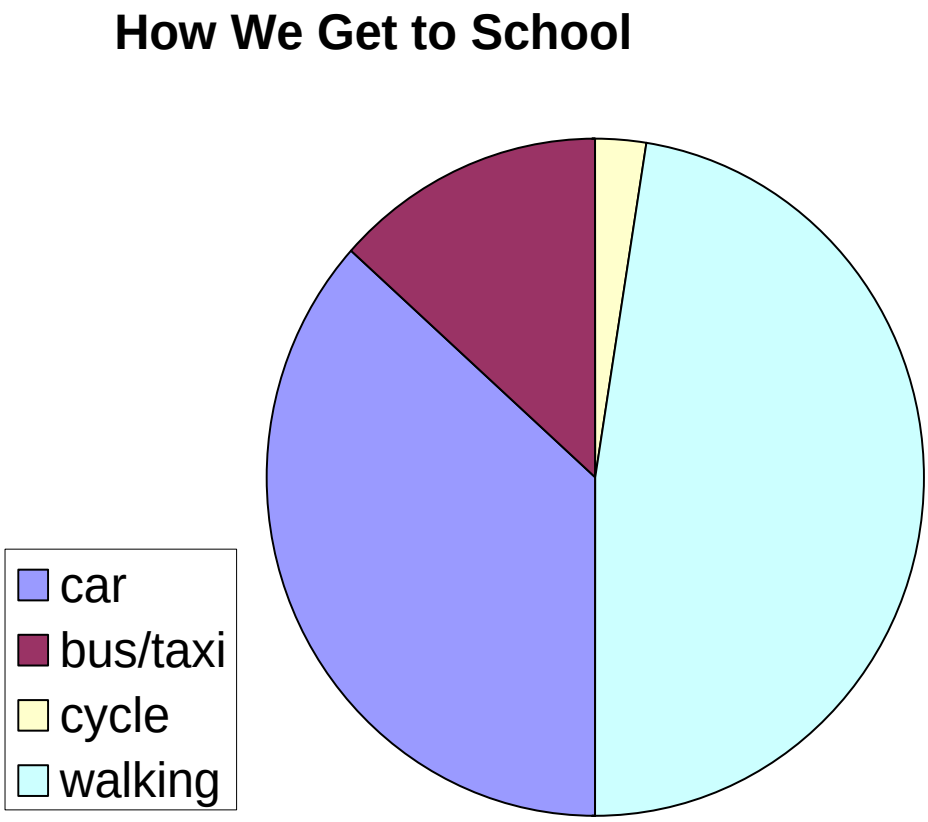
How People Travel To School

The Eco-Committee surveyed the pupils and staff to find out how they travelled to school.

At present 29% travel by car, 11% travel by bus, 38% walk and 2% come by bicycle.

The graphs below show these percentages.



Summary of Traffic Problems

The roads outside our school are very busy with parents dropping off and picking up children at the beginning and end of school. Some parents feel safer dropping their children off by car rather than letting them walk.

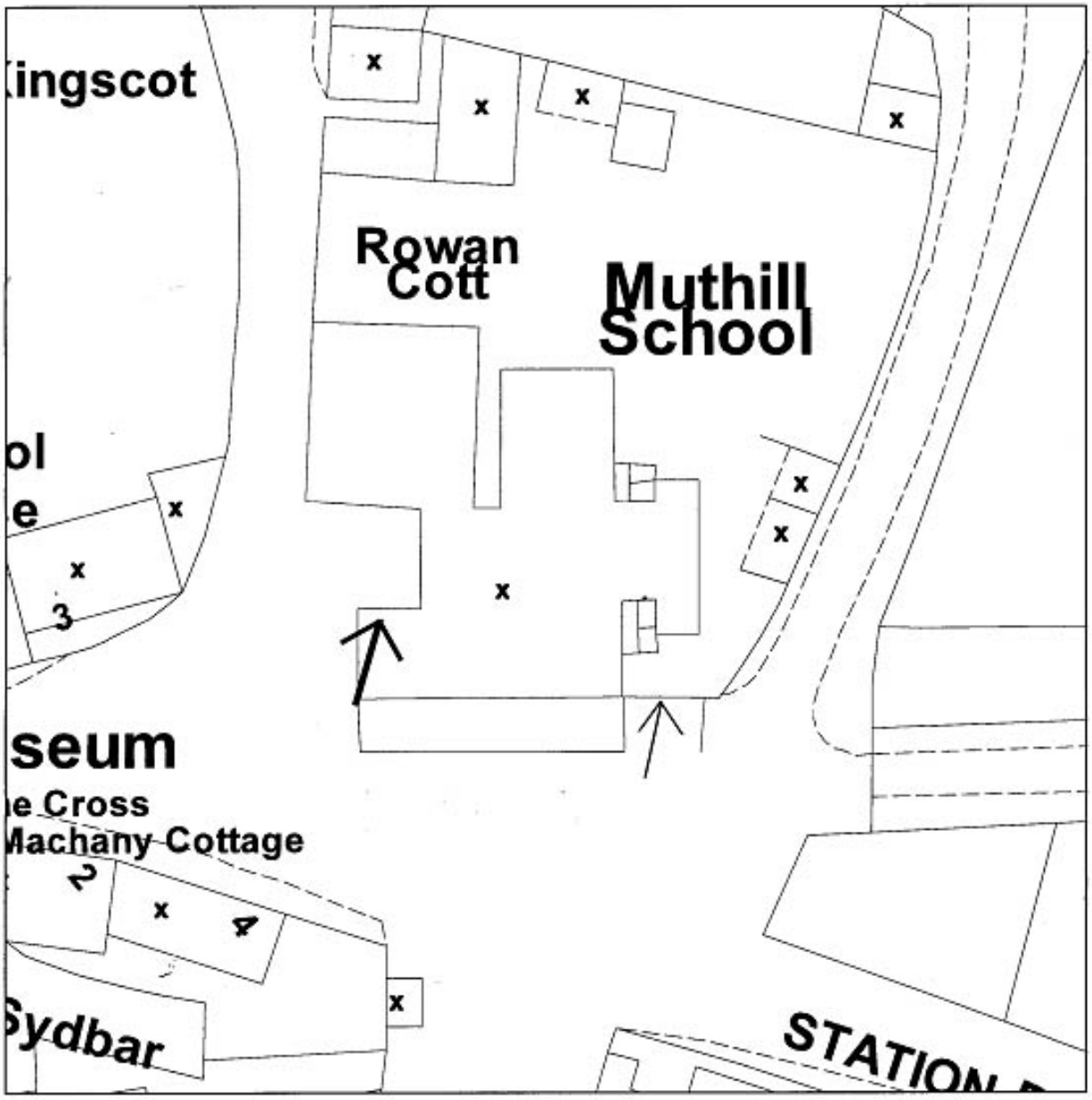
We have a Road Crossing Patroller (lollipop man) on the main road and are waiting for a new lollipop person for the road adjacent to the school.

There are two entrances to the school playground for the pupils and one main entrance to the school for staff and visitors. Staff park their cars in the car park in front of the school.

In summer more pupils walk or cycle to school than in winter. In winter more of those who would walk often get a lift.

SITE PLAN including entrances and parking

Muthill PS



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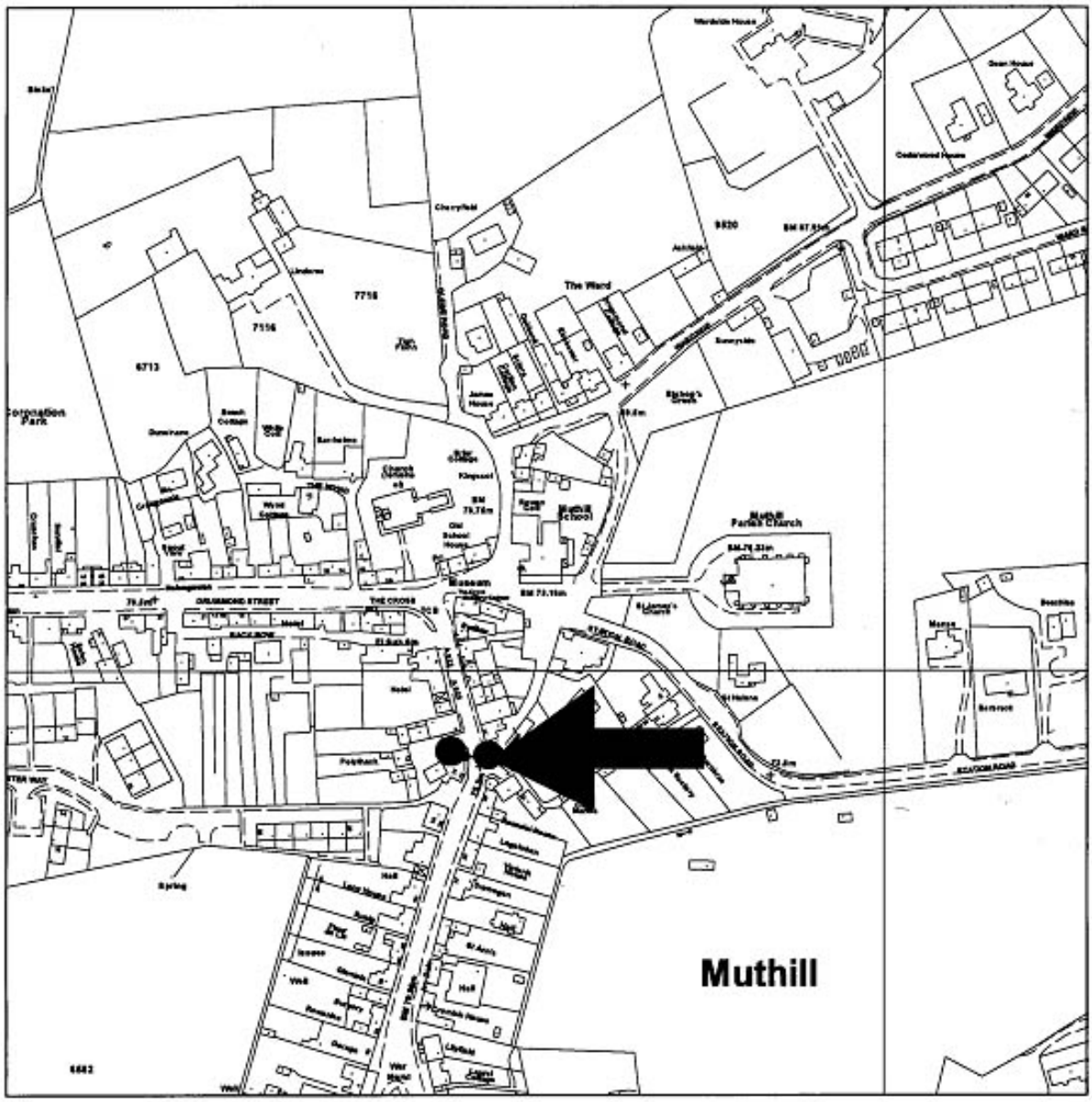
The arrow indicates position of the Lollipop Man

Muthill PS



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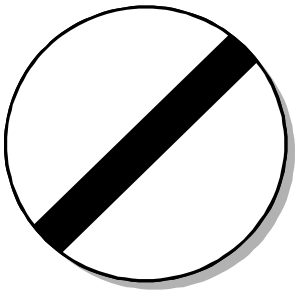
Ideas for Improving Our Traffic Problem

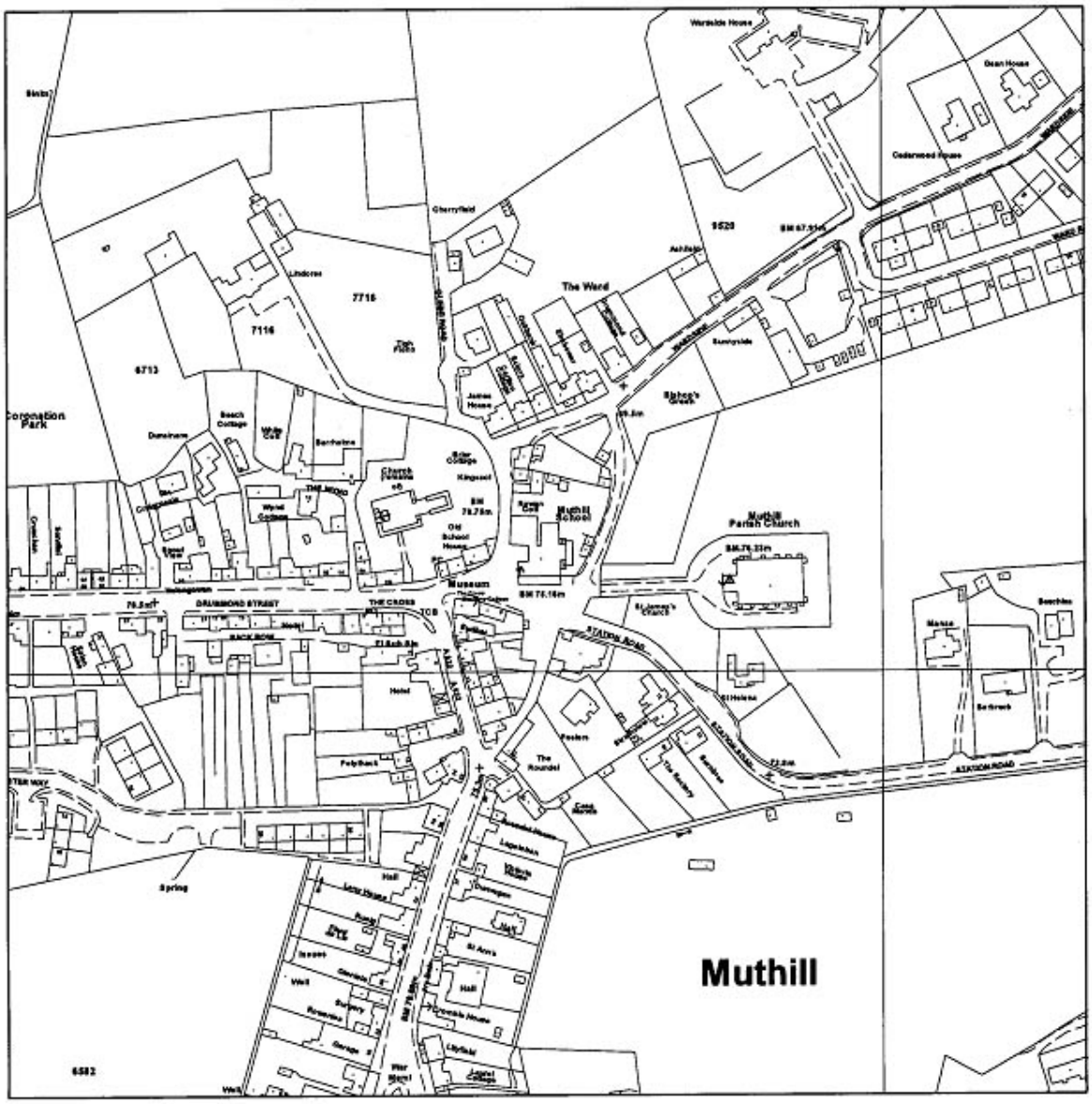
We need:

- A second Lollipop Man for the road beside the school
- To reduce speed limits around the school
- To encourage people to get some exercise by walking or cycling to school
- To put in some secure bike racks
- To introduce the idea of a walking bus to parents
- To encourage more parents that have to drive to school to park further away to stop congestion. This will allow their children to have some exercise on the way to school and will make the area near the school safer for the children who already walk and cycle to school
- Traffic calming in Drummond Street
- Possibly a Zebra Crossing, Pelican Crossing or Traffic Island outside the school and in Drummond Street
- ‘No Parking’ or ‘No Waiting’ signs on every road that surrounds the school

- A flashing sign on Drummond Street and Station Road to tell drivers when they are going too fast



Muthill PS



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ROAD MAP
To Show Areas for Improvement

What the School Can Do

- The Eco Committee Chairperson will write a letter to the Council asking if they will assess the area around the school to see if we will have any of our suggested traffic calming measures (by end of February 2004)

- The Committee will design a leaflet to send to parents of children at the school, saying what a walking bus is and asking if they would consider using one (by end of March)

- The Committee will write to parents to suggest that if they have to drive to school, to park as far away as possible, for instance on Drummond Street or allocated parking areas and walk the remaining distance (by end of March)

- The Committee will ask parents if they would consider using a school-run pool (by end of April)

- A staff member of the Eco Committee will write to *Perth Quality of Life Trust, via Philippa Davison, Sustrans* to ask for funding to buy and fix a secure bicycle rack in the playground (by beginning of February)

- The Chairperson will write to the Community Council to tell them our concerns about the traffic dangers (end Feb)

- All members of the Committee will regularly raise awareness of the health and ecological benefits of walking to school through assemblies, newsletters, posters etc

- From the 24th-28th May 2004 we will be taking part in ‘Walk to School Week’. Further information about this event will be issued to parents and pupils nearer the time.

How Perth and Kinross Council Could Help

- To advertise the post of Road Crossing Patroller
- To carry out our requests for road calming measures

What We Are Doing Already

- The Eco Committee are encouraging children to walk or cycle to school
- The staff regularly teach Road Safety to all pupils as part of their Health Education
- P1-3 take part in ‘Walkwise’
- The school has two Junior Road Safety Officers who attended a conference in November. They are active in promoting Road Safety to the whole school
- A newly purchased bicycle rack will be sited in the shelter shed
- The school encourages healthy ways of travelling to school through posters and assemblies.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Committee will review the actions in the Travel Plan by the end of May 2004

- We shall also carry out a second survey during June 2004 to find out whether or not more children are walking or cycling to school as a result of the initiatives outlined in Travel Plan

- A third survey will be carried out in November 2004 to find out if the percentages change according to the time of year.

This transport plan was started on the 4/11/03 and finished on the 19/2/04.