# The Big Street Survey – a guide

## *Overview*

**The Big Street Survey is a curriculum resource produced by Sustrans** to allow pupils to investigate their local area, consider what is good and bad, then produce a manifesto for change.

**It was designed by a Sustrans schools officer and qualified teacher**, alongside other Sustrans education officers, based on a resource originally produced for the Geography Association.

## *Who is it for?*

**The Big Street Survey is designed for older primary school and younger secondary pupils** – Key Stage 2 and 3 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and  P6-7 and S1-3 in Scotland.

## *What is included?*

**The resource includes**
- Lesson plans for teachers, with curriculum links (versions available for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England curricula). There are 2-part ones for younger pupils, 3-part for older ones and 2-hour versions for both groups
- PowerPoints to introduce the activity to the class
- A handbook for pupils to carry out the activity and produce a manifesto
- Various supporting resources, such as Street Trump cards
- Templates for press releases and lobbying elected officials and decision-makers. These include suggested text but it is editable for your own information.
- Welsh language versions of the 2012 edition are available.

**If you need further copies**, these are available from [www.sustrans.org.uk/bigstreetsurvey](www.sustrans.org.uk/bigstreetsurvey).

## *How to use it*

**The PowerPoint and Lesson Plan will take you through all the details you need** and what information to provide to the class.

**The activity itself should be a rewarding and interactive exercise** which meets numerous Geography curriculum objectives, with various cross-curricula opportunities. The pupils should have a genuine stake in the exercise and the results truly reflect their views.

**The Plenary at the end of the lesson plans involves producing a manifesto for change**, which ideally will be publicised or presented within the school in a creative way, and taken to local or national decision-makers and representatives to press for the improvements the pupils recommend. Suggestions for this are provided below.

Some schools have organised local forums and discussed their findings with experts, officials and decision-makers. Others have received visits from their MPs.

## *The outcomes*

**We hope that the manifesto will lead to genuine local change**, or at least build awareness of the issues that prevent children from walking and cycling in their communities.

**We'd love manifestos to be submitted to Sustrans**, so that we can influence national decision-makers to make streets safer and more pleasant spaces. We would also like to hear of any local publicity that pupils generate, and any meetings or collaboration with those they present their manifesto to.

**Please submit your manifesto to** [bigstreetsurvey@sustrans.org.uk](bigstreetsurvey@sustrans.org.uk), or post to The Big Street Survey, Sustrans, 2 Cathedral Square, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5DD. They could be presented as a letter, poster, photo of a wall display or collage, or even as a video. If you have received local media coverage, do let us know (ideally in advance) by contacting our Press team on [press@sustrans.org.uk](press@sustrans.org.uk) or 0117 927 7555.

## *Useful advice*

**Who should you contact to present your manifesto to?**

- **National elected representatives** (MPs UK-wide, as wells as AMs in Wales, MLAs in Northern Ireland and MSPs in Scotland) are often keen to meet with schools on issues such as improving neighbourhoods. **You could write to them**, but they also have **surgeries** where they meet the public in their constituency and can be contacted via their **websites** and/or office. It is preferable to **contact them in advance**, although you will not always need an appointment. We find that some are very keen to visit schools
- **Local elected representatives**, such as local councillors or elected mayors, will have a strong interest in local issues. You could approach the councillor for your area, or visit the council website to see who has responsibility for areas such as communities, education, children's services, the environment or transport
- **Some pupils have contacted unelected local authority officers** who have then visited their school. This could be someone like a Highways Engineer, School Travel Advisor or Road Safety Officer (titles vary). You could approach the head of a department – again, find out who runs the areas mentioned above via the council website
- **Local businesses and community groups** may also be interested in your manifesto and be able to engender change through their influence and resources
- **For Scottish schools**, Transport Scotland have advised that the best contact in the first instance for manifestos that request **20mph limits** should be local councillors.

**If you download and print the document**s, depending on the print settings, the booklet *may* print the middle pages upside down. You can adjust your printer to change this. Printers vary, but it will most likely be in Properties or Advanced Settings, then Finishings and selecting Flip Pages Up (or similar).

## *Supplementary activities*

### Bike to School Week

Why not capitalise on your Big Street Survey work and run a Bike to School Week? If you don't know where to start, our 6-stage guide will take you through every step to make sure it's a success.

You can run one any time of year, or join in our national celebration each summer term.

Download your guide from www.sustrans.org.uk/biketoschoolweek

### Suss it out, class activities

These are five themed sheets, each with 10, 20 and 30-minute simple, snappy activities to inspire action and discussion on active travel, to fit in any part of a busy school day with no special resources necessary.

Download free from www.sustrans.org.uk/biketoschoolweek

### The Big Pedal

The Big Pedal is a UK-wide inter-school cycling challenge. Any school can enter, it's completely free and every year there are fantastic prizes up for grabs.

Find out more in our FAQs or sign-up to our e-bulletin to receive top tips on how to make the Big Pedal even bigger and better at your school.

Visit www.bigpedal.org.uk