

Barleyfields

A Sure Start Children's Centre

GREEN TRAVEL PLAN – SEPTEMBER 2010

Introduction

- The Pre-school Learning Alliance is the lead agency for overall management of Barleyfields Children's Centre. The Children's Centre is dedicated to promoting sustainable travel choices and reducing reliance on cars; promoting the health and well-being of families; and working with the wider community to benefit the environment.
- The geographical area that Barleyfields Children's Centre serves is Oaklands, Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Old Knebworth and the rural area to the west of Old Knebworth north of Codicote (also known as NH10). A map of the Children's Centre area is attached. Consequently Barleyfields Children's Centre provides services across this area on a regular basis which will reduce the need for families to travel to the Children's Centre building at Woolmer Green Village Hall.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre has been based at Woolmer Green Village Hall since 22 June 2010. The Children's Centre is open from 9 am to 5 pm, but sessions and activities may be run between 8 am and 10 pm Monday to Saturday according to need.
- The Travel Plan is required as part of the planning application for Barleyfields Children's Centre.
- The Travel Plan has been developed in accordance with the Pre-school Learning Alliance Environmental policy which recognises that Barleyfields Children's Centre can contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment. It has resolved to improve its environmental practices and to promote awareness of environmental responsibilities among all staff, children and families.
- Vehicle use adds to congestion, road accidents and pollution, including carbon emissions which all impact negatively on the health and wellbeing of children and families, now and in the future. Public transportation and car sharing help to ease these concerns, walking and cycling help to achieve recommended levels of physical activity so reducing risk of obesity. Delivering environmentally sustainable Sure Start Children's Centres (DfES 2005).
- The Travel Plan aims to encourage families to use sustainable modes of travel to access the Children's Centre building at Woolmer Green Village Hall wherever possible.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre staff travel from Codicote and from Stevenage and drive to work. All 3 staff travel by car or in the Children's Centre van and there is adequate parking. Staff advise that they travel by car because they live too far away to walk or cycle and they need access to the vehicles during the day in order to carry out outreach work and run activities.
- Families accessing Barleyfields Children's Centre live in Woolmer Green and also travel from Oaklands, Knebworth, Datchworth, Codicote, Welwyn, Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City.

Baseline Information

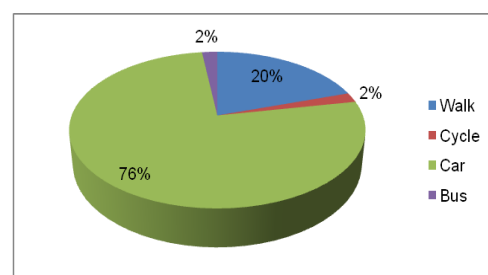
- There are 50 parking spaces available at Woolmer Green Village Hall.
- Regular services offered by Barleyfields Children's Centre at Woolmer Green Village Hall are:
 - Stay and Play on Monday morning from 9.30 – 11.30 am. Approximately 25 families attend and parking facilities are available in the Village Hall car park. 5 families walk to the group and 20 families travel by car.
 - Jumping Joeys at Woolmer Green Village Hall on Thursday morning from 11.00 am – 12.30 pm. Approximately 25 families attend and parking facilities are available in the Village Hall car park. 6 families walk to the group, 2 families cycle and 17 families travel by car.
 - Nought to Nine Months Baby Group on Friday afternoon from 1.15 pm – 3 pm. 9 families attend and parking facilities are available in the Village Hall car park. 3 families walk to the group and 6 families travel by car.
 - Childminding Network (termly meeting) with approximately 6 attendees.
- Regular services delivered at other community venues in the Children's Centre area are:-
 - Singing Starlets at Knebworth Village Hall.
 - Signing Babies at St Martin's Parish Centre, Knebworth.
 - Saturday Dads (monthly) at Stepping Stone Pre-school, London Road, Knebworth.
 - Early Years Network (termly meeting) with an anticipated number of attendees being 10, held at a pre-school within the Children's Centre area.
- The relationship between the Pre-school Learning Alliance and Woolmer Green Parish Council is that a member of the Parish Council has been invited to sit on the Advisory Group for Barleyfields Children's Centre.
- Pre-school Learning Alliance and Woolmer Green Parish Council liaise on a weekly basis with regard to bookings at the Village Hall and potential periods of high volume of traffic and parking are identified and managed. Hall users can be advised of these busy periods so that they make alternative arrangements.
- Sue Smith, Barleyfields Children's Centre Manager, will be the person responsible for co-ordinating Barleyfields Children's Centre Green Travel Plan.
- It is anticipated that two hours per month will be dedicated to developing and maintaining the plan.
- The Children's Centre has access to two parking spaces in the Village Hall car park. There is an allocated space made available for disabled users.

Survey

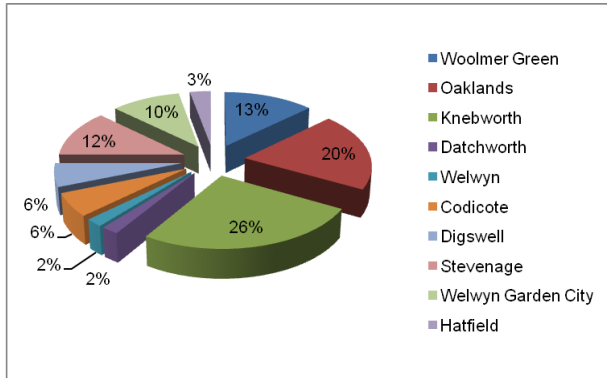
The methodology used comprised surveys for users and staff. Surveys (copies attached) were undertaken between 4 and 17 September 2010 relating to the number of users, times travelling and their mode of travel. Surveys were given to every family coming Barleyfields Children's Centre at Woolmer Green. 47 surveys were completed and the percentages given are of these replies received.

The surveys found that:

- 20% walk to Barleyfields Children's Centre
- 2% cycle to Barleyfields Children's Centre
- 76% drive to Barleyfields Children's Centre
- 2% get the bus to Barleyfields Children's Centre



13% travelled from Woolmer Green
 20% travelled from Oaklands
 26% travelled from Knebworth
 2% travelled from Datchworth
 2% travelled from Welwyn
 6% travelled from Codicote
 6% travelled from Digswell
 12% travelled from Stevenage
 10% travelled from Welwyn Garden City
 3% travelled from Hatfield



The reasons given for not walking or cycling are:

- Live too far away – 25 respondents
- Roads are too dangerous – 6 respondents
- Not enough time – 15 respondents
- Too much to carry – 6 respondents
- Travelling from or on to another location – 9 respondents
- Lonely walking from Knebworth – 1 respondent
- Need to get child home for sleep – 2 respondents
- Two toddlers! – 1 respondent
- Pregnant – 1 respondent
- Give another parent and child a lift - 1 respondent
- Toddler would end up having two longish sleeps in his pram! – 1 respondent
- I have three children under 5 years old and it is a bit too far away – 1 respondent
- Bad weather – 3 respondents
- And I am lazy! – 1 respondent
- Bike not working – 1 respondent
- Planning to try walking as not as far as previously thought – 1 respondent
- Impractical – 1 respondent

Other issues raised:

- The B197 London Road is a very busy road with fast traffic.
- There is little / inadequate buggy storage at Barleyfields Children's Centre.
- It is lonely and dangerous walking along the B197 from Knebworth.
- There is nowhere to hang wet coats and umbrellas if it is raining.
- Too many child seats to do lift share.

Parents say that the following would encourage them to walk or cycle to the Children's Centre:

- More travel information eg bus times – 1 respondent
- Walking bus from Knebworth – 4 respondents
- Speed limit decreased to 30 mph in Woolmer Green – 1 respondent
- A direct bus from Hatfield Garden Village – 1 respondent
- Have friends in Knebworth so I could walk from there - 1 respondent

<p>Parents believe that the Travel Plan can be integrated into the Children's Centre by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having activities at Stay and Play - 23% • Including road safety awareness for children - 25% • Developing physical activity for families eg buggy walks - 30% • Providing further Beginner Biking sessions - 22% <p>Staff believe that the Travel Plan can be integrated into the Children's Centre through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum topics • Parent Forum • Physical activity eg buggy walks • Health and safety policies • Site management at Woolmer Green • Improving neighbourhood relations 	
Objective 1= to encourage families to walk to and from Barleyfields Children's Centre and thereby reduce the proportion of journeys made by car. Areas where families walk freely and safely have more social interaction creating stronger communities.	Target 1 = 25% of journeys made to Barleyfields Children's Centre to be made on foot by September 2011.
Objective 2 = to encourage families to cycle to and from Barleyfields Children's Centre and thereby reduce the proportion of journeys made by car.	Target 2 = 4% of journeys made to Barleyfields Children's Centre to be made by bicycle by September 2011.
Objective 3 = to encourage families to share cars when travelling to Children's Centre groups and activities while maintaining children's safety through the correct provision of car seats at all times.	Target 3 = 2% of journeys made to Barleyfields Children's Centre to involve car sharing by September 2011.
Objective 4 = to reduce sole occupancy car use of those travelling to meetings at Barleyfields Children's Centre; and to combine visits and meetings where possible.	Target 4 = 5% of journeys to Barleyfields Children's Centre meeting to involve car sharing by September 2011.
Objective 5 = to encourage families to use public transport to travel to and from Barleyfields Children's Centre. Public transport provision is a key enabler to accessing services, employment and improving life chances.	Target 5 = 5% of journeys made to Barleyfields Children's Centre to be made by public transport by September 2011.
Objective 6 = to raise awareness concerning road safety, and the social, safety and health impacts of travel choices.	Target 6 = 15% of families registered with Barleyfields Children's Centre to attend and/or participate in awareness raising activities between October 2010 and September 2011.

Action Plan

- Barleyfields Children's Centre will work in partnership with Woolmer Green Parish Council to develop their Travel Plans together and will work together on joint initiatives.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will continue to support the Woolmer Green 30 mph campaign.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will conduct an area survey looking at safe routes for walkers and cyclists.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will distribute a map of the area showing footpaths, parking facilities and cycle paths and will have bus timetables and maps available for families at a travel information point. Travel information to be included in the welcome booklet. Information on travelling to adjacent Children's Centres will be available together with the services that they are running.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will implement the Travel Plan and support progress towards the targets by:
 - Providing activities at Stay and Play
 - Promoting road safety awareness for children
 - Developing physical activity for families eg buggy walks using Buggy Buddies resources
 - Providing further Beginner Biking sessions.
 - Providing information on social, safety and health impacts of travel choices.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will provide access to pegs for wet coats and umbrellas.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will consider a walking bus from Knebworth so that families can walk as a group and/or with a member of the Barleyfields staff.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will promote the use of the buggy park / cycle park at Woolmer Green Village Hall and provide bicycle locks to encourage families to walk to the Barleyfields Children's Centre.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will encourage walking to services and pay particular attention to Walk to School Week and Road Safety Week.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre will remind those invited to meetings to consider whether lift-sharing is a viable option.
- Barleyfields Children's Centre staff will endeavour to combine meetings and visits.

Promotion

- Promotion of the Travel Plan will be via notice board displays, flyers, newsletters and online resources such as the Barleyfields Children's Centre website with the aim of publicising the Travel Plan to families accessing the Children's Centre and the wider community. The key objectives will be listed in the Children's Centre handbook.

Monitoring and Review

- Barleyfields Children's Centre will work with Woolmer Green Parish Council to ensure that both Travel Plans are compatible.
- The Barleyfields Children's Centre Manager will complete an annual update of the Green Travel Plan and this will be achieved by:
 - Updating the action plan on a termly basis;
 - Providing termly updates to staff, families and the Advisory Group;

- Monitoring progress towards targets;
- Collecting evidence to support the action plan;
- Collecting evidence of initiatives undertaken;
- Holding an annual survey (September 2011).
- Completing the annual update (September 2011).

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