

**Application no: PL/2021/01418/PPFL**

**Cheswick Green Primary School**

**Condition 5: Walking Bus scheme**

**Preamble:**

This document aims to demonstrate the implementation for the requirement identified under Condition 5 of the planning decision notice in relation to Planning application no: PL/2021/01418/PPFL. The condition states:

*‘No development shall commence until a Walking Bus scheme has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include details showing:*

- i. Extent of scheme;*
- ii. Defined routes and pick up/ drop-off points;*
- iii. Deployment of resources; and*
- iv. Marketing / promotion’*

*The approved details shall be implemented as agreed and the scheme shall remain in perpetuity unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**Implementation:**

- i. Extent of the Scheme

**Walking bus**

The Walking Bus will follow a fixed route, picking up children who live within Cheswick Green and Cheswick Place from fixed “bus stops” along the route. At the outset, a letter will be sent out to parents to identify families who will be interested in joining the scheme. This will help to identify suitable route(s) to maximise demand.

The Walking Bus will operate in the morning and afternoon, providing a pick-up and drop-off service for parents.

The school will ascertain take-up for the Walking Bus by year group to ensure there is suitable provision to tie in with staggered start and end times; one for each stagger group may be operated if there is sufficient take up.

Parents would be required to pick up their children following each of the clubs/after school activities rather than making use of the Walking Bus.

- ii. Defined routes and pick-up and drop-off points

To ensure that the Walking Bus route is of an appropriate length it is recommended that two routes are provided for north Cheswick Green/Cheswick Place, and southern Cheswick Green. Provision of both of these routes would be subject to demand. Indicative routes are provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Indicative Walking Bus Routes



Guidelines provided by the Institution of Highways and Transportation (IHT) in their publication 'Guidelines for Providing for Journeys on Foot' (2000) suggests that in terms of walking to school; distances of up to 2,000m can be considered a preferred maximum with 'desirable' and 'acceptable' distances being 500 and 1,000m respectively. It should be noted that journeys of a longer length are often undertaken. Both of these indicative routes are approximately 660m, which equates to an 8 minute walk, based on 1.4m/s<sup>2</sup> walking speed. Assuming each route will have a maximum of 3 "stops", and a dwell time at each "stop" of 3 minutes, this equates to an indicative total journey time of 17 minutes for each route. It is considered that this is an appropriate length for a walking bus.

Any route taken by the Walking Bus will need to be subject to a comprehensive risk assessment by the SMBC Safe and Active Travel Team. At this stage, a route cannot be defined as demand is unknown, however, a high level audit of the condition and suitability of these indicative routes has been undertaken using the Walking Route Audit Tool (WRAT). National guidance states that a score of 70% (i.e. a score of 28 out of a potential 40 points) should normally be regarded as a minimum level of provision overall. Routes which score less than this, and factors which are scored as zero should be used to identify where improvements are required. This scoring has been based on a site visit and desktop appraisal of routes. This analysis shows that on both indicative routes, at least minimum walking provision is in place, and on this basis, it is concluded that no further improvements are required in order for these routes to be suitable for pupils/parents to walk to/from Cheswick Green Primary School.

It is intended that following consultation with parents to ascertain potential usage of the walking bus that the school will utilise at least one of these routes however will reserve the right to amend this to suit demand.

iii. Deployment of resources

The Walking Bus will be supervised by staff recruited and employed by the school. These members of staff will have a Solihull DBS/CRB check, and all members of the Bus will wear hi-visibility waistcoats for safety and easy identification. Equipment and background checks will be supplied by SMBC.

The staffing will be provided in line with the minimum ratio of adults: children as stated within the SMBC guide to implementing a Walking Bus:

A Guide to The Walking Bus (SMBC) -

[https://www.solihull.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/ParkingTravelRoads\\_The\\_Walking\\_Bus.pdf](https://www.solihull.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/ParkingTravelRoads_The_Walking_Bus.pdf)

- Key Stage 2 – 1 adult : 8 children;
- Key Stage 1 – 1 adult : 4 children; and
- Mixed Key Stages – 1 adult : 6 children.

The funding for the employment of staff to set up a walking bus was approved by the Cabinet Member for Education and Children in March 2021. The Council undertakes to provide funding for 2 years from the DSG (Growth Fund) and beyond this from a corporate budget until such time as the provision becomes embedded and self-sustaining, in agreement with the school.

A register will be kept by staff to record which children have used the Bus each day.

In line with the SMBC guide to implementing a Walking Bus, the school will follow the process set out in Table 1 to implement the Walking Bus.

**Table 1: Process for Setting Up Walking Bus**

Action	Timescales	Responsibility
Identify a co-ordinator to oversee setting up and running the Walking Bus Service	At least one school term prior to additional classrooms being occupied.	Cheswick Green Primary School
Co-ordinator to send out letter to parents to see families that would be interested in using the Bus		Cheswick Green Primary Walking Bus Co-Ordinator
Co-ordinator to utilise information from families, to identify a suitable route and drop-off points (indicative routes shown in Figure 1)		Cheswick Green Primary Walking Bus Co-Ordinator
Co-ordinator to contact SMBC Safe and Active Travel Team		Cheswick Green Primary Walking Bus Co-Ordinator
Once demand for service has been ascertained, staff to		Cheswick Green Primary School

operate the service will be recruited (which could include existing staff based at the school e.g. lunchtime supervisors)		
Ensure all staff members hold a current DBS check		Cheswick Green Primary Walking Bus Co-Ordinator
SMBC Safe and Active Travel Team to organise training for staff, carry out risk assessment for the route and provide equipment for adults and children to wear to ensure it is covered by Insurance policies		SMBC Safe and Active Travel Team
Families to formally register to utilise Walking Bus, including agreed behaviour and consent form		Cheswick Green Primary Walking Bus Co-Ordinator
Walking Bus starts to operate	Prior to additional classrooms being occupied	Cheswick Green Primary Walking Bus Co-Ordinator with support from SMBC Safe and Active Travel Team, as required.

iv. Marketing and Promotion

The school will advertise the walking bus to its pupils and their parents /carers through the school's existing communication channels to including the school newsletter, individual marketing and application forms for the walking bus.