

Walkability Audit

24th January, 2017



Scoil Gearoid Ui Ghriobhtha

**Loughill
Co. Limerick**

Roll Number: 178140

School Description

Scoil Gearoid Uí Ghriobhtha is a mixed, rural school, located in the village of Loughill in County Limerick on the L6112, just off the N69. The school has 51 students with two teachers, one of which is the Principal and Green-Schools Co-ordinator. The school started the Green-Schools Travel theme in September 2016. They have conducted a travel survey, carpooling survey, the mapping exercise and then decided to conduct their walkability audit on the 24th January, 2017. 7 % of students walk to school as they live in the village and 93% of students travel to school by car with 35% carpooling.

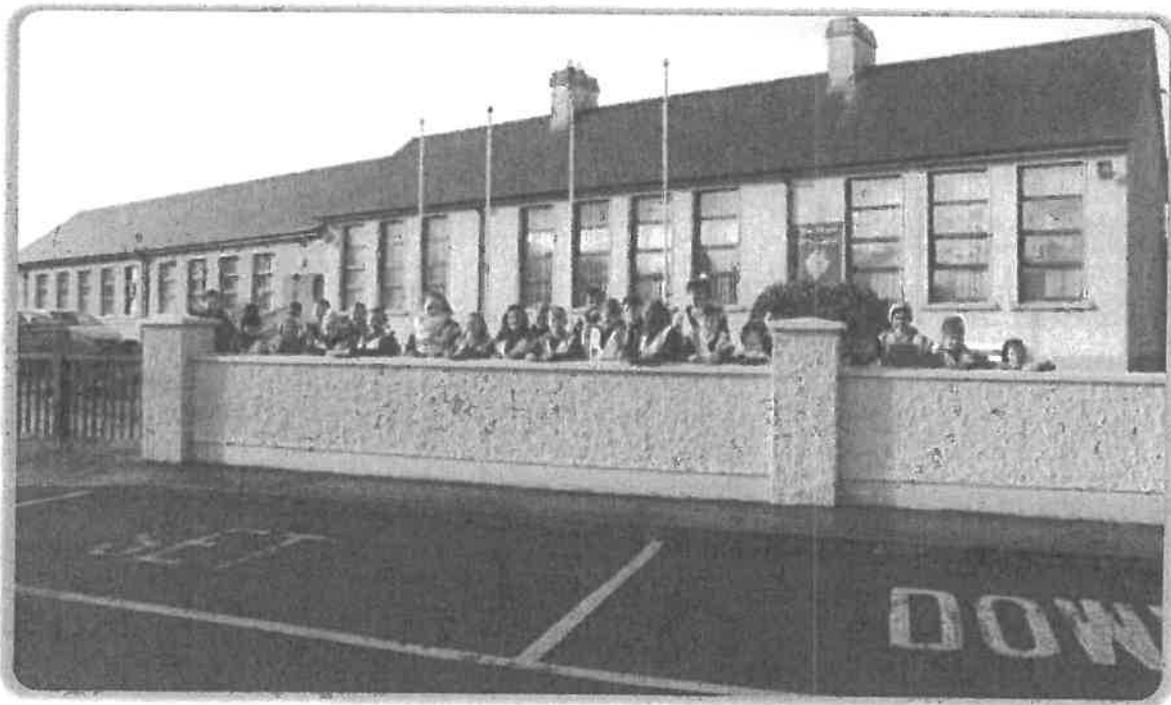


A **Walkability Audit** is a methodical examination of how pedestrian-friendly a route may or may not be.

The word **Walkability** means the "**ability to walk**".

What did we do?

Members of the school population identified a possible walking route to school to audit.



Objectives:

1. To look at the barriers to promoting walking to school and propose possible solutions if any.
2. To raise awareness on road safety
3. To see if there are any possible park and stride * locations by the school.

*Park 'n' Stride = driving some of the way to school but parking a reasonable distance away and walking the last bit, thus removing congestion from the school gate and getting the benefits of a walk on the way.

What did we do?

We used a number of tools on the audit to record our findings:

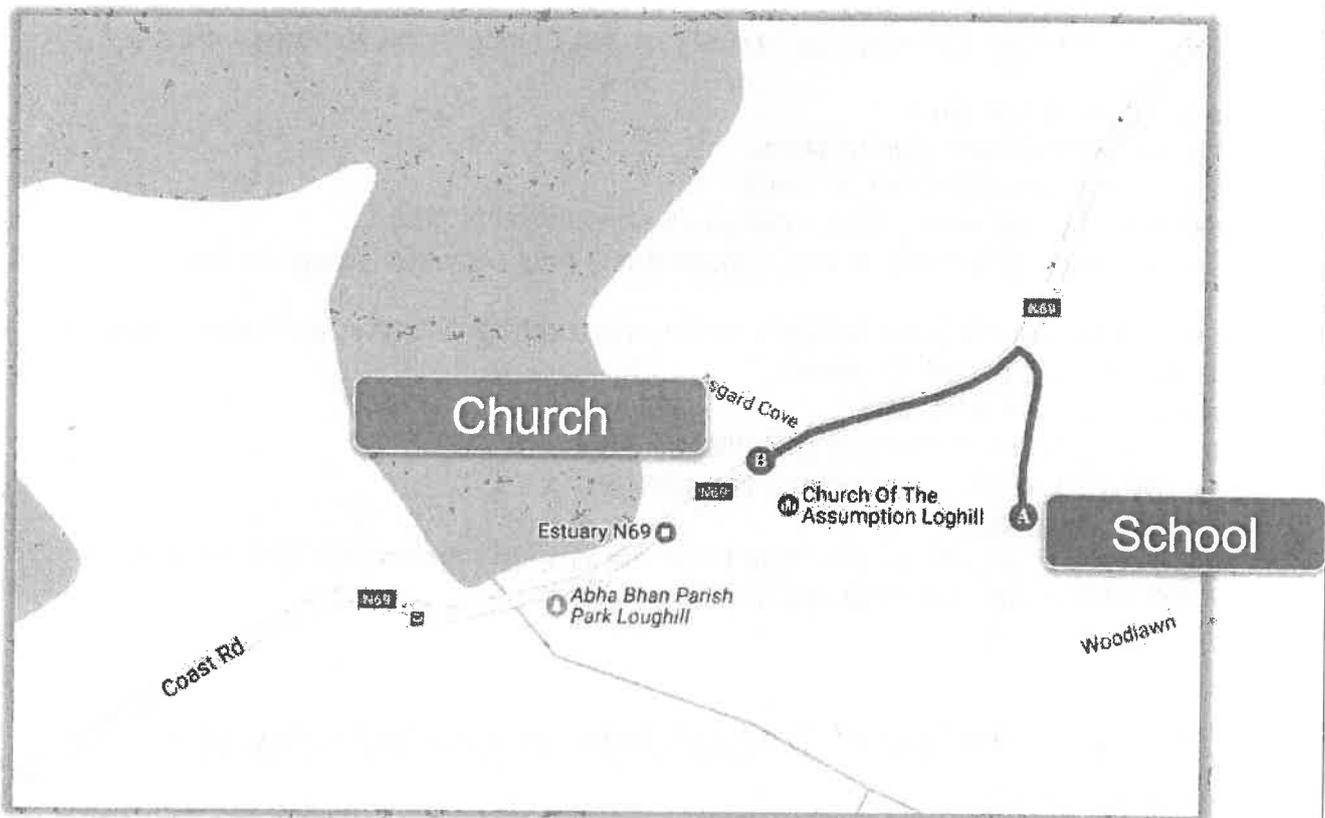
- Recording sheets
- Measuring tape
- High-visibility vests
- Camera
- Pencils/Clipboards/Covers
- Analysis sheets/Survey sheets



Where did we go?

Description of the route audited:

Scoil Gearoid Ui Ghriobhtha is located on the L6112, off the N69 in the village of Loughill in County Limerick. On the 24th January, 2017, their Green-Schools Committee decided to conduct an audit with their An Taisce Travel Education Officer to see how pedestrian friendly it felt outside their school grounds. They walked from their school to their local Church. This route is just over 400metres and took roughly minutes to walk (uphill). The Green-Schools committee also conducted a traffic, road sign and litter survey on their walk.



Summary of our Findings

We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

Positive Points:

1. The steps outside the school entrance have a guardrail to hold onto.
2. There is a ramp in place with a hand rail by our school entrance.
3. We have a wall around our school.
4. We have various gates/entrances onto our school grounds for pedestrians only.
5. The have curvy gates in place.
6. The straight wide gates can also be opened if needed for deliveries, emergencies etc.
7. We have a staff car park with a separate entrance.
8. No cars come onto the school grounds.
9. There is a footpath outside our school .
10. Cars have a set down point – drive in – a one way system is in place.
11. Road markings indicate which way to travel.
12. There is a road marking and road sign to indicate which side of the school to enter and exit.
13. We have a bus space on site.
14. We have a no parking road sign in place.
15. Outside our school we guardrails in place.
16. Our school grounds are very pretty – plants, bushes, trees in place.
17. The footpath on one side (side school is located on) runs from our school to the Church.
18. There are road signs with flashing lights to indicate a school ahead in both directions.
19. The footpath is a good width in places.
20. Hedges/trees were trimmed back.
21. The speed limit is 50 km/h through the village.
22. There are parking spaces in the Church car park.
23. Not much litter on route.
24. It felt safe to walk this route to the Church but not crossing the road to the car park.
25. Roughly 400 metres walk and took around 5 minutes.
26. Street lights are in place.

More details and photos of these findings can be viewed in the pages following.

Summary of our Findings

We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

Issues:

1. The footpath is only on one side of the road for a lot of this route.
2. The bus spaces outside the boundary wall needs to be repainted as well as the other road markings in this drop off area.
3. The footpath by the no parking area stops so be careful here.
4. There are no road markings to indicate a school in either direction so could these be added?
5. There were obstacles in place – bins, ESB poles, electric boxes so just watch out for these.
6. Drain covers can be slippery if it is wet so watch out for this.
7. Watch out for entrances into homes etc
8. The footpath near the church was uneven in places.
9. The STOP road marking on the road junction from the L6112 to the N69 needs to be repainted.
10. There was a lot of traffic and the lorries were speeding through the village.
11. Car park for the Church is on the opposite side of the road and the N69 was very busy and traffic did speed so it would not feel safe crossing this road.
12. Traffic in both directions would not have a clear view of the Church or parking area due to the bends on the N69 in both directions.
13. Is it Loghill or Loughill? Road sign says Loghill.
14. It is 50km/h pass the school so could this be reduced?
15. The 50km/p road sign from the Ballyhahill direction is turned the wrong way.

More details and photos of these findings can be viewed in the pages following.

Details of our Positive Findings



The entrance into our school building has steps. You have a guardrail.



We have a ramp with a hand rail into our school.



We have a wall round our school grounds.

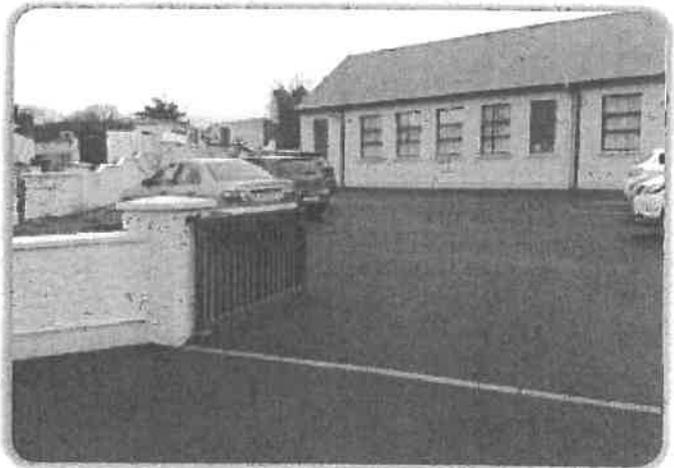


We have various entrances for pedestrians only. The curvy gates slow pedestrians down as they walk through them.

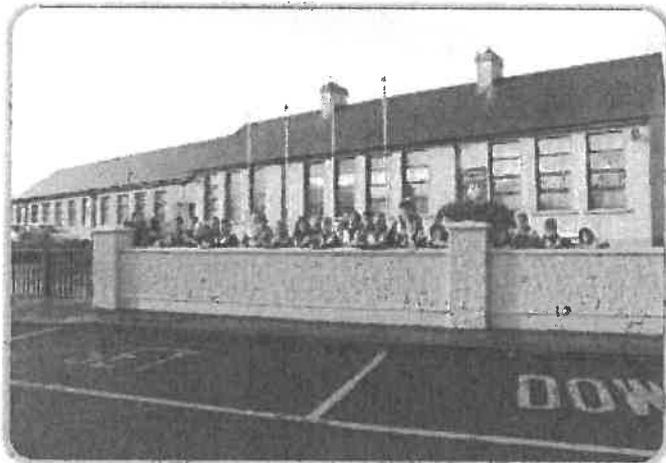
Details of our Positive Findings



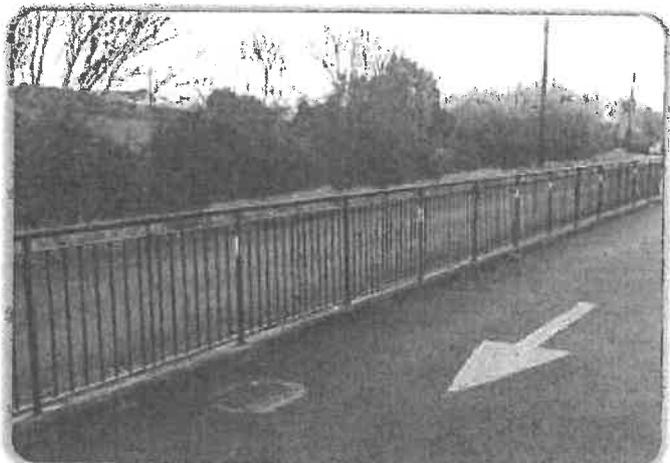
We have gates which open to let in cars, vans etc for deliveries or in case of an emergency



We have a staff car park with a separate entrance.



Cars have a set down point – drive in – a one way system is in place.



Road markings indicate which way to travel.

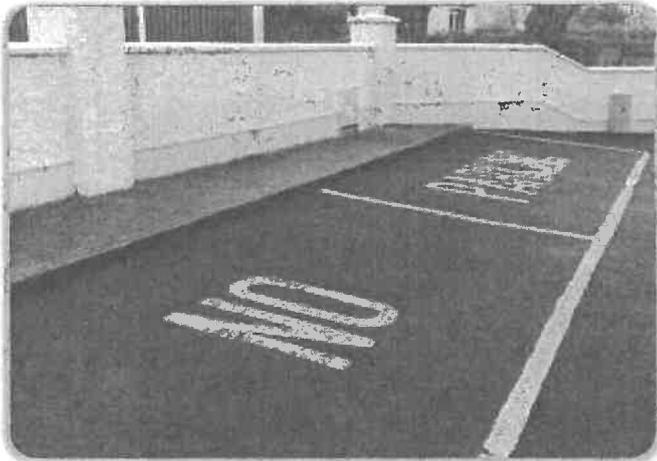
Details of our Positive Findings



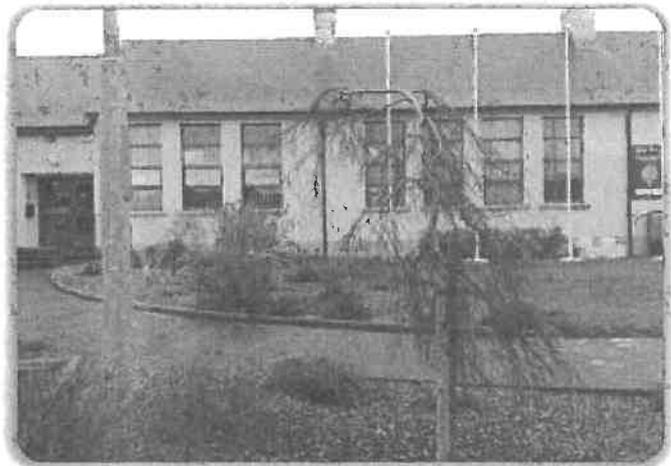
There is a road marking and road sign to indicate which side of the school to enter and exit.



We have a bus space on site.



We have a no parking road sign in place

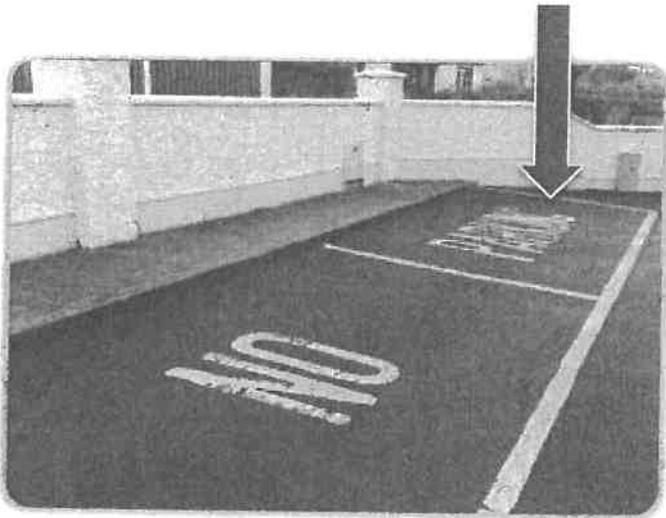


Our school grounds are very pretty – plants, bushes, trees in place.

Details of our Findings



The 50km/p road sign from the Ballyhahill direction is turned into the road so could Limerick City and County Council turn it the correct way?



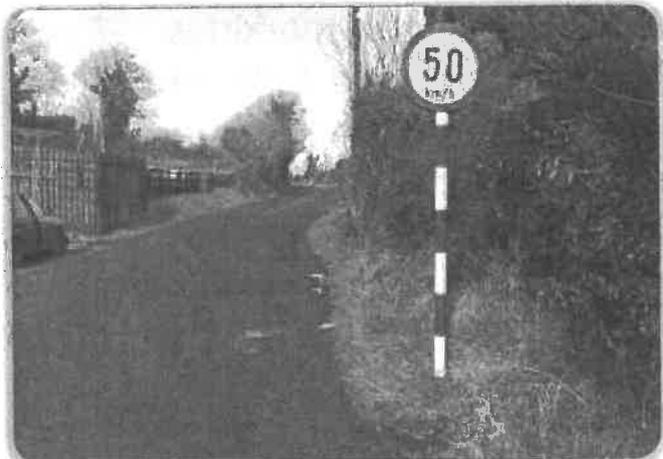
By the 'No Parking' road markings outside the school the footpath stops so be careful walking in this area. Ask Limerick City and County Council if this footpath could be continued in anyway.

Details of our Findings



Fáilte go
Leamhchoill
LOGHILL

Is it Loghill or Loughill? Road sign says Loghill. Ask Limerick City and County Council.



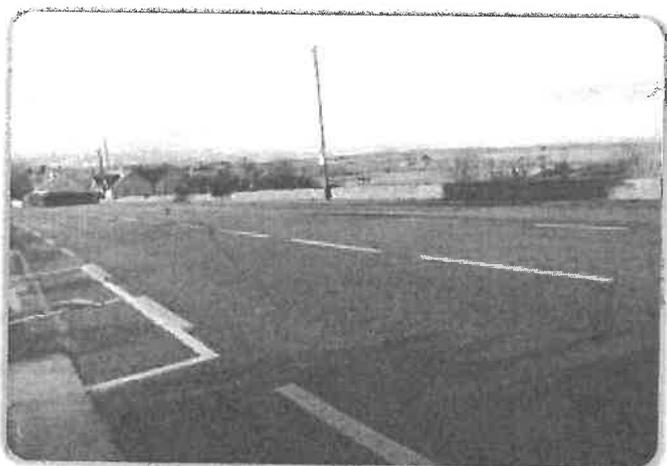
50
km/h

It is 50km/h pass the school so could this be reduced? Ask Limerick and City County Council.

Details of our Findings



Traffic in both directions would not have a clear view of the Church or parking area due to the bends on the N69 in both directions. Ask Limerick City and County Council to assess this and make the necessary changes to make it as safe as possible for us to walk to school.



The walk to the Church from the school is a nice walk and an ideal park and stride location. You could park in the Church car park it is across the N69. Crossing the N69 is difficult and feels unsafe. Ask Limerick City and County Council to assess this and make the necessary changes to make it as safe as possible for us to walk to school.

Details of our Findings



Drain covers can be slippery if it is wet so just watch out for this.



There are entrances to homes and fields on route so just look out for cars etc entering or leaving these premises. Remind students.

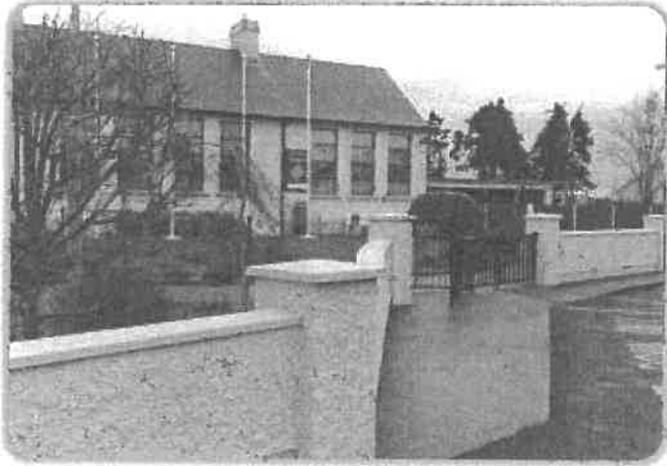


The footpath near the church was uneven in places. Ask the council to assess this and make the necessary changes to make it as safe as possible for us to walk to school.



The STOP road marking on the road junction from the L6112 to the N69 needs to be repainted. Ask the council.

Details of our Positive Findings



We have a footpath outside our school.



We have guardrails by our school set down area and the road and the L6112.



The footpath on one side (side school is located on) runs from our school to the Church.



We have a road sign with flashing lights in both directions to indicate a school ahead.

Details of our Positive Findings



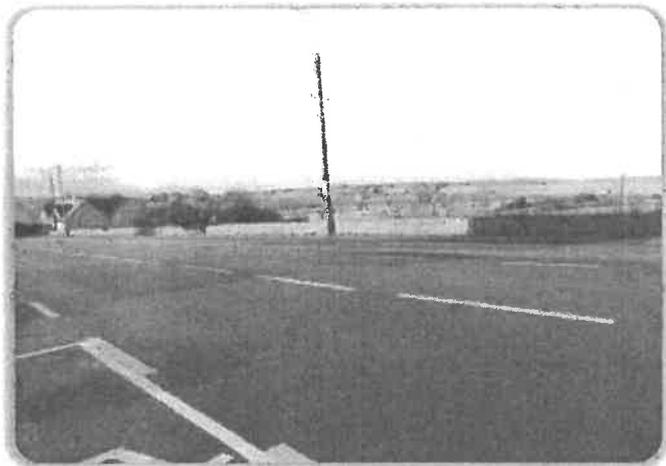
The footpath is a good width in places.



Hedges/trees were trimmed back.

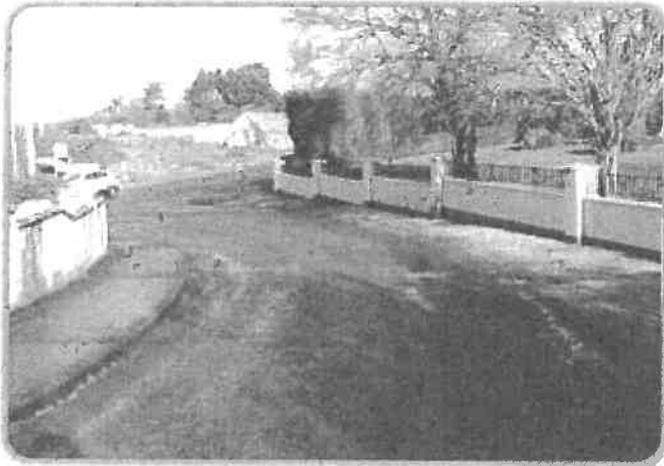


There is a STOP road sign in place at the end of the L6112 onto the N69.



There are parking spaces in the Church car park.

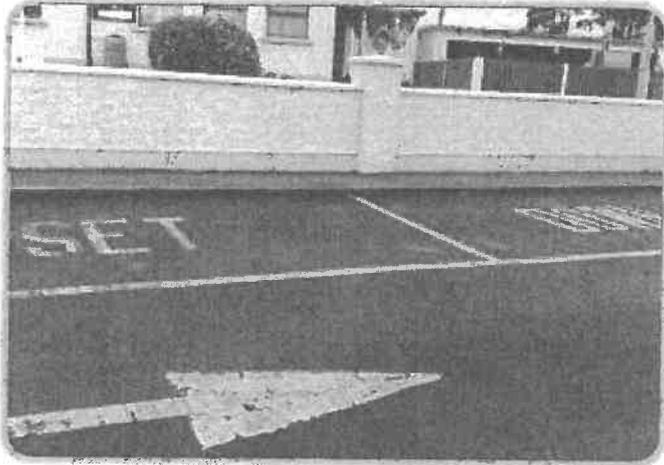
Details of our Findings



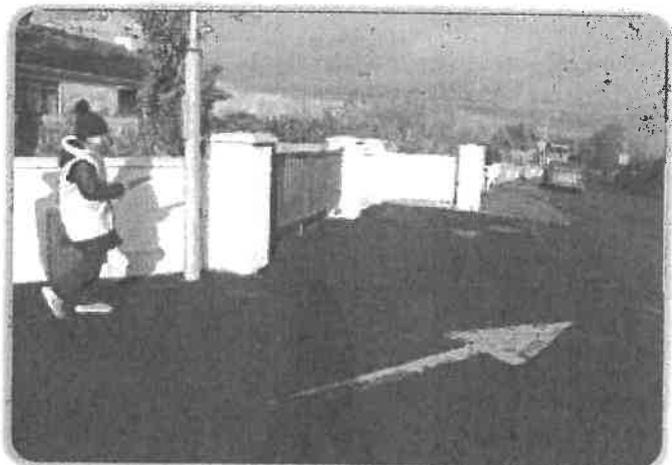
The footpath is only on one side of the road for a lot of this route. Could the council assess this and make the necessary changes to make it as safe as possible for us to walk to school. ?



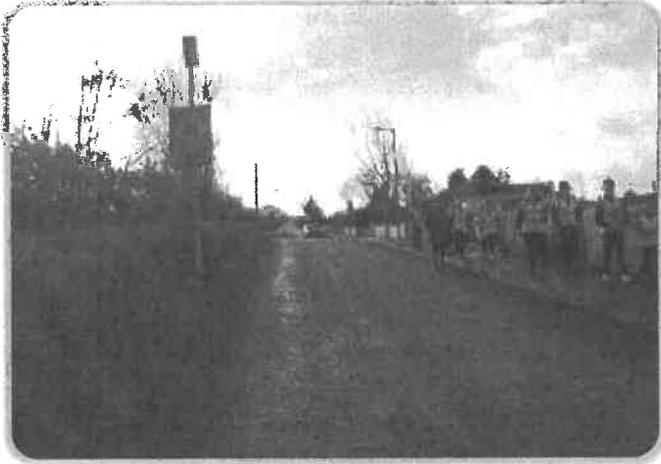
The bus spaces outside the boundary wall needs to be repainted so ask Limerick City and County Council to do this.



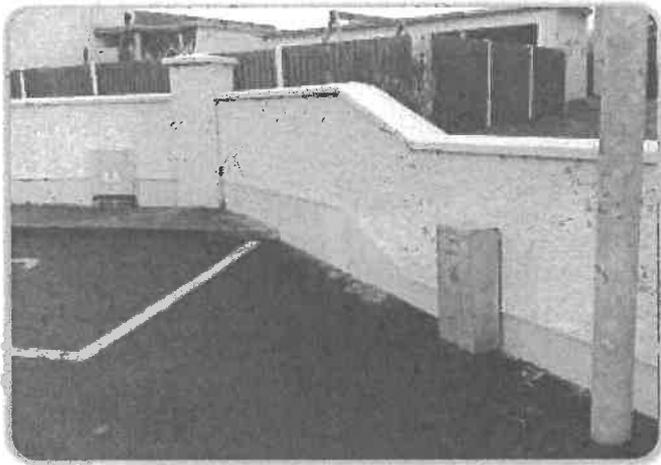
The other road markings in this drop off area also need to be repainted so ask Limerick and City County Council to do this.



Details of our Findings



There are no road markings in either direction to indicate a school ahead so could these be added? Ask Limerick City and County Council.



There were obstacles in place – bins, ESB poles, electric boxes so just watch out for these.

Our Key Findings Were:

A summary of our recommendations is below:

Behavioural:

1. To ensure students, parents and teachers are aware of the rules of the road when walking e.g. use the safe cross code when crossing the road, only walk in pairs if there is adequate space to do so otherwise walk in single file.
2. To inform everyone about the benefits of wearing a High Visibility vest at all times of the day when walking or cycling to school.
3. This road is very busy in the morning and after school so raise awareness on safety. – leaving their car etc.
4. To remind parents/carers to travel in the correct direction when in the drop off areas/spaces.
5. By the 'No Parking' road markings the footpath stops so be careful walking in this area.
6. To inform parents about the one Park and Stride location
7. Obstacles are on the footpaths – bins, flowers, plant pots and ESB poles so just look out for these if walking on the footpath. Also watch out for drain covers on route. Remind students.
8. There are entrances to homes/businesses /fields on route so just look out for cars etc entering or leaving these premises. Remind students.
9. The traffic using the N69 and especially the lorries were not slowing down on the N69.
10. If families decide to use the Church car park as a park and stride location be careful crossing the N69. Remember the Safe Cross Code.
11. To ask parents/carers to walk with their children to school and discuss the route if crossing roads.

Our Key Findings Were:

A summary of our recommendations is below:

Infrastructural:

1. The footpath is only on one side of the road on the L6112 and on the N69.
2. Ask Limerick City and County Council to repaint the bus parking space outside the school wall. Also could they repaint all the road markings in the drop off area outside our school?
3. By the 'No Parking' road markings outside the school the footpath stops so be careful walking in this area. Ask Limerick City and County Council if this footpath could be continued in anyway.
4. Ask Limerick City and County Council to add road markings to indicate a school ahead in both directions.
5. Could Limerick City and County Council check the flashing lights on the road signs to indicate a school ahead on the L6112 in both directions to see if they are working?
6. Ask Limerick City and County Council to repaint the STOP road marking at the L6112 and N69 road junction.
7. The students were just asking about the road sign by the Church naming the village as 'Loghill'. Should it be 'Loughill'? Ask Limerick and City County Council.
8. The footpath leading to the Church is uneven place so could this be reviewed by Limerick City and County Council?
9. The walk to the Church from the school is a nice walk and an ideal park and stride location. You could park in the Church car park it is across the N69. Crossing the N69 is difficult and feels unsafe. Ask Limerick City and County Council to assess this and make the necessary changes to make it as safe as possible for us to walk to school.
10. The 50km/p road sign from the Ballyhahill direction is turned into the road so could Limerick City and County Council turn it the correct way?

Our Key Findings Were:

A summary of our recommendations is below:

By Laws:

1. As a Green-School we support the "Love 30" Campaign which calls on Local Authorities to introduce more 30km/h zones in urban areas but particularly in town centres, residential estates, and in the vicinity of schools and places of public assembly.
2. The cars can travel up to 50km/h past our school on the L6112 which the committee felt was too fast. To make the road even safer and pedestrian friendly, lowering the speed limit to 30km/h would make the biggest impact.
3. Also traffic using the N69 and especially lorries did not slow down travelling through the village. The committee felt that the Driver Feedback signs would make a difference to the speed at which lorries travel through the village of Loughill. The cars did tend to slow down overall.

Thank You

Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

Green-Schools Travel Education Officer

Name: Angela Wall

Email: awall@eeu.antaisce.org

Phone: 0877833986

School Details:

Name: Anne O' Brien

School: Scoil Gearoid Ui Ghriobhtha

Loughill

Co. Limerick

Email: geraldgriffinssloughill@gmail.com

Phone: 069 65450