



Welcome to the First School Travel Plan Coordinator's Newsletter of 2021.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas holiday, despite the challenging circumstances. How children travel to and from school is more important than ever with the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, and your support and participation is greatly appreciated as it is important to inform all new and existing pupils of the options available.

Even though some learning is taking place at home and not in the classroom at the moment, you can still give pupils the important life skills they need, even if you are home schooling. For example, you could link cycling and walking to homework as part of permitted daily exercise. Even parents and carers can join in too and why not set a walking challenge? Living Streets have some great ideas on their website and please remember to continue with all the road safety lessons (see later in the newsletter).

Following the list of forthcoming dates, I will give an introduction to school travel planning, why we have School Travel Plans, Modeshift Stars, and its accreditation process, examples of initiatives, school events from last term, and finally news from our partners.

Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **January**
STP Coordinator Meetings –1:1 phone/Teams meetings all year.
- **February**
From 1st-7th February 2021 - [Children's Mental Health Week](#) – perhaps link to a biking and walking event
- **March**
Beep Beep Day (date to be confirmed)
On 4th March - World Book Day – perhaps link to a biking and walking event
- **April**
On 19th-30th April 2021 - Big Pedal – see <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/uk-wide/schools/sustrans-big-pedal/>
- **May**
Living Streets Walk to School Month 17th -21st May 2021 see <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week>

Why not plan events now or encourage parents and carers still working from home to add daily exercise for both them and their children by walking, scooting or cycling to school when they are back open, and undertaking their permitted daily exercise during lockdown. Please remember to record and add evidence to Modeshift of anything you do.

School Travel Planning

For those of you new to school travel planning, School Travel Plans (STP) are developed, maintained and monitored by the whole school community, to promote and facilitate sustainable travel. They are seen as a great example of partnership working by OfSTED. All schools should promote active, safe and sustainable travel as an alternative to single occupancy car use for the school journey.

School travel planning can help to increase sustainable travel which in turn helps to reduce congestion and pollution, as well as improving the health and fitness of children and young people. These are just a few of the many benefits of an active STP.

An STP is developed and monitored by the school to:

- discover actual and preferred mode of travel for the school journey;
- identify issues to determine why people do not travel sustainably;
- set future targets to achieve or maintain modes of sustainable travel (for example to increase cycling; to maintain walking);
- lay out a plan of action for the tasks that the school will carry out to achieve their targets and aspirations;
- Encourage the whole school community to travel in a safer, healthier and more sustainable way.

Your STP gives children the very important life skills that they need to stay safe and healthy on their journey to and from school, which in turn will help to reduce congestion, improve the environment and increase safety around the school gates.

What is Modeshift STARS?

In Buckinghamshire we use Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools) to help us and you to develop and monitor our STPs. Established in 2007, Modeshift is a national membership organisation that specialises in sustainable and active travel, and provides behaviour change support for those working with children, young people, families, school communities, educational establishments and workplaces.

Modeshift STARS provides a framework for the implementation of sustainable and active school travel activities. It is an online system that helps schools to input the information they need to produce a nationally recognised STP. It is a national schools awards scheme that has been established to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable transport.

Accreditation

You will notice that I talk a lot about accreditation. The STARS national accreditation scheme offers three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The more initiatives schools organise, the higher accreditation they will be able to achieve. The initiatives are split into two categories, Sustainable Travel and Supporting Initiatives.

Sustainable Travel Initiatives focus on topics such as Cycling, Scooting, Walking, Road Safety & Training, Air Quality, Public Transport.

Supporting Initiatives include Promotion, Curriculum and Partnerships.

If you are interested, please fill out the short Modeshift registration form and please return to schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. I am always here to help you.

Usually the Modeshift accreditation process takes place over the summer and schools make their submission in July, but last year, because of Covid 19 the date was extended to December 2020 for the school year 2019-2020.

Bucks Results!

I would like to congratulate all 57 schools who managed to gain Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. We had lots of fantastic work going on in and around our schools in Bucks. Examples are given later in this newsletter. It was lovely reading your STPs and looking through your evidence, pictures and work. You all work really hard to give your children the important life skills they need to keep healthy and safe on their journey to and from school. If you didn't get accredited this time round you have this school year to add more information to your STP. Please keep trying and remember I am here to help, and would love to hear from new schools who would like to try for an award too.

School Travel Plan coordinator meetings (Consultations LA1)

This term we would normally hold in person STP coordinator meetings. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 we will not be able to meet in person but instead I will be sending you regular emails and I will run one to one workshops for you over the year. I hope to cover what you need to complete your STP, trouble shooting on the Modeshift STARS system along with giving you some more information about initiatives. If you need advice relating to Modeshift you will need to be logged on and be on a hands-free phone or Teams. Please email me for a time slot (I know your PPA time is probably the best time for you) Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Do check that your Head Teacher is aware of the Modeshift STARS system.

Please ensure any working groups are up to date and included in the introduction tab. There's no need to include children's names, simply the JRSO/Eco Representative, for example, is fine. Any new users, including their email addresses, need to be added to your school's user list.

As we start the new year, your staff and pupil numbers may have changed. Please update this information which can be found under the 'Introduction' tab. If you haven't already had a look, log-on and have a play: www.modeshiftstars.org Your STP links into OFSTED and your school could be awarded with a nice shiny star from Modeshift STARS.

Examples of Initiatives

The following are examples of initiatives that schools can try. There are many more ideas on our website, see <https://schooltravelplanning.com/initiatives>.

Modeshift Walking Bubble Maps

(Walking & scooting – travel initiative W8 & promotions - supporting PR7, PR9 & PR17 consultations SM1)

Walking Bubble Maps are a new offer from Modeshift. Walking, cycling or scooting to school is the best way to reduce congestion and pollution, while improving the mental and physical wellbeing of pupils. These benefits will be more important than ever as we emerge from the Covid-19 lockdown. That's why Modeshift launched the Walking Bubble Maps, to encourage everyone who can, to 'Get Active' on their journeys to and from school.

Walking Bubbles encourage families that have to travel by car to park at least five minutes away from school, creating a safer space for walking, cycling or scooting to the school. By encouraging park and stride/ride we also reduce the number of cars manoeuvring and parking outside and close to the school gates, which is one of the main concerns parents have when walking to school. Reducing vehicles and creating more space around schools will also make it much easier for families to socially distance and feel safer. It's easy for schools that are registered with STARS to create their Walking Bubble. Simply follow the steps below:

- Login
- Click on the 'Perform Process' button and select 'Generate Walking Bubble'
- Ensure your map is centred on your school (if not follow the on-screen instructions)
- Select 'Save'

Your Walking Bubble map will then be created and you will receive an email with the PDF version of your map. You will also be able to download the map from the Walking Bubble tab. For more detailed instructions, please visit the 'Guidance' tab and download the 'How to generate your #StaySafeGetActive Walking Bubble Map' guide www.modeshiftstars.org/staysafegetactive

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs)

(Promotions- supporting PR7 & PR20 consultations P3 & P4)

The Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) scheme has been running successfully in Bucks since 2003. There are currently nearly 200 JRSOs, from almost 50 Primary Schools. JRSOs are children from your school who promote road safety and sustainable transport to their fellow pupils and have fun whilst they are doing it! Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic usually two children from year 5 and/or 6 are nominated and appointed as JRSOs. This can be through an application and interview process, or simply names drawn out of a hat. They can

be part of a Student Council or be a separate group. This year schools have made different arrangements to fit in with Class or Year Bubbles, perhaps having one JRSO per year.

Now is a good time to register children to be a JRSO at your school and don't forget to add them to your working group on the Modeshift system under the introduction tab also PR20-promotion. Help JRSOs promote road safety and sustainable transport to their fellow pupils and have fun whilst they are doing it! There is a fantastic JTA resource pack on the Modeshift STARS system under the guidance tab at the top of the page. I know some schools are not using JRSOs this year because of the bubbles but you can still get your JRSO to do a display board with your walking bubble map on and safety messages to do with travel.

Child pedestrian training **(Road safety & training - Travel R5 pedestrian skills)**

By walking regularly, children can build exercise in-to their daily routine to help achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, many children in Buckinghamshire benefitted from *Footsteps Pedestrian Training* at school. However, social distancing requirements have made practical training of this nature at school impossible. Road Safety Wales has put together a new online package which covers three core skills:

Choosing the safest place to cross

Helping your child to recognise hazards and identify appropriate crossing places.

Crossing the road

Enabling your child to practise their crossing skills under supervision.

Crossing between parked cars

Teaching your child how to use a safe strategy for crossing near parked cars, when avoiding them is impossible.

Practice should begin on a quiet road and include discussions on the safest places to cross and the risk from traffic.

Try to include a variety of crossings, junctions and pavements with driveways and entrances where children need to look out for moving vehicles.

Learning pedestrian skills is a keystone of childhood road safety and regular practise at different locations will help to reinforce methods that can be used in any roadside scenario for years to come. Watch the short video:

roadsafetygb.org.uk/news/new-resource-to-support-child-pedestrian-training

Modeshift Examples

Now it is the start of the New Year it's really important that we remind everyone of how they can travel safely to and from school. During last term we had two very important events:

Be Bright Be Seen Week 19 –23 October 2020 (Road safety & training – travel R10)

The clocks went back on 25 October 2020, and as the nights grew darker it was a good time to remind children and their parents/carers to be bright and visible on the way to and from school. Lots of schools across Bucks joined in with this and held a day where the children came to school dressed in their normal school uniform but with extra florescent clothing, for example socks, hats, gloves, or hair bands.

Brake Road Safety Week - no need to speed 16-22 November 2020 (Road safety & training – travel R18 & R9)

Brake's **Road Safety Week** (16–22 November 2020) was all about speed awareness, because whether you're walking to school, riding on a country road or driving for work, the speed of traffic matters to your safety. Schools across Bucks joined in with this week. These are some examples of what some schools have done recently:

Thorpe House School Parking

(Partnerships- Supporting P3, P4, Promotions -Supporting PR22, PR19, Air Quality –Travel AQ3, AQ4 Walking & Scooting- Travel W10, W7, Consultations S2, SM1)

The JRSO's and staff at Thorpe House School have been working tirelessly to reduce air pollution around the school and improve parking practices outside the entrances. They introduced many new strategies this year to help with their mission, the Walking Bus, Walking Bubbles and continued Walk to School weeks and Park and Stride events. But by far, the most successful strategy has been the introduction of this banner (see below), not just the banner though, the presence of the boys makes so much difference, too! The parents and residents have been delighted with the improvements and the boys have enjoyed the many waves and thumbs up they have received - it makes it worth standing out in the cold!



St Mary's School

(Road Safety R10, R5, R9, R18, R24 Promotions-Supporting PR1, PR4, PR7, PR8, PR9, PR20, Curriculum-Supporting CU2, CU7 Walking & scooting- Travel W11)

On Friday 13th November 2020, St Mary's School, Aylesbury arranged a 'Be Bright Be Seen for Pudsey' day to coincide with the up and coming Road Safety week. The children looked

amazing in all their brightly coloured and florescent clothes and the school was covered in brightness. Arranging this day encouraged the children to learn about road safety while also learning how to protect themselves in the winter months during the dark nights and cold weather. All this learning, while supporting the yearly BBC Children In Need appeal.

During Road Safety Week (week beginning 16th November 2020) the Junior Road Safety Officers gave an assembly all about Be Bright Be Seen and launched a design competition to the whole school promoting bright and reflective clothing. As they received lots of entries, the Junior Road Safety Officers found it difficult to choose a winner. So they decided to create a display with all the entries that they received on their Notice Board.

Also the children had really busy week learning about keeping themselves safe on the road. They took part in a range of different lessons including: designing posters using Japanese Manga characters, talking about different speed limits and learning the Green Cross Code. The children in the Nursery, once they had learnt and practised the Green Cross Code on the playground, were able to put on their high visibility jackets and leave the school premises to put into practise what they had learnt. They visited the local post box using the Green Cross Code to post their letters to Santa.

St Louis Catholic Primary School (Walking & Scooting- Travel W1&W6, Promotions Supporting PR1&PR19 Partnerships- Supporting P3 Curriculum-Supporting CU1&CU2)

St Louis Catholic Primary School, like many schools across the county, has trouble with parking around the school. They have been doing all they can to encourage parents to park safely and walk to school if they can. They held a walk to school week which included 'Happy Feet Day' for the launch of the Living Streets WOW. In Road Safety Week they also signed up for beep beep day.

Caelan Jones from St. Louis School was one of 12 winning entries for the Recognition Express and Brake competition to support and promote Road Safety Week with the theme of NO NEED TO SPEED. His banner idea was bold and catchy and caught the eye of the judges. As one of the winners, Caelan's banner was made and is now displayed at the school entrance.



Cheddington School (Road Safety & Training - Travel R14 Promotions Supporting PR19 & PR1 Partnerships- Supporting P1 & P3)

Cheddington School reception class designed a road safety vest for the road safety teddy. They also completed a road safety maze in class & road safety poster colouring! Posters were designed and made by Year 6 which they displayed outside the school. They also had a speed trap gun lent to them too and the children recorded the speeds of passing traffic. Luckily no one was caught going over the speed limit!



Stokenchurch Primary School (Road Safety & Training - Travel R18 Promotions Supporting PR4 & PR1 Curriculum-Supporting CU7 Air Quality- Travel AQ5 Partnerships- Supporting P3)

Stokenchurch Primary School participated in Road Safety Week. Year 5 and 6 school councillors arrived earlier than usual, to help keep the children and parents safe on our roads. With supervision from adults, they have been stopping the traffic entering and exiting our kiss and drop area and helping families cross the road safely. Whilst they have been helping the children arrive carefully, the rest of the school worked hard in subject related lessons. The aim of these lessons was to make sure that everyone understood the rules of road safety and no one was left unsure of what to do when crossing a road. 'It has been an honour to say good morning to the parents and children of Stokenchurch and help to keep them safe'. School Council - Chloe, Avani and Abbie

In a crash, 1mph can mean the difference between life and death, but people still regularly break speed limits or travel too fast for the conditions of the road. With someone injured on a UK road every four minutes, and vehicle speed playing a part in every crash, it's time to come together to say that there is **No Need to Speed**. For more information visit:

www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk



Long Crendon School (Walking & Scooting- Travel W16)

Long Crendon School created a Walking Wanders trail. This was created for children and families to explore over half term and to encourage waking, especially in the current situation. Why don't you do something similar in your school to encourage walking to school you can adapt this to your locality?



School Crossing Patrollers

School Crossing Patrollers have an important role within the community helping children and their parents/ carers to cross busy roads on their journeys to and from school.

We are currently looking to recruit School Crossing Patrollers and Relief Patrollers. Do you know any-one who can help?

For more information on current vacancies please log on to <https://jobs.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/> or contact:

Corinne Randall—Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West): Tel: 01296 383432

Georgina Longley—Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East): Tel: 01494 586639

Job share welcome.

Contact

Contact the School Travel Planning Team:

Emma James — Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

School Travel Plan Advisor

Corinne Randall— Corinne.Randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Footsteps Training

School Crossing Patroller Supervisor Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe (West)

Georgina Longley— Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Bikeability Training

School Crossing Patroller Supervisor Chiltern & South Bucks & Wycombe (East)

You may also find information on our website useful www.schooltravelplanning.com

The following pages provide some additional information from some of our partners relating to school travel. This includes Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Transport for Bucks, Living Streets and Aylesbury Garden Town.



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority
MAKING YOU SAFER
PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING
WWW.BUCKSFIRE.GOV.UK

E-SCOOTERS

What you need to know



You may have seen people riding e-scooters (which stands for 'electric scooters') in your local town. These are probably part of a scheme that allows people who are 16 and over to pay money and borrow one to make a journey. They must leave it in a special parking space when they have finished their journey, like the one in the picture below –



You, or one of your friends, may have been lucky enough to get an e-scooter for Christmas. PLEASE REMEMBER that e-scooters that people own themselves are NOT allowed to be ridden in public places like roads, pavements or parks at the moment.

It is very likely that privately-owned e-scooters WILL be allowed in public places in the future, but probably not for at least a year, or even longer. When they are, there will be rules about how old you have to be to ride one, and whether you need to have a licence or not.



Buckinghamshire
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
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LIVING STREETS

WALKING TO SCHOOL: WALKING FROM HOME

As the UK charity for everyday walking, Living Streets has promoted the importance of walking to school for over twenty years.

Despite the difficulties and disruptions, in 2020 we had 750,000 children and families walking to school through Living Streets' initiatives such as the year-round [WOW](#), the annual [Walk to School Week](#), and the engaging [Little Feet](#) for early years.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Supporting families to stay active

With COVID 19 restrictions and disruptions likely to continue this term we have free resources which you are welcome to share to help families keep active. Our **#WalkingFromHome** activity booklet features 14 sets of activities for families with primary school-aged children. These can be used by families during school closures, half term and weekends. Our colourful and educational walking activities support children in learning about important themes while staying active.

[Download the activity booklet](#)



WOW: the year-round walk to school challenge



Visit our [WOW Webpage](#) to view a short video and see more information about Living Streets' successful walk to school initiative and why it works.

WOW is currently available at no cost to schools in Buckinghamshire. Each year we have a limited number of places available for new schools. To register your interest click the link below and we'll be in touch.

For more information, visit the [Living Streets website](#).

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB)

Think!

(Curriculum – supporting CU7)

Think has recently launched their updated road safety education resource, Tales of the Road. To download the new Tales of the Road resources, please visit the [Think.gov.uk website](#).

With many people having enjoyed more walking and cycling during lockdown, and families being asked to consider whether they can walk or cycle as pupils return to school, now is a great time to bring road safety to life for children

The resource contains new and updated tips and is now interactive to help young road users navigate the workbook quickly and easily. It can be accessed and completed online, or can be downloaded, allowing progress to be saved and continued another day – perfect for children to come back to, whether they are learning remotely or in the classroom

Features of the updated Tales of the Road resource include:

- Interactive question and answer sections, with name personalisation
- New, updated images
- Green Cross Code reminders
- REMEMBER! Key safety tips

- Glossary with additional words and definitions
-

To download the Tales of the Road resources, visit the [Think.gov.uk website](https://www.think.gov.uk).

You may want to look at the other free education resources available such as:

- [Hazard Spotting](#) - interactive game (Curriculum – supporting CU7)
- [Be Bright Be Seen](#) - interactive game (Road safety & training – travel R10)
- [Take the Lead](#) - interactive game (Curriculum – supporting CU7)

There are several lesson plans, short films for children to watch and even a [Safer Journeys Anthem!](#) (Curriculum – supporting CU7 promotions- supporting PR9)

Online Winter Driving module. (Supporting drivers to be prepared with essential winter driving tips.)

Driving in the winter can be very different to the rest of the year with adverse weather and longer periods of darkness making driving more hazardous

To help drivers prepare for winter weather, TfB is promoting their online winter driving e learning module which was launched in 2018 and since then over 1700 people have completed it. In 2019 the success of the winter driving module was recognised when it won a Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) 'Road Safety Award'. The online module contains useful advice for drivers, takes about ten minutes to complete and is totally free to use. The module contains key messages, including:

- considering the road conditions, gritting doesn't guarantee an ice-free road,
- stopping relies on grip between the tyres and the road
- slowing down and increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front
- avoiding harsh braking, acceleration and steering
- making sure your vehicle is fit for the road
- ensuring you can see and be seen
- being aware of your vehicle's safety features, but don't rely on them
- carrying an emergency kit, just in case.

Whilst we've been lucky with the winter weather so far this year, we could still see freezing conditions and snow occurring, so we hope everyone will take the time to do this workshop - as a refresher for experienced drivers and essential information for new or novice drivers. The module can be accessed by visiting [Buckinghamshire E driving solutions](#).

Take Extra Care Festive Campaign

TfB launched the 'Take Extra Care' campaign in Spring 2020 calling on drivers, riders and pedestrians and cyclists to take extra care and stay alert as the roads got busier after the first lockdown.

The campaign was also updated with a series of simple festive messages, all of which were highlighted in a series of graphics, and posted on the TfB social media channels over the Christmas period.

The main messages of the festive campaign were:

- Pedestrians and cyclists – wear something bright in order to be seen
- Drivers – look out for pedestrians and cyclists on darker morning and evenings
- Drivers – take extra care to avoid ‘morning after’ drink driving

For more information follow Travel Safe Bucks on Facebook, and [@TravelSafeBucks](#) on Twitter.

Aylesbury Garden Town



Have your say on the Aylesbury Gardenway!

[Register to receive project updates and engagement event invitations](#)

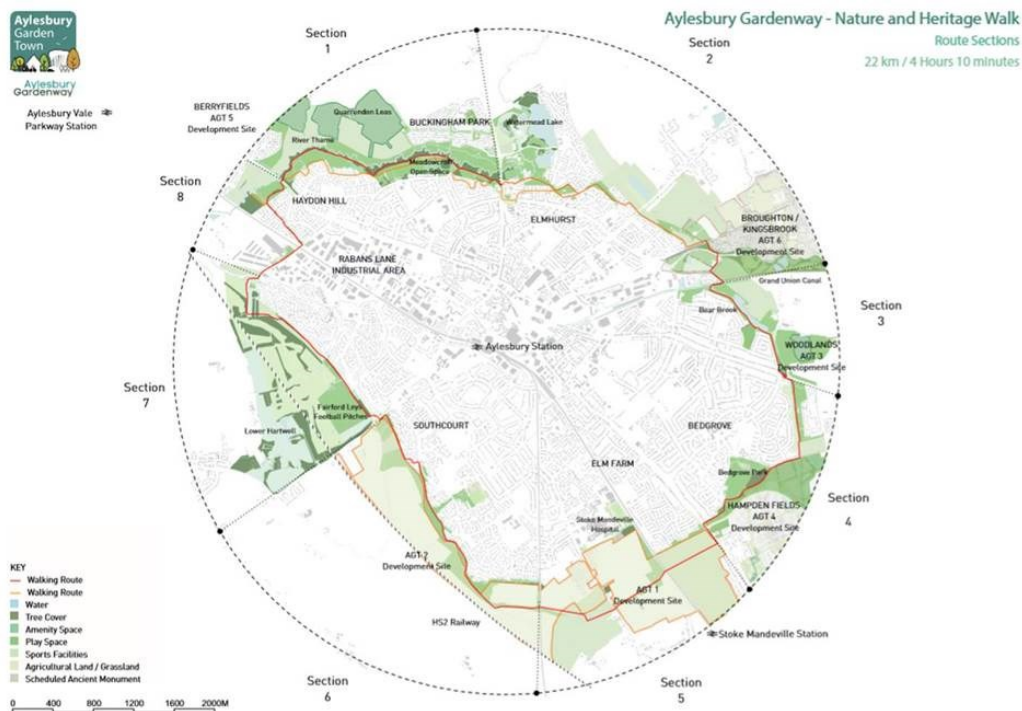
Aylesbury Garden Town is asking local people to get involved to help shape and co-design the route of the Aylesbury Gardenway; an 18km orbital park that will encircle Aylesbury connecting new and existing housing sites.

It will include local parks, woodlands, natural areas, waterway and heritage sites and provide space for walking, cycling and wheeling. It will encourage play, active lifestyles, food growing, and a place to sit and reflect as well as being a haven for wildlife.

Self guided nature and heritage walks along the Aylesbury Gardenway

Take a self-guided nature and heritage walk in your local area through the existing parts of the Aylesbury Gardenway as part of your once a day exercise. The routes are flat and take in waterways, fields and views. [Download the guided walk maps](#). On your journey we would ask that you think of ideas and opportunities that would make the Gardenway a great place for everyone, then share those suggestions with us via social media or the interactive ‘put a pin in it’ map on the [Aylesbury Garden Way website](#).

Please always refer to the current UK government guidance on Coronavirus (COVID 19). Currently, you may take your exercise within your local area alone, with one other person or with your household or support bubble. Please remember to be mindful of others by maintaining social distancing at all times.



1: Proposed walking route for the Aylesbury Greenway. The route covers the boundary of Greater Aylesbury.

‘Put a Pin in it!’

Visit the [Aylesbury Garden Way website](#) and take a few moments to share your experience, thoughts and ideas as to how you want to see the Gardenway take shape and develop. If you’ve taken some photos, or a video, we’d love to see them. You can leave your feedback via our website by using our interactive map ‘Put a pin in it’.

Coming up in the New Year... Online exhibition and ‘Come design with us!’

Three themed community conversations on the Aylesbury Gardenway will be held next week and we would very much like you to share your knowledge and thoughts by joining the below events. All discussions are online via the website or on Zoom.

Monday 18 January 2021 – Online Exhibition

Online exhibition of the engagement findings, and presentation of the key opportunity areas to be further explored with communities through co-design workshops. The exhibition will invite feedback via online sticky notes, and a short pre-recorded presentation by members of the Design Team will be provided

Co design workshops: Starting Monday 25, 26, 27 and 28 January 2021

The first round of co-design workshops will split the Gardenway into sections and begin to explore more detailed design options for key spaces within each section of the Gardenway. For more information please visit our website www.aylesburygardenway.co

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to get in touch with project manager Ulrika.Diallo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk