

Walkability Audit



Thursday, 26th January 2016



**Grange Community College, Grange
Abbey Road, Donaghmede, Dublin 13**

Roll Number: 70020B

Grange CC Walkability Audit

Grange Community College is a co-educational second level and further education school in Dublin 13. There are currently 25 members of staff and 170 students in the post-primary school from first to sixth year. Parking for staff is provided on site and there are 25 number of cycle parking spaces provided for staff and students. The schools travel survey results show that almost 75% of students walk to school, 5.6% cycle and almost 13% travel to school by car.



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**”.

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



Objectives:

1. To walk a looped route which is frequented by students for the school journey and lunch breaks and to evaluate the safety for pedestrians and make recommendations for improvement.

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

- Maps of the routes.
- Recording sheets.
- Recording devices (pedometers, timer, trundle wheel, etc.)
- Hi-visibility vests.
- Camera.
- Pencils/Clipboards.
- Analysis sheets.

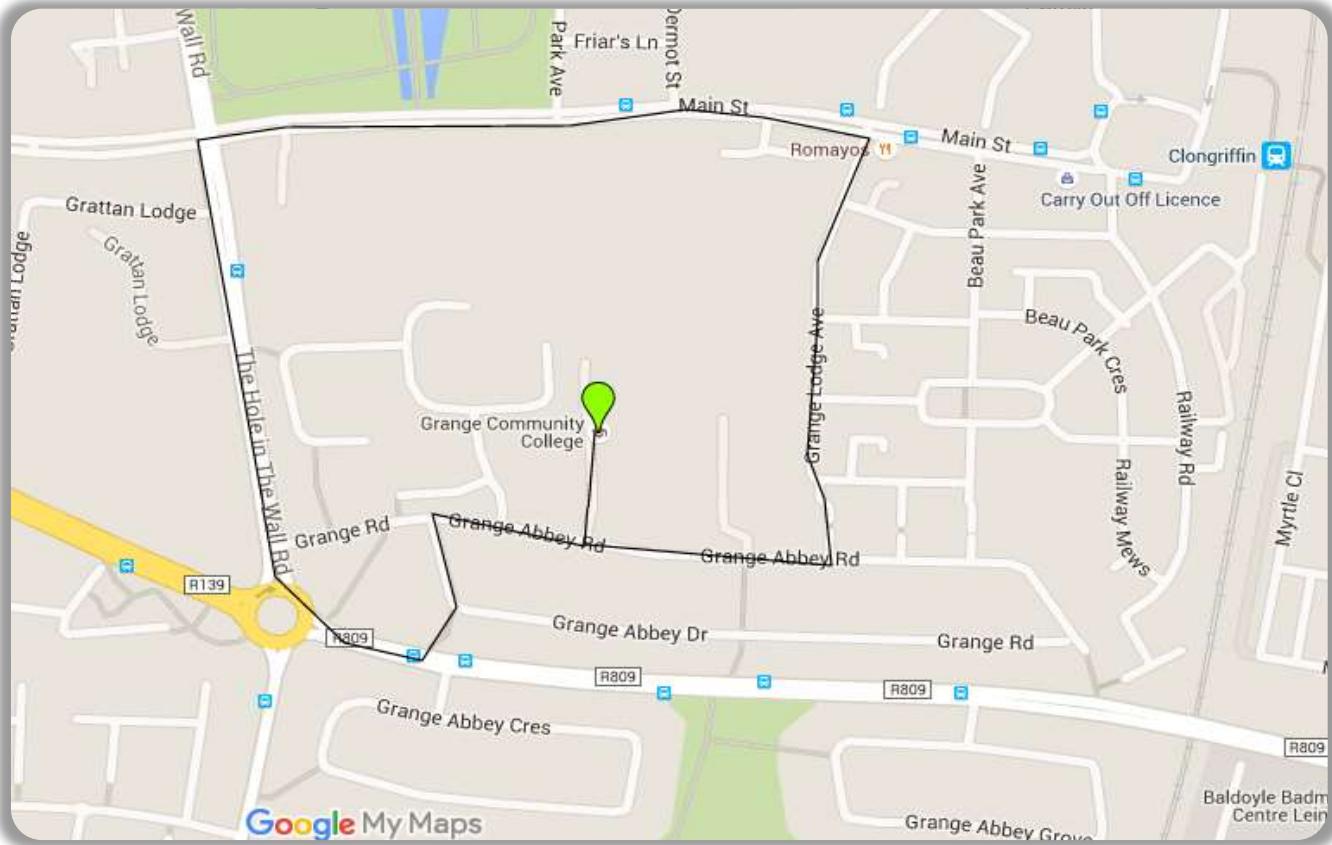


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Description of the route audited:

The committee audited a looped route which is regularly used on the school journey:

- 1.) The route was from the school along Grange Abbey Road and turning off into the housing estate at Grange Lodge Avenue. This brought the group onto Clongriffin, Main Street and we walked to the junction of The Hole in the Wall Road. We continued up the Hole in the Wall Road cutting down to Grange Abbey Drive and back to the school.



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We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

1. There are footpaths outside the school in both directions and these are wide and well maintained.
2. There were bollards at the school gate to prevent drivers from parking and obstructing the gateway.
3. There were school ahead signs in both directions on the approach to the school.
4. When walking the loop, we were able to use the quieter footpaths of the housing estates of Grange Lodge Avenue and Grange Abbey Drive which had little traffic and were well maintained.
5. There was a wide footpath in Clongriffin village and there were some very well laid out crossings including a pedestrian crossing with lights at the junction of Hole in the Wall Road and Clongriffin Main Street.
6. There were speed bumps and traffic calming measures on Clongriffin main street, which made it more comfortable for pedestrians.

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

Grange CC Walkability Audit

We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

7. There is a separate gate for pedestrians for our school. This however remains closed and pedestrians either use the entrance at the adjoining Colaiste Reachrann or the motorist entrance to the school.
8. The cycle tracks in Clongriffin village were not continuous and started abruptly; going from off road to on road. On the main street, one cycle track starts on road and immediately leads onto the footpath but is positioned right before the bus stop.
9. On the approach to the roundabout at the junction of The Hole in the Wall Road and Clongriffin Main Street, there is a strip of on road 'cycle lane' that continues across an entrance and onto the footpath. It is very unclear if this is for the use of pedestrians or cyclists and who has the right of way at the junction.
10. At the pedestrian crossing at the junction of The Hole in the Wall Road and Clongriffin Main Street there is an advance stop box for cyclists at the lights but the cycle lane is off-road on the footpath. This is confusing !
11. The Hole in the Wall Road is narrow but is a shared space for cyclists and pedestrians. The pedestrian pathway is very narrow in places.

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

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A summary of our recommendations is below:

1. The school should consider opening the pedestrian gate to avoid students on foot using the same gate as motorists.
2. Review the layout of the cycle lanes and cycle infrastructure around Clongriffin village to make it more continuous and less confusing for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
3. Review the layout of the shared space on The Hole in the Wall Road, with a view to more space for pedestrians.

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The pedestrian gate to the school is kept closed so students have to enter the school through the vehicle entrance.



On a wet day the grass verge can be very muddy on the approach to the school. Signage leading to the school was good.



The cycle lane in Clongriffin village starts abruptly, just before the bus lane and leads onto the footpath. There is no indication for cyclists where to cycle on the footpath.



The off road cycle lane in Clongriffin village. The grass verge and cycle lane of almost equal width.

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This 'courtesy' cycle lane crosses an entrance/exit leading out of the village towards Hole in the Wall Road. It is very unclear who should use this – cyclists/pedestrians and who has right of way – cyclists/pedestrians or drivers! There is a need for clarification for road users through the use of yield or give way signs or road markings!



There is an off-road cycle lane at the junction of Hole in the Wall Road. However there is also an on road cyclist advance box at the junction. This is confusing. However, there is a very well laid out pedestrian crossing at the junction.



The shared cycle lane/footpath on the Hole in the Wall road – the path feels very narrow in places as a shared space.



We were able to walk through estates to return to the school, which were quiet and had less traffic.

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The Hole in the Wall road is a shared space for cyclists and pedestrians but seems too narrow in places.



The well laid out pedestrian lights leading to Father Collins park entrance in Clongriffin

Thanks to our Green School members Katie, Luke, Gavin, Keith, Paul, Aaron, Dion and Luke who feature in some of our photographs.

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Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

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