

# TRAVEL



# SUSTAINABLE CLUB PROGRAMME



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

The Sustainable Club Programme is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).



# HOW TO USE:

## The Travel & Transport Toolkit



This Travel & Transport Toolkit is designed to encourage sustainable and active travel in your club and community. It contains a range of simple audit and assessment forms from which your clubs can choose, depending on the travel and transport actions that make sense for you.

The Travel Toolkit includes a selection of action ideas – including actions on carpooling, cycling, walking, buses and car park management. The Travel Toolkit also includes guidance on managing your club and grounds for accessibility for all.

**The Green Club Travel & Transport Toolkit contains the following guidance sheets and resources:**

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT TOOLKIT	
ASSESS	Start by: Assessing Travel & Transport Action Options for Your Club.
	Club Travel Survey.
	Club Walkability Audit.
	Club Cyclability Audit.
IDENTIFY	Actions to Promote Cycling in your Club.
	Cycle Bus Info Sheet.
	Actions to Promote Walking in your Club.
	Actions to Promote Carpooling.
	Managing your Club Grounds for Sustainable Travel.
	Minibus & Coach Use and Travel by Public Transport.
	Assessing your Grounds for Accessibility.
ACT	A Travel & Transport Action Plan.

### TOP TIPS

#### Choose what works for your club

For a club located in or close to a town, cycling or walking actions might be of most use to the members while for a club in a rural or remote area focusing on carpooling might make the most sense. This Toolkit is designed as a range of options from which your club can choose those that suit your club context the best.

#### Enquire about Active Travel Programmes

Some council areas, towns or localities may have existing active travel programmes. If you have drawn up a sustainable travel action plan for your club and need more support or guidance, consider asking your local authority if there is an active travel programme or teams in your area.



# START BY: Assessing Sustainable Travel & Transport Options for your Club



The Green Club Travel & Transport Toolkit contains a wide range of ideas for promoting and supporting active and sustainable travel in Gaelic Games clubs. Not all of these ideas will make sense for your club – some ideas will work better in cities and towns, some will make sense for

clubs on the outskirts of large population centres and some will work well in rural clubs.

Consider what will work best for your club members and choose the resources from the toolkit that will support you in your chosen area.

## Here are some suggestions that might be of use:

### Clubs in urban centres

The audit templates and action ideas for walking and cycling and the suggestions on public transport will be useful for your club and you can get extra tips from the pages on 'Managing your Club Grounds for Sustainable Travel'.

### Clubs within 5km of a town or population centre

Consider focusing your plans on walking, cycling and carpooling, using the guidance sheets in the toolkit. Look at the advice on 'Managing your Club Grounds for Sustainable Travel' for extra tips.



### Clubs within 10km of a town or population centre

The toolkit sheets on carpooling and managing your club grounds for sustainable travel will be useful in identifying sustainable travel options for your club. Consider the suggested actions for promoting cycling to the club to assess if any of these would be of value to your club members.

### Clubs further than 10km from a town or population centre

Your club could make a big difference to the environment by promoting carpooling for teams and members of all ages. Consult the carpooling advice sheets for ideas to implement in your club. The information sheet on minibus travel also has tips and suggestions that could benefit your club members and the environment.

#### TOP TIPS

If you aren't sure what would work best in your club, consider making use of the Green Club Travel Survey template included in the toolkit. All clubs should consider consulting the 'Assessing your Grounds for Accessibility' sheet in the toolkit for ideas on how to improve accessibility to your club for club and community members with disabilities, reduced mobility or other accessibility needs.



# ASSESS: Travel Survey



1

A ready-to-go Green Club Travel Survey is available to your club to issue to club members as a first step in your club's sustainable travel planning.

5

If your Green Team wants to amend the survey title, content and/or format, this can be done before copying and sharing the link with club members.

2

The survey is designed to gather information on how members travel to the club ground and matches and to help your Green Team identify priority areas of action for your club.

6

The survey can be shared and promoted through club apps and social media channels and through team and committee social media and messaging groups. Consider setting and communicating a clear and reasonable deadline for the survey to close.

3

The survey is made up of ten questions and should take less than five minutes for respondents to complete. The survey can be accessed from computers or mobile devices, including mobile phones.

7

Use the results of the survey to choose the sustainable travel action area (e.g., walking, cycling, carpooling, carpark planning, bus & coach travel) that your club will focus on.

4

To manage the survey and gather responses, you or another Green Team member will need a Microsoft-based email account to log in, following these simple steps:

8

Consider re-issuing the survey when your club's sustainable travel actions are up and running – e.g., a year after you complete your action plan – to assess the impact your action plan has had on travel to and from the club.

- Click here to access the survey\*: [Green Club Travel Survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ShareFormPage.aspx?id=fxmSEHuTm0OkA5MpVYfhhuw3yUypD95Kj_yDH3utrsVUNVJBTFSS1JY-WkxVWDdJQ1RNNU83WEQwWC4u&sharetoken=uLjzhB9OIQputng3xNYN)
- Click on 'Duplicate it' at the top of the screen.
- Log in with your Microsoft-based email account.
- Click on 'Collect responses' (top right on a computer/laptop or via the arrow at the bottom of the screen on your phone or mobile device).
- Ensure that 'Anyone can respond' is selected and copy the link. (Tip: Click on 'Shorten URL' before copying).
- Use the copied link to share the survey with club members.

\*Full survey link: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ShareFormPage.aspx?id=fxmSEHuTm0OkA5MpVYfhhuw3yUypD95Kj\\_yDH3utrsVUNVJBTFSS1JY-WkxVWDdJQ1RNNU83WEQwWC4u&sharetoken=uLjzhB9OIQputng3xNYN](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ShareFormPage.aspx?id=fxmSEHuTm0OkA5MpVYfhhuw3yUypD95Kj_yDH3utrsVUNVJBTFSS1JY-WkxVWDdJQ1RNNU83WEQwWC4u&sharetoken=uLjzhB9OIQputng3xNYN)

# ASSESS: Walkability Audit



- The Green Club Walkability Audit is designed to help your Green Team identify physical issues inside and outside club grounds that might be preventing club members from cycling to the club.
- The Green Club Walkability Audit will work best for club grounds located within 5km of local population centres.
- The Walkability Audit includes a 'Route Audit' template that your Green Team can use to assess the safety of walking routes to your club and can be shared with your local authority and other relevant local stakeholders.

**Club Name:**

**Date:**

OUTSIDE CLUB GROUNDS		
ISSUE	RESPONSE	NOTES
Are the main walking routes to the club well-lit?		
Are there paths along the main walking routes to the club?		
Are there pedestrian crossings on the main walking routes to the club?		
Are the main walking routes to the club well-maintained or are there issues – e.g. potholes, too narrow, overgrown vegetation, stretches with no path, bad surface conditions, obstacles?		
Are there stretches of the main walking routes to the club that feel unsafe to walk? (E.g. due to derelict buildings, anti-social behaviour or any other physical or behavioural characteristics of concern along the route).		
Are there particular accessibility or path maintenance issues for, e.g., pedestrians with prams or buggies or club members in wheelchairs or with mobility aids?		
<p><b>Use the Route Audit template provided at the end of this document to identify safety and accessibility issues along the main walking routes to your club. Share your findings with your local Active Travel Team or local authority point of contact and other relevant local stakeholders.</b></p>		

# ASSESS: Walkability Audit



ENTERING CLUB GROUNDS		
ISSUE	RESPONSE	NOTES
Is there a separate entrance to the club grounds for cyclists and pedestrians?		
If not, are there clear markings or divisions through the main entrance to keep walkers separate from cars entering and leaving?		
If there is a dedicated entrance for pedestrians, is it always open during the same hours as the vehicle entrance gate?		
Is the entrance to the club well-lit to ensure cyclists are visible to other club users?		
If there is vegetation at the club entrance, is this managed to ensure visibility of pedestrians?		
Is the entrance to your club grounds wheelchair-user friendly?		
INSIDE CLUB GROUNDS		
Are walking times and distances to the club from main population centres and local amenities communicated to club members? If so, how and where?		
Is there a safe walking route from the club entrance to the pitches and clubhouse, where pedestrians are separated from vehicular traffic?		
Are there designated parking spaces for club users with a disability permit?		
If your club has a walking track, is there a safe walking route from the club entrance to the start of the walking track?		

ANY FURTHER OBSERVATIONS:

AUDIT COMPLETED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

# ASSESS:

## Walking Route Audit



- Gather members of your Green Team to walk the main walking route(s) to your club grounds.
- Ensure all participants are highly visible throughout, wearing hi-vis vests and with lighting as appropriate.
- Use the template below to record any safety issues or obstacles along the route(s).
- Share your findings with your local Active Travel team or local authority point of contact.

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Walking Route from:** \_\_\_\_\_

ISSUE NO.	DESCRIPTION (ISSUE & LOCATION)	PHOTO	RECOMMENDATION FOR REMEDIATION
1			
2			
3			
4			



# ASSESS:

## Cyclability Audit



- The Green Club Cyclability Audit is designed to help your Green Team identify physical issues inside and outside club grounds that might be preventing club members from cycling to the club.
- The Green Club Cyclability Audit will work best for club grounds located within 10km of local population centres.
- The Cyclability Audit includes a 'Route Audit' template that your Green Team can use to assess the safety of cycling routes to your club and can be shared with your local Active Travel Team, local authority point of contact and other relevant local stakeholders.

**Club Name:**

**Date:**

OUTSIDE CLUB GROUNDS		
ISSUE	RESPONSE	NOTES
Are the main cycling routes to the club well-lit?		
Do cycling routes to the club grounds feature any segregated or protected cycle lanes?		
If so, are there any problems with these cycle lanes? (For example, are they not continuous, do they have poor surface conditions, potholes, unsafe obstacles, are they frequently blocked by parked vehicles?)		
Are there any safety concerns on the main cycling routes to the club, such as dangerous junctions, poor surface conditions, pothole over-grown vegetation, areas of low visibility?		
Use the Route Audit template provided at the end of this document to identify safety and accessibility issues along the main walking routes to your club. Share your findings with your local Active Travel Team or local authority point of contact.		



# ASSESS: Cyclability Audit



ENTERING CLUB GROUNDS		
ISSUE	RESPONSE	NOTES
Is there a separate entrance to the club grounds for cyclists and pedestrians?		
If not, are there clear markings or divisions through the main entrance to keep walkers separate from cars entering and leaving?		
If there is a dedicated entrance for pedestrians, is it always open during the same hours as the vehicle entrance gate?		
Is the entrance to the club well-lit to ensure cyclists are visible to other club users?		
If there is vegetation at the club entrance, is this managed to ensure visibility of pedestrians?		
INSIDE CLUB GROUNDS		
Is there sufficient, secure, visible and well-signposted bike parking on club grounds?		
Is bike parking easily seen and/or well-signposted?		
Are cycling times and distances to the club from main population centres and local amenities communicated to club members? If so, how and where?		

ANY FURTHER OBSERVATIONS:

**AUDIT COMPLETED BY:**

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# ASSESS:

## Cycle Route Audit



- Nominate one or more of your Green Team to cycle the main route/s to your club grounds.
- Use the template below to record any safety issues or obstacles along the route/s.
- Ensure all participants are highly visible throughout, wearing hi-vis vests and with lighting as appropriate.
- Exercise caution and vigilance when stopping to record findings. Ensure all participants are experienced cyclists and remain alert throughout all vehicular, cycle and pedestrian traffic.
- Share your findings with your Active Travel Team or local authority point of contact.

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cycling Route from:** \_\_\_\_\_

ISSUE NO.	DESCRIPTION (ISSUE & LOCATION)	PHOTO	RECOMMENDATION FOR REMEDIATION
1			
2			
3			
4			

# IDENTIFY:

## Actions to Promote Cycling in your Club



Here are some ideas for promoting cycling to and from your club grounds. Consider including several of these, or other actions identified by your Green Team, in your Green Club Travel Action Plan.

### Facilities

#### INSTALL BIKE RACKS IN YOUR CLUB GROUNDS.



##### TOP TIPS

- Ensure that bike parking facilities are in a visible, accessible location.
- Contact your local authority about funding opportunities. Bike rack costs could also be included in larger club facilities, infrastructure or sports capital grant applications.

#### CARRY OUT A CYCLABILITY AUDIT.



##### TOP TIPS

- Use the Green Club Cyclability Audit sheet and Route Audit template.
- Contact your local authority point of contact with any relevant findings.

#### PROVIDE REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT, LIKE PUMPS AND REPAIR KITS ON CLUB GROUNDS



##### TOP TIPS

- Let club cyclists know that the equipment is available and where to find it. Check regularly to ensure that the equipment is in place and in working order.
- Contact your local bike repair shop for advice and if funding is needed consider approaching a local business for sponsorship or support.

#### CONSIDER A SEPARATE ENTRANCE TO THE CLUB FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS.



##### TOP TIPS

- If your club already has a pedestrian/cyclist entrance, ensure that the gate to this is always unlocked while the club is open.
- If there is no separate entrance for cyclists at your club, consider signage, bollards or ground markings to make it safer for cyclists using the main vehicular entrance.
- If the club is undertaking any larger infrastructure or building projects, consider including the addition of a separate active travel entrance in your planning.

#### PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS CYCLING TO TRAINING AND MATCHES WITH THEIR CHILDREN.



##### TOP TIPS

- Ensure that toilet facilities are available to parents and guardians.
- Consider making tea and coffee-making facilities available, especially in colder weather.
- If there is a coffee dock in your club, consider partnering with them on a discount or rewards scheme for parents and guardians who cycle to club activities with their children.

**Many county and city councils have Active Travel Teams who are working to promote sustainable transport modes like cycling and to expand and improve the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in their local areas.**

# IDENTIFY:

## Actions to Promote Cycling in your Club



### Training

#### ORGANISE SAFE CYCLING TRAINING FOR YOUNGER CLUB MEMBERS.



##### TOP TIPS

- Contact your local authority point of contact about any training programmes available.
- Further information on cycle training is available Cyclerright (<https://www.cyclerright.ie/>) to the wider community.

#### ORGANISE A BIKE REPAIR WORKSHOP.



##### TOP TIPS

- Contact your local bike repair shop, council Active Travel Team or relevant council officer about partnering on bike repair training.
- Consider opening up any club-based training from Cyclerright (<https://www.cyclerright.ie/>) to the wider community.

### Awareness

Estimate the cycling times from the main population centres to your club grounds and communicate these through team and club social media groups and on-site posters or signage.

- Use the Green Club Travel posters and social media assets to promote cycling in your club. Encourage club mentors and captains to share these on social media and in team messaging groups.
- Get your club involved with Bike Week events.

<https://www.transportforireland.ie/getting-around/by-bicycle/bikeweek/>

### Cycle Bus

Encourage parents and guardians to organise a 'Cycle Bus' to training and matches. A cycle bus is a coordinated group of young cyclists, accompanied by responsible adults, traveling to the club grounds. See the Green Club Cycle Bus information sheet for more details.

### E-bike charging

- If your club has e-car charging on-site, check whether the charge station is adaptable to e-bikes.
- Check if there is secure parking or storage for club members and visitors using e-bikes or e-scooters to get to the club.



See <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/resources-events> for more cycling posters and templates and <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/road-users/cyclists> for tips and videos on safe cycling.

# IDENTIFY:

## Setting up a Club Cycle Bus



### What is a Cycle Bus?

A cycle bus is a coordinated group of young cyclists, accompanied by responsible adults, traveling to the club grounds. Being part of a cycle bus is a great way for younger club members to travel to training, matches and club activities by bike safely and in confidence.

A cycle bus is led by a number of parents/guardian cyclists. The cycle bus takes a specific route to the club grounds and has pre-agreed stops along the way where young club members can join. There should always be at least two adult volunteers (one at the front and one at the back) for the cycle bus with additional volunteers in the middle for groups larger than six children. Enlist the support and advice of the club Children's Officer to ensure child safeguarding measures are fully adhered to at all times.

### How can we start a Cycle Bus in our club?

1. Contact the parent/guardian group(s) of the relevant teams.
2. If there is a local cycling club, invite them to get involved or to lead the initiative.
3. Hold a meeting to decide the cycle bus route.
4. Nominate the cycle bus lead coordinator/s and encourage them to set out a cycle bus volunteer rota.
5. Encourage the parent/guardian volunteers or local cycle club to carry out a cyclability audit of the chosen route, using the Green Club Cyclability and Route Audit template, and to submit any relevant findings to your local authority point of contact.
6. Consider organising safe cycle training in your club for cycle bus participants (Contact the relevant officer in your local authority or see <https://www.cycleright.ie/courses>).
7. Encourage participating parents/guardians to communicate and coordinate through a messaging app/group.
8. Encourage the lead coordinator(s) to ensure that the route, stops, timings and club cycle bus guidelines are clearly communicated to all participants.



### Participants in club Cycle Buses should:

- Wear high visibility clothing.
- Have lights on their bikes.
- Have a bike that is in good working order, with both front and back brakes working properly.
- Cycle sensibly as to not cause danger to themselves or others.
- Have taken measures to carry all gear and equipment safely while cycling.
- Hi-visibility vests, armbands and bags are available from <https://www.rsaorders.ie/>

### Participants in club Cycle Buses should:

The Green Schools Programme, run by An Taisce, promotes cycle buses for school students and has information and guidance available at:

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/travel/cyclebusnetwork/>

If you need further support or guidance in setting up a cycle bus for your club, contact your local authority point of contact.

If a school, cycle club or parents' group in your area is already running a cycle bus, get in touch for recommendations and advice. If no local school or parents' group currently runs a cycle bus, consider following up to share your club's experience once your own cycle bus is up and cycling.

# IDENTIFY:

## Actions to Promote Carpooling in your Club



Here are some ideas for promoting carpooling to club grounds, matches and club events. Consider including several of these, or other actions identified by your Green Team, in your Green Club Travel Action Plan.

### CARRY OUT A WALKABILITY AUDIT.



#### TOP TIPS

- Use the Green Club Walkability Audit sheet and Route Audit template.
- Contact your local council with any relevant findings.

### CONSIDER A SEPARATE ENTRANCE TO THE CLUB FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS.



#### TOP TIPS

- If your club already has a pedestrian entrance, ensure that the gate to this is always unlocked while the club is open.
- If there is no separate entrance for pedestrians at your club, consider signage, bollards or ground markings to make it safer for pedestrians using the main vehicular entrance.
- If the club is undertaking any larger infrastructure or building projects, consider including the addition of a separate active travel entrance in your planning.

### ENCOURAGE CLUB MEMBERS TO WALK TO THE GROUNDS FOR MATCHES AND TRAINING.



#### TOP TIPS

- Estimate the walking times from the main population centres to your club grounds and communicate these through team and club social media groups and on-site posters or signage. Consider making all signage bilingual.
- Promote meeting points where team members, committee members or supporters can meet up and walk to the club together.
- Include active travel messages in club promotion of matches on club apps and social media channels.

### PROMOTE WALKING FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.



#### TOP TIPS

- If your club doesn't have a club walkway, consider setting up a club and community walking group.
- For advice and guidance visit <https://getireland-walking.ie/> or <http://www.walkinginyourcommunity.com/>
- Themed 'walk and talk' events can be of great health and social benefit to club and community members.
- Consider running a steps challenge to promote walking for health & well-being. Information on and ideas from past and upcoming steps challenges are available from <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/walking/step-challenge/> and <https://greenschoolsireland.org/event/walk-to-school-week-2022/>

### PROVIDE HI-VISIBILITY VESTS TO CLUB MEMBERS WHO REGULARLY WALK TO THE CLUB OR WHO ARE PART OF A CLUB WALKING GROUP.



#### TOP TIPS

- Hi-visibility vests and armbands are available from the Road Safety Authority <https://www.rsaorders.ie/>
- Check existing club stores for hi-vis gear that can be reused.
- Contact existing sponsors, local businesses or gear providers about sponsorship or funding for club hi-visibility vests.

See <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/walking/walking-tips/> and <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/road-users/pedestrians> for more walking tips as well as <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/resources-events/> for more posters and templates

# IDENTIFY:

## Actions to Promote Carpooling



Here are some ideas for promoting walking to and from your club grounds. Consider including several of these, or other actions identified by your Green Team, in your Green Club Travel Action Plan.

### Promote carpooling awareness and action in your club and community

- Use the poster and social media templates included in the Green Club Toolkit to promote carpooling
- If any of your players attend schools involved in the Green Schools programme, considering coordinating your carpooling campaigns and promotion.
- Consider contacting the local Tidy Towns and/or town/area council to find out if they would be interested on collaborating on a broader carpooling awareness campaign.

### Carpooling for underage teams

- Encourage parents/guardians to consider carpooling for travel to training and matches.
- Enlist the support and advice of the club Children's Officer to ensure child safeguarding measures are fully adhered to at all time.
- Ask team mentors to promote carpooling with parents/guardians and consider holding a brief information session with interested parents before or after a training session, if needed.



### Reserve parking spaces or an area of your car park for carpoolers

- Ensure these are well signposted or marked out, that they are in priority positions in the club grounds and that their use is respected.

### Carpooling for adult teams

Approach team mentors and team representatives to enlist their support.

- Hold a brief information session with the team before or after a training session.
- Establish what carpooling practices – formal or informal – are already in place.
- Nominate carpooling champions among the players and mentors to promote carpooling regularly through team groups and communications.
- Share the Green Club Travel posters and social media assets with the team carpooling champions.
- Agree to revisit the team later in the season to check in on how the scheme is working, to gather feedback and the to identify and record benefits and challenges.
- See <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/carpooling/> for more ideas and advice.

See <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/walking/walking-tips/> and <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/road-users/pedestrians> for more walking tips as well as <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/resources-events/> for more posters and templates



# IDENTIFY:

## Actions to Promote Carpooling



### Supporters travelling to matches

- Ensure messaging on carpooling and lift-sharing is part of all club match communications and promotions.
- Encourage club members to identify carpool companions through club social media channels.
- Consider running a pilot scheme using designated pick-up points and a bank of drivers to see whether a pick-up point lift scheme would work on a more regular basis for your club supporters.
- Encourage members and supporters who successfully carpool to share photos and experiences through club social media channels and messaging groups, where appropriate.

### Safety Tips for supporters carpooling to match

When it comes to sharing journeys, everyone is responsible for their own personal safety. However, we do recommend that you read some simple safety measures outlined below:

- Arrange to meet for the first time in a public place.
- Don't exchange home addresses with your travelling companion before you meet them.
- Inform a friend or family member of who you will be travelling with, when and to where.
- Show each other ID e.g. passports, student cards or driving licences, so you know you're travelling with the right person.
- Trust your instincts; you are under no obligation to go ahead with any carpool arrangement. If you have any doubts about your travelling companion, for any reason, then you don't have to travel with them.
- Check that the person you are sharing with has all the legal driving documents, such as driving license, car insurance, NCT and car tax.

### Committee Meetings

- Encourage the club executive and club committees to make carpooling and lift sharing a part of their normal planning and practice for meetings and events.
- Consider fixing carpooling arrangements for the next meeting at the end of every committee meeting or event.

### Linking carpooling to inclusion and accessibility

- There may be members of your club and community who would love to attend club matches and events but who do not have access to transport or who feel unsafe travelling alone. Link in with club networks – formal and informal – and local community groups to identify anyone who your club could support by connecting them with appropriate lifts or carpools to club matches and events.

### Linking carpooling to active travel

- If your team or club operates carpooling from regular pick-up points, consider choosing pick-up points that can safely be accessed by foot and/or that are close to secure bike parking facilities.
- If your pick-up point is in an area well-frequented by the local community and there are no secure bike parking facilities nearby, approach your local authority Active Travel Team or relevant council officer about the possibility of secure bike parking facilities being installed.

**CARPOOLING CAN REDUCE POLLUTION, CUT FUEL COSTS FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND REDUCE TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION IN YOUR CLUB GROUNDS.**

# IDENTIFY:



Travel

## Managing your Club Grounds for Sustainable Travel

Here are some ideas for planning your carpark layout to promote active travel, improve accessibility and maximise the use of space. Consider including several of these, or other actions identified by your Green Team, in your Green Club Travel Action Plan.

### Supporting Active Travel

#### **ENSURE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE, SECURE BIKE PARKING ON-SITE.**

- Contact your local authority Active Travel Team or local authority point of contact about any funding schemes for bike parking.
- Bike rack costs could also be included in larger club facilities, infrastructure or sports capital grant applications.
- Ensure that bike parking facilities are either clearly visible or well-signposted.

#### **CONSIDER AN ACTIVE TRAVEL ENTRANCE TO THE CLUB FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS.**

- If your club already has a pedestrian/cyclist entrance, ensure that the gate to this is always unlocked while the club is open.
- If there is no separate entrance for cyclists at your club, consider signage, bollards or ground markings to make it safer for cyclists using the main vehicular entrance.
- If the club is undertaking any larger infrastructure or building projects, consider including the addition of a separate active travel entrance in your planning.
- Consider if your entrance is wheelchair-user friendly.
- Ensure that there is a clear path or pathway for pedestrians to access the clubhouse and pitches safely from the club entrance.

### Design and Management of Vehicle Parking

#### **WHERE POSSIBLE, CONSIDER MARKING OUT PARKING SPACES.**

- There can be a cost involved with marking out car park spaces in your club grounds but it can optimise the space for vehicle users and allow the club to allocate dedicated areas for, e.g., bikes, carpooling vehicles, coaches and minibuses and accessible parking for those with restricted mobility and for e-vehicles.
- Consider including this action in any larger club facilities/infrastructure project or funding applications.
- Consider a 'reverse in-drive out' safety policy for parking in the club.

#### **IDENTIFY PRIORITY USERS.**

- Designate priority parking spaces or areas for carpoolers.
- Designate parking spaces or areas close to club facilities for club users with disability permits.
- If your club has regular coach or minibus use, designate a priority parking area with safe access and turning space.

#### **CONSIDERS MEASURE TO REDUCE ON-SITE VEHICLE EMISSIONS.**

- Run a 'No Idling' Campaign to reduce unhealthy and polluting car emissions in club groups. An Taisce Green Schools have tips and advice at <https://greenschoolsireland.org/resources/green-schools-travel-no-idling-toolkit-for-schools.pdf/>
- Consider the installation of e-vehicle charging points in your club car park.

# IDENTIFY:

## Supporting Travel by Public Transport



### For clubs with scheduled public transport services within walking distance of club grounds:

#### Assess the route from the nearest public transport stops to your club grounds

- Is the route from the nearest stop/station to the club well-lit?
- Is the route from the nearest stop/station to the club well-maintained and safe?
- Consider conducting a route audit using the template at the end of the Green Club Walkability Audit, to identify any safety or security issues on the walking route from nearby stops/stations to your clubs.
- Share your findings with your local authority point of contact.

#### Communicate public transport options to club member

- Display up-to-date public transport times in the club and/or regularly communicate to club members through social media channels, messaging groups and club newsletters.
- Use the poster templates and social media assets in the Green Club Toolkit to promote public transport.
- Engage with team mentors and parent/guardian groups to encourage groups of team members to travel to the club together on public transport.



### Minibuses and Coaches

**The use of coaches or minibuses to away matches or events can reduce a club's carbon footprint, build bonds within teams and provide a more convenient solutions for parents and guardians. Here are some simple ideas for clubs interested in organising minibuses or coaches for their travelling teams.**

#### Consult club members

- Minibus and coaches can be a great option for younger teams and can be convenient for parents and guardians. Consult parents and guardian to establish whether they would support bus transport.

#### Ensure safeguarding measures are in place

- Enlist the support and advice of the club Children's Officer to ensure child safeguarding measures are fully adhered to at all times.

#### Consider Community Bus Share

- Enquire locally about community organisations that have a minibus. Community organisations that use their minibuses during the weekend might not have need for it in the evenings or at weekends and a sharing agreement could benefit both them and the club.

#### Combine with active travel

- Ensure there is adequate bike parking in your club to support members cycling to the club to get the bus.
- If your bus departs from a regular pick-up point, consider choosing an area where there is secure bike parking nearby. If there is no secure local bike parking, contact your local authority point of contact.

#### Check in with mentors

- Team bus travel can contribute to team morale and bonding. Talk to team mentors to establish whether shared bus transport is something they would like to try with their team and identify the relevant fixtures.

#### Make sure it's safe

- When hiring a bus, make sure it is safe and roadworthy. See <https://cvrt.ie/en/about-cvrt/pages/hiring-a-bus-make-sure-it-is-safe.aspx> for guidance.
- Ensure all insurance and licenses are appropriate and in-date.



# IDENTIFY:

## Assessing your Grounds for Accessibility



**As part of your Green Club Travel Action plan, consider including actions to improve the accessibility of your grounds and facilities for club members and visitors with accessibility or mobility issues or with special needs.**

**Here are some questions that can guide an assessment of accessibility in your clubhouse and grounds.**

### Accessing Grounds and Facilities

- Are entrance gates wheelchair-user friendly?
- Are there marked car park spaces for cars with a disability permit?
- Is there a contact person in the club to look after the specific needs of club members or of visitors attending matches who may need assistance?
- Is there signage on-site appropriate to the needs of people with a disability?

### Viewing Games

- Are there steps on your grounds that would prevent disability access?
- Are all entrances and gates wheelchair-user friendly?
- If your club has a covered stand, is it wheelchair accessible or is there a specific covered area for wheelchair users?
- Is there an area for cars driven or used by persons with a disability to view games from their vehicles?

### Using Clubhouse Facilities

- Are there adequate and specific toilet facilities for people with disabilities?
- Are all doors wheelchair-user friendly?
- Is there clubhouse signage appropriate to the needs of people with a disability?
- Are dressing rooms accessible to wheelchair users?
- If your clubhouse has a first floor, is there a lift?



**IF YOUR CLUB IS PLANNING AN UPGRADE, EXTENSION OR NEW BUILD, ENSURE THAT PLANNING FOR ACCESSIBILITY IS INCLUDED IN THE DESIGN AND BUILD.**

# ACT: Travel Action Plan



Club Name:

Date:

FOCUS AREAS		
Cycling	Walking	Carpooling
Carpark Planning	Shared Transport (e.g. buses)	Public Transport
Other (Please specify):		
Details of any pre-action assessment carried out:		

No.	Action Details	Person (s) Responsible	Targeted Completion Date
ACT & COMMUNICATE			

# ACT:

## Travel Action Plan *SAMPLE*



**Club Name:**

Éire Óg

**Date:**

3 December 2024

FOCUS AREAS		
Cycling ✓	Walking	Carpooling
Carpark Planning	Shared Transport (e.g. buses)	Public Transport
Other (Please specify):		

**Details of any pre-action assessment carried out:**

Club travel survey conducted October 2024.  
Cyclability and route audit carried out by club Green Team– 25 November 2024

No.	Action Details	Person (s) Responsible	Targeted Completion Date
ACT & COMMUNICATE			
1	Submit findings of cyclability route audit to local authority point of contact.	JB	Jan 2025
2	Enquire with council active travel team about funding for club bike racks.	JB	Jan 2025
3	Enquire with council active travel team and local sports partnerships about organising safe cycle training in the club.	JB	Jan 2025



# ACT: Travel Action Plan



Club Name:

Date:

No.	Action Details	Person (s) Responsible	Targeted Completion Date
ACT & COMMUNICATE			
REVIEW			

Completed by:

# ACT:

## Travel Action Plan *SAMPLE*



**Club Name:**

**Date:**

No.	Action Details	Person (s) Responsible	Targeted Completion Date
<b>ACT &amp; COMMUNICATE</b>			
4	Contact club executive about ensuring pedestrian gate is unlocked during club opening hours.	E Ní S	Jan 2025
5	Put sign over pedestrian gate encouraging cyclists to use it – contact local bike shop about sign sponsorship.	E Ní S	Feb 2025
6	Run club awareness campaign for bike week in May – put article in club newsletter and use Green Club social media assets across club social media channels. Contact team mentors and representatives about putting message up in team groups.	JB, E Ní S, MK, LO'B	May 2025
<b>REVIEW</b>			
7	Put a poll up on club social media and through team groups to assess increase in numbers cycling to club.	E Ní S, EK	October 2025
8	Green Team annual review of cycling action plan.	JB, E Ní S, MK, LO'B	November 2025

**Completed by:**