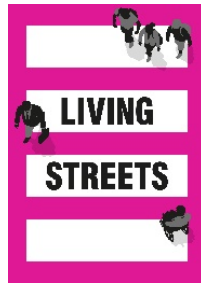
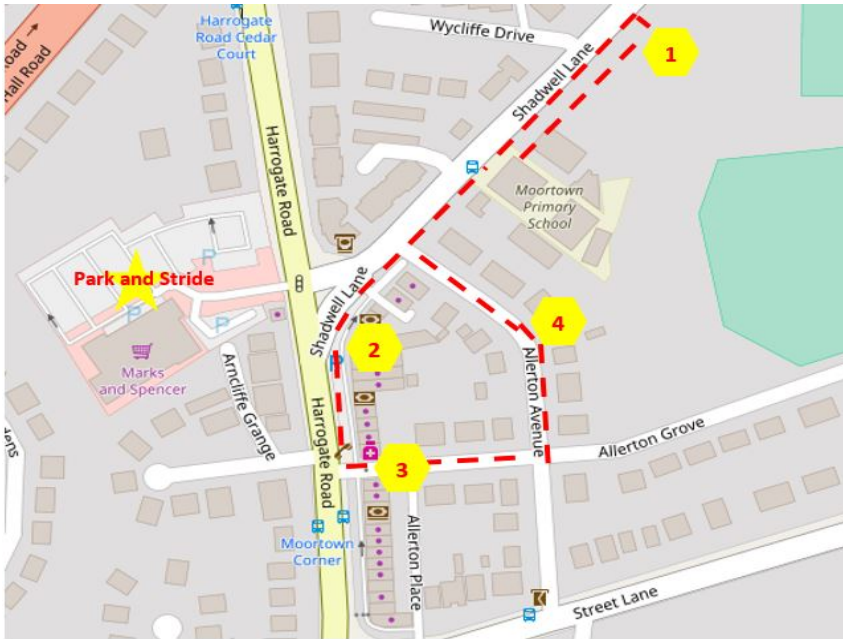


Moortown Primary School Council hold a mini Street Route Audit

A map of the area surrounding Moortown Primary, and the route we took for the street route audit.



With improvements being seen with the launch of WOW, the Park and Stride at Marks and Spencer and the Living Streets Local Group, we organised a mini street route audit with the School Council, in order to see what the children could identify as barriers to walking to school.

This activity aimed to see if the School Council's concerns aligned with the ones discussed with staff and parents. We also wanted to get the children thinking about their community, and how safe they felt walking around the school.



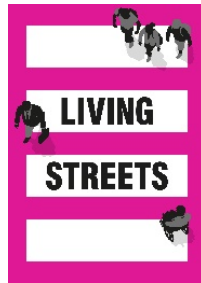
1. We began to the right of the school, where an extremely narrow path leads to an abandoned plot of grass. Planning has recently been approved in order to turn the plot into a large park. The school council identified that once the park opens, it would be a great route for the walk into school, but the primary concern was that the path was too narrow, which would make walking in with pushchairs and younger siblings would be difficult.

< **School Council make notes on the narrow path leading from the new park.**

2. Walking back past the school, and onto the intersection at Shadwell Lane and Harrogate Road, we had to manoeuvre around a large number of cars parked on the pavement. While stood on this intersection, we saw two parked cars encroaching onto the footpath, and also people struggling to walk on the uneven surface



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3. We stopped for a rest at Moortown's 'community garden'. These benches and planters have been installed in order to block off one of the many routes onto the main road. The children found that it was a great example of the change that can be made if people campaign for it.

< The children take a seat and enjoy the new community space.



4. Walking down Allerton Avenue, which has been described as a "rat run" repeatedly by parents, we had to continuously navigate cars parked on the kerb. The photo above shows the view from the street on the average morning. The School Council noted that, although clearer during the day, the road was extremely difficult to cross in the mornings due to the number of cars they couldn't see around.

Improvements that the School Council identified were:

- Too many cars and vans parked on the footpaths. Although the footpaths were extremely wide in parts and excellent for walking, they were dominated by vehicles mounting the pavement and parking illegally. A solution would be visible law enforcement who could make sure that rules were being followed, as current conditions were extremely dangerous.
- There were not enough safe crossings across the main road. These could benefit from additional zebra crossings, and more space for bicycles too.
- There are regularly speeding cars and vans on Shadwell Lane, where the school is located, which could also benefit from a local law enforcement presence. The school council believe that if a PCSO was present outside the school regularly, people would stop breaking the law as they would see the police were taking the issue seriously.

Next steps following the school route audit are to join forces with the Living Streets Local Group and campaign for better enforcement of speed limits and illegal parking on double yellow lines.