



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

PLA(20)75.03

QUIET LANES SUFFOLK

This scheme was started as a pilot in 2014/15 by Neil Whinship of Waldringfield and supported by Suffolk Highways. Former Cllr Andrew Corston did some work on it as a member of MPC and suggested suitable options in Melton. However they were not accepted for the trial.

Now there is a new push to build a network of Quiet Lanes, following the successful implementation. There is money going into the scheme and SCC want as many parishes as possible to achieve economies of scale.

The idea behind the Quiet Lanes is to designate some of our rural roads as safe routes for pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian usage with signs indicating that these users take priority over motorised vehicles. There would be no change to speed limits, although in the future there may be strategic discussions about lowering the National Speed Limits along all these routes.

There are two lanes nominated for this project and they have been accepted by SCC:

- Lodge Farm Lane
- St Audry's Lane

Both are popular with local walkers and cyclists and taken together they form an arc between Yarmouth Road and Saddlemakers Lane.

The Footpaths project that Pip is working on links with this project as the proposed route leads to several public footpaths/ bridleways, potentially forming a circular route.

There would be 4 signs required along the route at a cost of £600 each.

Consultation is required with all our residents, not just immediate neighbours, on the basis that anyone in Melton may use the Quiet Lanes and indeed may wish to challenge the selected routes. This would be a leaflet delivered to all homes and on the website/ Next Door.

An open public meeting has to take place, possibly at 6pm before full council in January.

The deadline for this process for the lanes included in the first tranche is end of January.

NB Grants are available and I can volunteer to follow up on this and the steps outlined above.

MPC needs to determine the following at this stage:

Do we want to be part of this scheme in principle?

Are the routes acceptable to MPC?

Can we fund the cost of signage?

Do we want to go with this first wave?

Cllr. Bryony Abbott, MPC, December 2020