



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

MPC(21)48.02

QUIET LANES INITIATIVE – UPDATE FOR FULL COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning and Transport Committee received the latest report on this project on 22 April 2021. To summarise, the idea behind ‘Quiet Lanes’ (QL) is to designate some of our rural roads as safe routes for pedestrian, cycle and equestrian use 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.

In this round of nominations, Melton has nominated two lanes for the project and they have been accepted by Suffolk County Council (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 the Assistant Clerk is working on links with this project as the proposed route leads to several public footpaths and bridleways, potentially forming a circular route.

There would be 4 signs on posts required along the route the total cost of which will be covered by funding from Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. The cost of the consultation leaflets (£40) has been borne by the stationery budget.

There is a mandatory consultation required with local residents, and this has been done both via leaflets, the Council’s website, and by an item in the *Melton Messenger*.

The leaflet (which includes a map) can be accessed via:

https://melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/PLA_21_30_03_quietlanes.pdf

The consultation period ended on 30 April. To date the following comments have been received from local residents:

1	As walkers who regularly uses these two road, it would be helpful from a safety perspective to have these indicated as Quiet Lanes.
2	<p>Thank you for the flier re. Application for Quiet lane status for St. Audry's Lane & Lodge Lane. The lanes are our only access/egress and have in the past been blocked by snowfall for vehicular use. I agree with the application, long overdue, amazingly the St Audry's Lane being National Speed Limit after the houses and before meeting Lodge Farm Lane. This occurs in Saddlemakers Lane also and should be more restricted.</p> <p>Why not continue to the extent of Lodge farm Lane to East Lodge and the Hopkins Estate, used by walkers, cyclists, & horse riders. Ambulance & fire services would sometimes be restricted for access when more than one event is held at the sports centre causing overspill laneside parking and into South Close on occasions.</p> <p>I hope that you are successful which will slow down traffic.</p>
3	<p>The proposals for quiet lane designation for St.Audry's Lane and Lodge Farm lane is a welcome proposal. I walk most days to access my bee hives and the traffic speed along there, particularly by transit delivery drivers both create noise and a danger.</p> <p>I am just unclear why there is not a proposal for the same on Saddlemakers Lane and New Road which are fast rat runs, especially as it passes by the Community Farm?</p>
4	<p>Many thanks for the information.</p> <p>I am happy with the proposal to make St Audreys Lane and Lodge Farm Lane to be Quiet Lanes, particularly as we think this will help visitors to the Social Club, for sports activities, to show more respect.</p> <p>Providing this will not strengthen the planning application/appeal for the proposed development of the Yarmouth Rd. housing development.</p> <p>I also would like to see the whole length of Lodge Farm Lane formed as a Quiet Lane if possible, please?</p>
5	<p>On behalf of our household I am writing in support of the Quiet Lanes initiative. We fully support New Lodge Lane and would also like St Audrys Lane and the part of Saddlemakers Lane from the junction with New Lodge Lane towards central Melton being part of a QL scheme.</p> <p>During lockdown there are a lot more walkers, dog walkers cyclists and young children out walking with their families in these areas. Horse riders also use the routes.</p>
6	<p>At our parish meeting, I was amazed to hear of the support for quiet lanes. I would have thought it would be very obvious to anyone that having green signs at the ends of lanes will not make the slightest difference to the way motorists drive, nor to the way they would respect pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.</p> <p>[The suggestion] to make lanes access-only (as at Waldringfield) makes much more sense. Alternatively placing 10mph speed limit signs may have some effect on motorists' driving. In fact I would say that green lanes would be counterproductive because it would make it less likely that sensible and effective measures would be taken to slow motorists.</p> <p>I know the signs will not cost much but they would be a total waste of money and just lead to even more proliferation of signs in our countryside.</p> <p>Has Melton Parish Council contacted other parishes, such as Eyke, to enquire whether they have noticed any tangible change whatsoever in driver behaviour since the introduction of their green lane signs?</p> <p>Green lanes may initially seem appealing but our councillors should be realistic. Having green lane signs in Melton would be totally bonkers.</p>

In responses correspondents have been told that:

1. The reason the QL on Lodge Farm Lane stops at the junction with St Audrys Lane is to avoid the necessity of additional signage which would add clutter to a rural lane and would not be justified on amenity grounds for a few extra yards to South Close or the Sports Club.

2. Saddlemakers Lane and New road were previously considered but were considered unsuitable by Highways.

An open meeting (which can be virtual) has to take place as well as written / virtual consultation. A discussion took place at the Planning and Transport Committee meeting on 22 April where Members resolved to recommend to Full Council that the adoption of both Lodge Farm Lane and St Audry's Lane as Quiet Lanes is taken forward. If Full Council confirm this on 5 May and sign off the project, then the decision (together with a copy of the minutes of the meeting) has to be provided to the QL Team. They in turn will issue copies of the formal 'notice to designate' which will need to be printed and distributed to all occupiers of premises on the proposed lanes, posted in the lanes themselves (like a planning notice) and placed on noticeboards and the Parish website.

Photographs of the key locations are appended below this report.

Recommendations:

Melton Parish Council is invited to resolve that following due consideration of any further public representations, this QL project is given a 'decision to proceed' with a view to participation, if possible, in Wave 2, or if not possible, then Wave 3.

William Grosvenor

Clerk and Executive Officer to the Council

29 April 2021



Junction of Lodge lane and Saddlemakers Lane



Junction of Lodge Farm Lane and St Audrys Lane



Junction of St Audrys Lane and Yarmouth Road