

Swale Joint Transportation Board - Monday, 2 December 2024

Item 9. Quiet Lanes.

This is brought forward for discussion and to request KCC involvement both on an overall strategy and a way forward on any specific schemes.

Quiet lanes have been around for a number of years and this item comes forward as both Cllr Gould and I have received requests for these and it was felt prudent for them to be discussed at the JTB.

To give a brief background, there is legislation in the form of 'The Quiet Lanes and Home Zones (England) Regulations 2006'.

These are made in exercise of powers conferred by section 268 of the Transport Act 2000 to prescribe the procedure for the designation of Quiet Lanes and Home Zones by local traffic authorities.

They also confer powers on those authorities to make use orders and speed orders in respect of designated roads. Use orders permit the road to be used for prescribed purposes, while speed orders describe the measures which the authority may take on a designated road with a view to reducing the speed of motor vehicles or pedal cycles or both motor vehicles and pedal cycles below the speed specified in the order.

CPRE has long campaigned to protect country lanes from the adverse effects of intimidating traffic. Through their Safer Country Lanes campaign, they have helped secure an important way to tackle the problem by designating Quiet Lanes. Quiet Lanes, as part of a wider strategy to promote environmentally sustainable transport and lower speed limits on country lanes and through villages.

Members can review Government explanations at:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2082/pdfs/uksiem_20062082_en.pdf

A Quiet Lanes network was launched in July 2001 between three areas: the Medway Gap, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge. Most of the network is within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but many local unclassified roads would benefit from being classified. In the early years, KCC were a forerunner in the UK.

The levels of traffic flows would need to meet guidance and if any are approved it make for more harmonious movements between vehicles, pedestrian and cyclists – with the occasional horse.

CPRE have produced a booklet, for your information, which can be found at:

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/cpres-guide-to-quiet-lanes/>

The purpose of bringing this to the JTB is to seek support from Swale and recommend engagement with KCC.