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Briefing Note

Quiet Lanes

For Council on 29 February 2024

1. Background

Quiet Lanes are nationally recognised designations of single-track road (i.e. with no line markings), typically with less than 1,000 vehicles using it per day, where visitors and locals can enjoy the natural surroundings and use them for activities such as cycling, horse-riding, jogging and walking. Cars aren't restricted on these rural routes, however the idea is to encourage considerate use of the road, so the route can be shared and enjoyed by all.

An official Quiet Lane will have advisory signs at either end to show all users clearly that the road is a shared space. These green signs also clearly show the hierarchy of priority on the road, with pedestrians at the front and cars last.



The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) produced a guidance document for local authorities in August 2003 to promote the benefits of quiet lanes and help local authorities promote them in their area.

Quiet Lanes were first introduced in the Quiet Lanes and Home Zones (England) Regulations 2006 No.2982.

2. Neighbourhood Plan 2015

In 2015 the Parish Council published its Neighbourhood Plan to 2031. A copy of this Plan is on the website. Chapter 3 of the Plan covers countryside, landscape and conservation matters. Paragraph 3.3 (Quiet Lanes) states:

“Some country lanes in the Parish contribute to recreation and the enjoyment of the countryside, by cycling, walking and horse-riding. The banks and hedgerows alongside the lanes also contribute to the biodiversity of the countryside by providing habitats for their conservation.

The Highway Authority will be encouraged to define the following as ‘Quiet Lanes’ to be protected by limiting width and restricting access, but still operating as public highway:

Langton Lane, Pookbourne Lane, Bishopstone Lane, Gatehouse Lane, Danworth Lane/High Hatch Lane, Pompers Lane, Pangdean Lane, Policemans Lane (Public highway section), New Way Lane and Jobs Lane.

The Highway Authority shall be encouraged to identify and implement ‘Quiet Lanes’ to reduce vehicular speeds and encourage shared space between vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.”

In the years that followed, the Parish Council lobbied West Sussex County Council (WSSC) to grant Quiet Lane status to the lanes that had been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as listed above. However, to date, no progress has been made. Following a recent enquiry, the Parish Council has been advised that it must now apply to WSSC for the designations.

3. West Sussex County Council Quiet Lanes Procedure

At a WSSC meeting of 17 December 2019, Cllr Joy Dennis put forward a motion to develop a procedure that could be shared with partners such that they could successfully develop Quiet Lanes schemes to the point where WSSC would complete the formal process for designation.

Once the procedure has been received from WSSC, Members are asked to agree that the Parish Council proceeds with applying to have the 10 lanes formally designated as Quiet Lanes.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are asked to agree that the Parish Council applies to WSSC for the following roads to be designated “Quiet Lanes” once the application process is known:

Langton Lane
Pookbourne Lane
Bishopstone Lane
Gatehouse Lane
Danworth Lane/High Hatch Lane
Pompers Lane
Pangdean Lane
Policemans Lane (Public highway section)
New Way Lane and
Jobs Lane.
