

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 6 September 2016

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Title: Quiet Lanes - update

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Item for information

Summary

1. This report provides an update on the Quiet Lanes initiative following the review and discussion of the Quiet Lanes report which was presented at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5 July 2016.

Recommendations

2. The report is for information.

Financial Implications

3. None directly relating to this report.

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	
Community Safety	Quiet Lanes can lead to improved community safety
Equalities	
Health and Safety	Minor roads designated as a Quiet Lanes can improve safety of road users
Human Rights/Legal Implications	
Sustainability	

Ward-specific impacts	There is currently a network of Quiet Lanes in Felsted
Workforce/Workplace	

Situation

6. Following the review and discussion of the Quiet Lanes report at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5 July 2016, the chairman requested that Felsted parish council should be contacted directly to ask them about the effectiveness and general use of the scheme in their area. At present, the Quiet Lanes in Felsted are the only Quiet Lanes that exist in Uttlesford.

7. An email was sent to the Felsted parish clerk on 12 July 2016 and followed up on 1 August 2016.

8. The Clerk of Felsted Parish Council emailed on 17 August with feedback from parish councillors following discussion at a meeting. The feedback is as follows:

"Felsted Parish Council were very supportive of the original Quiet Lanes Scheme when it was suggested. They applauded the concept and felt that it could be an effective way of 'developing' rural roads to ensure that cars travelled more slowly and shared the roadways with walkers, cyclists and horseriders. "Share with care" was the original slogan.

"ECC put up the signage on 10 Quiet Lanes in Felsted and promised that this would be followed up with media publicity, local events to publicise the scheme and visits to local schools. Car stickers were printed in anticipation of these events. ECC also intended to "ruralise" the roads to encourage drivers to travel more slowly (by leaving uncut verges and overhanging trees, creating deliberate pinch points and allowing grass to grow along the centre line).

"Unfortunately none of this follow up work was undertaken and within a few months the 2 girls responsible for the day to day running of the scheme at ECC both left their jobs and were never replaced.

"In the intervening years the scheme has never received any publicity or development and Felsted has been left with Quiet Lanes that no-one understands. Many of the signs have fallen down and I currently have 4 of them sitting in my office (where local people have retrieved them from ditches etc.). The Quiet Lanes designation has carried no weight and planning permissions have subsequently been granted for large scale storage businesses actually on the Quiet Lanes. These permissions have ensured that the volume of HGV traffic in certain areas has increased substantially which is clearly completely against the concept of a Quiet Lane.

"If there is a commitment to support the new Quiet Lanes Scheme long term (both financially and in terms of public consultation and publicity) then the Parish Council would once again be in favour of its introduction but without sufficient support there is no point in simply putting up signs and hoping people will take notice of them and that it will make a difference."

9. The Chairman also asked for the report to be circulated to parish councils to find out whether they would be interested in pursuing this scheme further in their area.

10. An email was sent to all parish councils on 22 July 2016. Twelve parish councils responded indicating their interest in pursuing this scheme and noted that they would add this as an agenda item at their next parish council meeting. The list is as follows:
 - Great Canfield
 - High Easter
 - The Sampfords
 - Broxted
 - Great Dunmow
 - Little Bardfield
 - Chrishall
 - White Roding
 - Hatfield Broad Oak
 - Widdington
 - Quendon & Rickling
 - Stansted

11. A second email was sent in response to those councils who had expressed interest, which provided them information on how to take this initiative forward and included the CPRE Guide to Quiet Lanes, the request form from Essex Highways and the contact details for Rissa Long, the Essex Highways Liaison officer for Uttlesford.

12. An email was also sent to Rissa Long the Essex Highways Liaison officer to update her on the review and to make her aware that some Uttlesford parish councils may make contact with her in the near future.

13. The Chairman also asked for the report to be shared with all members via the Members Bulletin. This was circulated on 25th August 2016.

Risk Analysis

There are no risks associated with this report