

Rights of Way Committee, 14 January 2015

Agenda Item 9 – Information Bulletin

The Information Bulletin is a document that is made available to the public with the published agenda papers. It can include update information requested by the Committee as well as information that a service considers should be made known to the Committee.

Cabinet Decisions

The Committee is asked to note decisions taken by the Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning in response to recommendations received from the Rights of Way Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18 June 2014 and Thursday 4 September 2014.

1. **Suffolk County Council (link road between Chaucer Road and Clermont Avenue, Sudbury) (Prohibition of traffic with exemptions) Order 201 (Agenda Item 07) – 18 June 2014**

Committee Recommendation:

- a) On proposition from Councillor Andrew Stringer, seconded by Councillor Helen Armitage the Committee agreed by a majority that the Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning be recommended to approve the making of the Suffolk County Council Link Road between Chaucer Road and Clermont Avenue, Sudbury Prohibited Traffic with Exceptions) Order 201-
- b) The Committee agreed to ask for an update report in 12 months on the progress of the scheme.

Cabinet Member's Decision:

The Cabinet Member for Roads, transport and Planning accepted the Committee's recommendation and decided to approve the order as advertised.

For further information please contact: Steve Merry, Assistant Area Manager;
Telephone: 01473 341497; Email: Steve.Merry@suffolk.gov.uk

2. **Great Cornard, Various Roads, Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting (Agenda Item 08) – 18 June 2014**

Committee Recommendation:

On proposition from Councillor John Sayers, seconded by Councillor Terry Clements the Committee unanimously agreed that the Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning be recommended to approve the making of the Suffolk County Council (Various Roads, Great Cornard) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Order 201-, as advertised.

Cabinet Member's Decision:

The Cabinet Member for Roads, transport and Planning accepted the Committee's recommendation and decided to approve the order as advertised.

For further information please contact: Lawrence Seager, Area Engineer; Telephone: 01473 342496; Email: Lawrence.Seager@suffolk.gov.uk

3. **Suffolk County Council (Ipswich Borough Council) (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (Waiting Restrictions, Loading Restrictions, Loading Areas and On-Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2005 (Olympus Close) (Prohibition of Waiting) (Variation) (Experimental) Order 2013- Objections – (Agenda Item 09) - 4 September 2014**

Committee Recommendation:

On the proposition of Councillor Terry Clements, and seconded by Councillor Nick Barber, the Committee unanimously agreed that the Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning be recommended to approve that the provision of the 'Suffolk County Council (Ipswich Borough Council) (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (Waiting Restrictions, Loading Restrictions, Loading Areas and On-Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2005 (Olympus Close) (Prohibition of Waiting) (Variation) (Experimental) Order 2013' be made permanent.

Cabinet Member's Decision:

The Cabinet Member for Roads, transport and Planning accepted the Committee's recommendation and decided to approve the order as advertised.

For further information please contact Andrew Titcombe, Ipswich Area Engineer, Telephone 01473 341588, Email: andrew.titcombe@suffolk.gov.uk

4. **Suffolk County Council (Parish of Newmarket) (Various Roads) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 20- (Agenda Item 10) - 4 September 2014**

Committee Recommendation:

On the proposition of Councillor Robert Whiting, and seconded by Councillor John Sayers, the Committee unanimously agreed that the Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning be recommended to approve the making of Suffolk County Council (Various Roads, Newmarket) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 20- as advertised.

Cabinet Member's Decision:

The Cabinet Member for Roads, transport and Planning accepted the Committee's recommendation and decided to approve the order as advertised.

For further information please contact Claire Starling, West Area Engineer, Telephone: 01284 758913, Email: Claire.startling@suffolk.gov.uk.

5. **Suffolk County Council (Parish of Lidgate) (U7051 Bury Lane) (Prohibition of Motor Vehicles with Exemptions) Order 201 (Agenda Item 11) – 4 September 2014**

Committee Recommendation:

On proposition from Councillor Terry Clements, seconded by Andrew Stringer, the Committee unanimously agreed that the Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning be recommended to approve the making of the Suffolk County Council (Parish of Lidgate) (U7051 Bury Lane) (Prohibition of Motor Vehicles with Exemptions) Order 201- as advertised.

Cabinet Member's Decision:

The Cabinet Member for Roads, transport and Planning accepted the Committee's recommendation and decided to approve the order as advertised.

For further information please contact Anthony Smith, Area Engineer, Telephone: 01284 758866, Email: Anthony.smith@suffolk.gov.uk.

Update to Committee

6. Quiet Lanes Feedback

Committee agreed on 15 January 2014 to receive feedback after 12 months, of a trial in east Suffolk on 13 lanes in 9 parishes. These roads were formally designated as Quiet Lanes and signs were erected at each end of the lane ready for a launch on 1 March 2014. As such the trial has been in place for just over 10 months.

The aim of the trial has been to increase the enjoyment of these lanes by users on foot, bicycle, horses or mobility scooter. The project has been managed by a voluntary group of parish council representatives with support from the local District Councillor and SCC officers. The voluntary group, Quiet Lanes Suffolk, has been actively campaigning during 2014 including the creation of a web site, leaflets, posters and badges. Members have attended numerous events, made presentations, arranged a mid-summer bike ride and had regular coverage in the press and local radio.

The measure of success is to see a significant increase in the numbers of non-motorised users of these lanes. Electronic devices were installed on key lanes to count walkers, cyclists and horses. One counter was also able to count vehicles. Data has been collected before and after the launch. However we have not yet had a full 12 months of the trial (March to March inclusive) and this report may be considered as an interim update.

By comparing Autumn 2013 with Autumn 2014 the data suggests:

- a 20% reduction in walkers
- a 32% increase in cyclists
- a 60% reduction in horses
- no discernible change in vehicle numbers

These results are relatively neutral. People walking or cycling increased during the summer months. The numbers of users are relatively small – walkers per day, on average, ranged from 21 to 63, cyclists from 16 to 56. Horse numbers were insignificant before and after the launch. Direct contact with cycling groups probably helped the rise in cyclists.

In November 2014 a web link to a survey questionnaire was issued to around 190 contacts to provide views on the Quiet Lanes during 2014.

By mid-December 2014 some 31 individuals responded. The typical comments received were:

- Some have seen a modest improvement in users attitudes.
- A third of the respondents divert away from quiet lanes when driving.
- They felt the number of lanes in the trial were too few.

Individual comments included:

- Support for quiet lanes, and they should be more widespread.
- Signs are unnecessary and made no difference.
- Some walkers feel more confident but “refuse to share the road”.
- Farmers and local residents should not be compromised by quiet lanes.
- Quiet lanes should be integrated with rights of way for continuity.
- There are social benefits of better health and independence by using quiet lanes.
- Quiet lanes are a good way to raise awareness but all minor roads should be shared spaces.
- Some support for lower speed limits on either all narrow roads or just quiet lane’s.

The conclusion of the questionnaire is that there has been a mixed response but there seems to be a clear majority in support of the quiet lane trial.

The results of the trial will provide evidence for Suffolk County Council to consider its future position on Quiet Lanes in Suffolk.

For further information please contact David Chenery, Assistant Area Highway Manager, Telephone: 01728 652405, Email: david.chenery@suffolk.gov.uk