

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE QUIET LANES VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 2021 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Nigel Smith - Chair
Cllr. Roy Dowding (part of the meeting)
Cllr. Chris Reynolds

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
Nine members of the public

2. Quiet Lanes – Introduction

Cllr. Chris Reynolds briefly outlined the Quiet Lanes Scheme for Middleton-cum Fordley. He informed those present that 32 responses have been received from parishioners. 29 supported the scheme outright, 2 supported the scheme but raised concerns and 1 was against. The 2 concerns raised related to the speed of vehicles on the B1125 and the excess use of signage in rural communities.

3. Public Forum – Questions and Answers

Cllr. Nigel Smith invited the members of the public present to raise any questions or concerns.

Q – Have all the roads already been chosen for designation or is it still open?

A – Yes, the roads were chosen by the Parish Council. The nominated roads are Fordley Road, Littlemoor Road, the Causeway, Hawthorn Road, part of Mill Street, Title Road and Moor Road. The designation cannot apply to roads which are mainly residential therefore Mill Street has been nominated from just past the Village Hall to Leiston Road.

Q – What is the position with Hawthorn Road as it was previously ‘under review’ due to the proposed development of Sizewell C? There may be issues with half of the nominated lanes as they will be severed by the Sizewell Link Road.

A – We were advised by the Quiet Lanes team to proceed with the application for approval for Hawthorn Road alongside the others.

Q – Some roads are already 20 mph, will the Quiet Lanes designation affect this?

A – The designation will not affect the speed of traffic. It is designed to remind vehicle drivers of other road users – horses, cyclists and pedestrians.

Q – Kelsale Parish Council is also applying for Quiet Lanes status in its parish. Fordley Road crosses the two parishes. Will Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council apply for Quiet Lanes status for the road in its parish? Where does the parish boundary begin and end?

A - The Middleton cum Fordley parish boundary ends just before the railway line and the Parish Council will apply for Quiet Lanes status for roads up to its boundary. Kelsale Parish Council will apply for roads in its parish up to its boundary. Cllr. Chris Reynolds is liaising with the Clerk of Kelsale Parish Council.

Q – Will there be any cost to the parish?

A – No, all costs should be covered by Suffolk County Council grant funding.

Q – Will HGVs still be able to deliver to homes on Quiet Lanes?

A - Yes. The Quiet Lanes designation does not carry any legal restrictions. It purely encourages road users to be aware and considerate of others. The lanes will continue to allow heavy lorries to deliver and dust carts to collect refuse.

Q – Is the application all or nothing? Is there a possibility to prioritise lanes if only a certain number are permitted?

A – Some lanes may be approved, none may be approved or all may be approved. All the nominated lanes fit the criteria so there is an expectation that they will all be approved.

4. Quiet Lanes - Approval

Cllr. Chris Reynolds said that the Parish Council has given its approval to the scheme and the next step was to obtain approval from the public. Cllr. Nigel Smith asked if there were any further questions or objections. All present were in favour of the scheme. Cllr. Chris Reynolds said he would submit the formal application by the end of this month. The Quiet Lanes team will then conduct a county wide public consultation for the parishes in the first wave.

The meeting closed at 7:10 pm.