GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

QUIET LANES PROJECT

In August 2006 Department of Transport Circular 02/2006 provided guidance to local authorities on the introduction of Quiet Lanes and Home Zones.

Quiet Lanes

Quiet Lanes are defined as minor rural roads or networks of minor roads appropriate for shared use by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and vehicles.

Their aim is to maintain the character of minor rural roads by seeking to contain rising traffic growth in rural areas.

Such schemes require three key elements: community involvement to encourage a change in user behaviour; area wide direction signing to discourage through traffic; and Quiet Lane entry and exit signs.

It was considered that only minor roads or networks of minor roads which have low flows of traffic travelling at low speeds and are suitable for shared use would be appropriate for designation as a Quiet Lane.

Quiet Lanes in Gloucestershire

A scheme was introduced as part of the Cotswold Water Park around South Cerney in 2004/5 which included footpath improvements.

However, the general feeling appears to be that the cost of consultations, meetings etc outweigh the cost of implementing the scheme, which appears to have little impact on the general use of the roads/lanes in the scheme.

This reflects the results of a similar scheme in Kent where there was no significant reduction in speeds or the number of vehicles.

Following an approach from Rodborough Parish Council, Gloucestershire Highways are in the process of introducing a Quiet Lane leading from Bear Hill to Brimscombe via The Butts, Butterow and Montserrat (see attached map).

An Order to implement the project has been submitted and when confirmed signs will be erected. It is intended the Project will be monitored for at least 12 months to test its effectiveness.

Members of GLAF may like to consider seeing the results of this trial before seeking to implement any other similar schemes.

John Lane
Principal PROW Officer