



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
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PRESS RELEASE

Cheshire CPRE welcomes boost for Quiet Lanes

Walkers, cyclists and horse riders were given a crucial boost this week[1] when the Government published its long-awaited Regulations on 'Quiet Lanes'. [2]

Cheshire's Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)[3] has been at the forefront in campaigning for this method of protecting the character of minor rural roads[4], and the countryside campaigners declared they were delighted by the news.

John Turnbull, Chairman of CPRE Cheshire, said: 'Last summer we celebrated the opening of the Macclesfield Forest Quiet Lanes, after many years of campaigning[5]. We were all extremely disappointed, however, when further schemes that had been promised failed to materialize[6].

'Now that the Regulations have finally been published, we hope local authorities in the region will now work with their communities and take action to create a pleasant, less intimidating and safer country road network for the benefit of all users. With traffic levels set to increase by 30% between 2000-2010, the need to protect our rural heritage has never been more urgent.'

To find out more about Cheshire CPRE's campaign for Quiet Lanes, visit the charity's website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk, or call their Branch Office on 01606 835046.

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NOTE FOR EDITORS

CPRE's Guide to Quiet Lanes is a valuable tool explaining what Quiet Lanes are, their benefits and, step-by-step, how they can be promoted locally. Copies can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.cpre.org.uk/publications/transport/traffic-management.htm>

Hard copies, priced £5.00, are available from CPRE publications on 020 7981 2856.

Hard copies are available free to the media on request.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

[1] The Quiet Lanes Regulations were published on 8th August 2006

[2] Quiet Lanes are designed to pay special attention to the needs of walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and reduce the problems that the volume and speed of traffic, and the presence of heavy lorries can cause. Motorised traffic is not banned from Quiet Lanes, but shared use and consideration for other road users is paramount.

[3] The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) was founded 80 years ago this year, and exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. For more information and archive of press releases see the CPRE Cheshire website at www.cprecheshire.org.uk and the national CPRE website at www.cpre.org.uk.

[4] Under the *Transport Act* (2000), local authorities are able to designate minor rural roads, for which they are responsible, as Quiet Lanes. Whilst there was no constraint on the use of this power, local traffic authorities must have regard to relevant guidance issued by the Government. In the absence of such guidance authorities have, understandably, been reluctant to pursue Quiet Lanes designations.

[5] The Macclesfield Forest Quiet Lanes scheme was proposed by Cheshire CPRE, and officially opened in May 2005. This small pilot in the Langley and Higher Sutton area was made possible by funding via the South Pennines Integrated Transport Strategy (SPITS).

[6] As a result of lobbying by Cheshire CPRE, Cheshire County Council gave a commitment to pilot a Quiet Lanes area in the Peckforton Hills area and flagged up other potential areas for Quiet Lanes elsewhere in the county.. In 2003 as a result of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council withdrawing promised funding for the Peckforton Hills project and the Countryside Agency announcing that there was no sponsorship available from them for any schemes beyond the original 'Demonstration Projects' in the south of England, Cheshire County Council decided not to progress the Peckforton Hills scheme.

Further Information:

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