

# Oxfordshire quiet lanes pilot programme now open for expressions of interest

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Dear town and parish councils,

We are pleased to announce that our new quiet lanes pilot programme is now open for expressions of interest. We would welcome and encourage your council to consider whether a quiet lane would benefit your community. They are not mandatory and will only be taken forward with support from parish councils and local county councillors, who we are also updating.

## What are quiet lanes?

Quiet lanes aim to improve road safety and encourage active travel on suitable minor roads and lanes, particularly where they are used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and local communities.

They use modal filters (for example bollards, planters, or gates) to remove through traffic, and complementary measures such as signs and speed limit reductions (typically 20 miles per hour).

Access is maintained for residents, landowners, and emergency services.

Oxfordshire has seen a variety of quiet lane initiatives over the years, and our new policy will help us to deliver appropriate schemes quickly, while still prioritising community feedback.

New quiet lanes will only be piloted where they are supported by parish and town councils and local county councillors, whose views will be instrumental during the design and delivery of the schemes.

## To be considered for a quiet lane, the route must:

- be supported by parish and town councils and local county councillors
- have a suitable alternative route for motor vehicles available nearby
- function primarily for local access, and be not a strategic thoroughfare
- have an evidence-based need such as be experiencing inappropriate levels of through traffic or inappropriately high speeds
- be suitable and meet feasibility requirements.

[Read more about which routes are eligible for quiet lanes and how to apply, on the quiet lanes county web pages.](#)

A modal filter will be a core requirement of a quiet lane, to be placed at either end of the road or somewhere in between two points. This is an enhancement to existing Department for Transport policy, going beyond traditional sign-based quiet lanes.

Due to complexity and funding constraints, we are not currently considering schemes that require the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to prevent traffic entering or exiting the quiet lane although it might be something we consider in the future and in other complimentary standalone pilots where funding and infrastructure allow.

## Testing a pilot

Following an agreement to test a pilot, any new quiet lanes will be introduced under an experimental traffic regulation order (ETRO). ETROs allow measures to be tested in practice, evidence to be collected and designs refined before any permanent decisions are made.

An ETRO must run for a minimum of 6 months and maximum of 18 months and include a statutory consultation, which the county council as the highways authority will run. Consultees will be invited to provide feedback on the specific pilot and on the wider quiet lanes policy.

Monitoring and evaluation findings will be considered alongside feedback from the public consultation when deciding whether to make a quiet lane permanent. This decision will be made at a county council cabinet member decision meeting where people can apply to speak. No decision will be made until a pilot is evaluated.

## How to apply

Parish and town councils and the city council are invited to complete the attached application form and simple assessment matrix if they want to pilot a quiet lane. The form and matrix have been designed to be:

- easy to complete using local knowledge,
- proportionate (exact traffic data is not required),
- supported by simple evidence such as maps, photos, or meeting minutes.

Applications should focus on single roads or a clearly defined road section and explain the local issues the scheme is seeking to address.

## Submitting your application

Please return completed applications by email to: [Quietlanes@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Quietlanes@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

An online expression of interest form will be available soon on the [quiet lanes county web pages](#), where you can also contact the team and read more about the programme.

## What happens next

As part of the current programme, we will pilot up to 10 sites and only a limited number of routes are likely to meet the necessary criteria. All applications will be assessed alongside other submissions by county council officers using the new criteria. Where deemed suitable they will be added to the programme for delivery.

Applying does not guarantee that your quiet lane will be delivered, but it ensures that locally supported proposals are properly considered and recorded to inform future programme development and the prioritisation of road safety mitigations.

## Support and queries

If you have questions about the programme or the application process, please contact: [Quietlanes@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Quietlanes@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

We welcome proposals and look forward to working collaboratively. Local insight is invaluable in identifying where quiet lane approaches can deliver the greatest benefit to improve safety, accessibility and better connect our towns and villages across Oxfordshire.

Yours sincerely,

Dan McCrory

Technical Lead – Place Shaping

Oxfordshire County Council

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- Quiet lanes programme expression of interest application form.docx (59 KB)