

Appendix C- Draft Street Naming & Numbering Policy

Results of Consultation with Councillors

All Local Ward Councillors were approached regarding the draft policy for Street Naming and Numbering on 13th June 2022 and responses to the consultation document were requested by 26th June 2022. The following points were drawn to Councillors' attention

CHANGES TO POLICY

Proposed Policy change	Reasons for change
1. Where a street is to be named after a person no longer living this cannot be introduced within 25 years of that person's death.	<p>Current BCC policy does not apply a time limit, however due to rare but notable occurrences of reputational damage National Policy now recommends a delay of 50 years following a person's death.</p> <p>This limits consideration of names of influential members of Birmingham's more recently settled communities. To promote good relations between people with certain protected characteristics and other groups, it is proposed to introduce a procedure under which names of people can be considered much sooner.</p> <p>For specific development sites it is proposed that someone should have been deceased 25 years or more before considering use of their name as a street name.</p> <p>Names may be considered at an earlier date for inclusion in a list of names for non-specific schemes. This allows additional time for the local Ward Councillor to consider the application and vouch for the person.</p> <p>Applicants will be required to submit full identification details and research to back their application</p>
2. Street name suffixes will be applied according to the Oxford English Dictionary definition unless the name is in a foreign language or there is a cultural reason for the naming of the street in which case the relevant translation will be considered	<p>BCC is the largest Council in the country and there is often difficulty in finding a unique name for a street.</p> <p>A developer may have limited knowledge of the site location and use obvious features such as trees on the site for the street names. Birmingham already has 26 streets which include "OAK" in the name and such suggestions are discouraged.</p> <p>Suffixes such as Road, Lane and Close are common and need little interpretation but there can be a difference in opinion about the applicability of such terms as Boulevard, Court, Rise etc.</p>

	<p>The National Code of Practice proposes a list of acceptable suffixes and where each can be used.</p> <p>Use of the Oxford English Dictionary or relevant source allows BCC to reflect current trends, new communities and expand the range of suffixes in use for street names, whilst reflecting the nature of a throughfare.</p>
3. Applications for naming a street after a person no longer living will be delegated to the Assistant Director Transport & Connectivity	This is in line with applications for renaming of an existing street, brings overall policy into alignment and allows efficient processing of applications within the statutory time limit of 1 month.
4. Numbers will only be dropped to allow for future potential development.	<p>Current policy allows for the number 13 to be dropped in numbering sequences due to cultural practice. Other cultures have similar suspicions about a variety of numbers which are not currently represented in the policy.</p> <p>More numbers could be dropped from numbering sequences, but it would be difficult to maintain full reflection of our changing communities and this would lead to incomplete and changing numbering sequences over time.</p> <p>To avoid this possibility, it is proposed to revert to the use of all numbers in sequence (generally odds on the right and evens on the left) to ensure that properties can be located quickly and easily by the emergency services, visitors and delivery personnel. Whilst this removes a small element of cultural reflection, it is equal in its application to all Birmingham's groups.</p>

Comments are invited on the proposed policy revisions 1 to 4 above, particularly in relation to inclusivity.

continued

The following responses were received:

Response from	Comment	Date	Response	Date
Cllr Ian Ward	Happy with proposed changes	15/06/2022		
Cllr Mary Locke	May I share with residents' forum?	15/06/2022	Cllr Locke may forward the consultation to the Residents' Forum but no comments were received	15/06/2022
Suwinder Hundall obo Peter Bishop	Does this relate to new or existing street names?	24/06/2022	The policy refers to new street names, not existing streets Documents shared	24/06/2022 04/07/2022
Cllr NarinderKaur Kooner	Can I suggest 'Khalsa Avenue' as a road name in Handsworth Wood as we have a high population of Sikhs in the Handsworth Wood ward?	22/06/2022	Details of information required to submit a persons' name for consideration for inclusion in the approved list of street names were supplied	18/07/2022
Cllr Waseem Zaffar via Phil Edwards	Question: naming a road after someone who has passed away at least 25years ago makes it difficult to name roads more reflective of significant BAME figures in the city? If this was the case, we would not have been able to name the 'Bert Carless' road in PB?	15/06/2022	A process to consider proposed names after people recently passed away for inclusion on the approved list of street names has been included in the new proposed policy	16/06/2022

The report was placed before Corporate Leadership Team on 25th July. Further consideration was requested in the light of the "Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business" initiative; and improved guidance on identifying names which were unsuitable as street names. Guidance is being developed to incorporate these elements in the procedural areas of the Policy and will be circulated to appropriate Council Management and Leaders.