

Street Naming and Numbering: Guidance Notes for Applicants

Introduction

The present powers which control street naming and numbering matters in the Greater London Area derive from Part II of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939, which was subsequently amended by Section 43(1) of the London Government Act 1963.

Responsibilities

All London Boroughs are now responsible in law for the functions of naming and numbering streets and buildings throughout London. This includes responsibility for:

- (a) erecting the names of public streets and for ensuring that the names and/or numbers of buildings are displayed by the owners in accordance with the Regulations made by the Boroughs and,
- (b) informing all owners/occupiers of naming and numbering orders.

It is a requirement that the Borough consult the emergency services and other interested parties before proceeding with any amendment or additions to street and building names.

The SN & N function in Islington is located in the Council's Planning Service. It is our policy, as far as possible, to accommodate customers preferences in the allocation of names and numbers. However, this must be subject to an overriding safety consideration, particularly with regard to the speed with which the emergency services will be able to locate premises on the ground.

Names

The following policy guidelines have been followed across London for many years, though in practice departures may be allowed depending on circumstances:-

- (i) New street names should not duplicate any similar name already in use in the borough or neighbouring boroughs. A variation in the terminal word, e.g. 'street', 'road', 'avenue', etc., should not be accepted as sufficient reason to duplicate a name.
- (ii) Street names should not be difficult to pronounce or spell. In general, words of more than three syllables should be avoided and this precludes the use of two words except in special cases.
- *(iii) Subsidiary names, such as a row of buildings within an already named road being called '..... Terrace', should not be used.

(iv) All new street names should end with one of the following suffixes: Street	for any thoroughfare
Road	for any thoroughfare
Way	for major roads
Avenue	for residential roads
Drive	for residential roads
Grove	" " "
Lane	" " "
Gardens	(subject to there being no confusion with any local open space)
Place	" " " " " " " " " " " "
Crescent	for a crescent shaped road
Close	for a cul-de-sac only
Square	for a square only
Hill	for a hillside road only
Circus	for a large roundabout
Vale	for residential roads (only for exceptional use)
Dene	" " "
Rise	" " "
Mead	" " "
Row	" " "
Wharf	" " "
*Not acceptable suffixes: End, Court, Cross, Side, View, Walk, Park, Meadow	