

Naming and numbering of streets and buildings

Street naming and numbering (SN and N): 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 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 Business Improvement and Performance Service, within the Environment department.

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.

Naming streets and buildings

The following policy guidelines have been established and followed for many years.

1) New street names should not duplicate any similar name already in use in the borough or neighbouring boroughs. A variation in the suffix/terminal word, such as 'street', 'road', 'avenue', etc., should not be accepted as sufficient reason to duplicate a name.

2) 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.

3) Subsidiary names, such as a row of buildings within an already named road being called '..... Terrace/Parade, should not be used.

4) All new street names should end with one of the following suffixes:

- Street - for any thoroughfare
- Road - for any thoroughfare
- Avenue - for residential roads
- Circus - for a large roundabout
- Close - for a cul-de-sac only
- Crescent - for a crescent-shaped road
- Dene - for residential roads
- Drive - for residential roads
- Garden - subject to there being no confusion with any local open space
- Grove - for residential roads
- Hill - for a hillside road only
- Lane - for residential roads
- Mead - for residential roads
- Place - subject to there being no confusion with any local open space
- Rise - for residential roads
- Row - for residential roads
- Square - for a square only
- Vale - for residential roads
- Way - for major roads
- Wharf - for residential roads

Not acceptable suffixes: End, Court, Cross, Side, Path, Walk, View, Park, Meadow, Gate or Common.

5) All new pedestrian walkways should end with one of the following suffixes:

- Walk
- Path

6) No street or building name to start with 'The.

7) All new building names should end with one of the following suffixes:

- Apartments
- Building(s)
- Centre
- Court
- Heights
- House
- Lodge

- Mansions
- Point
- Studio(s)
- Tower
- Villas

8) For private houses, the name should not repeat the name of any other road or any other house or building in the surrounding area.

9) The use of North, East, South or West (as in Alfred Road North and Alfred Road South, or East or West) is only acceptable where the road is continuous and passes over a major junction.

10) Avoid having two phonetically similar sounding names within a postal area or within a borough, eg. Churchill Road and Birch Hill Road.

11) Avoid misleading or unsuitable names such as Tip House, Access Way, or names open to misinterpretation like Tennis Court, Dead End Road etc.

12) Building and street names will not be named after a living person. We only consider naming a building or street for a deceased person if they are of local significance, and have been deceased for 20 years or more. We must still apply the part of the policy that avoids duplicating names.

Numbering streets and buildings

1) A new street should be numbered with even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the other, with the exception that for a cul-de-sac consecutive numbering in a clockwise direction is preferred.

2) Private garages and similar buildings used for housing cars, etc., should not be numbered.

3) There should be no sanction given to the avoidance of any numbers eg. 13, and a proper sequence should be maintained.

4) Buildings (including those on corner sites) are to be numbered according to the street in which the main entrance is to be found and the manipulation of numbering in order to secure a 'prestige' address or to avoid an address which is thought to have undesired associations should not be sanctioned.

5) If a commercial building has entrances in more than one street but is a multiple occupancy building and each entrance leads to a separate occupier, then each entrance should be numbered in the appropriate road. Exceptions may be made, depending on the circumstances, for a house divided into flats.

6) A newly named building may not have more than one number allocated within the same road.

7) New residential buildings will be allocated one sequential number within the road. Our preferred option is for flats to be numbered internally from number 1 upwards using all numbers. (eg., Flat 2,13 Smith Street, not Flat A, 13 Smith Street and not 13A Smith Street which might already be used by an adjoining infill building.).

8) The Act permits the use of numbers followed by letters or fractions (Section 11(2)). These are needed, for instance, when one large old house in a road is demolished and replaced by (say) four smaller houses. To include the new houses in the numbered sequence would involve renumbering all the higher numbered houses on that side of the road. If a considerable number of other houses would be affected, then to avoid this each new house should be given the number of the old house with either A, B, C or D added.

Renaming or renumbering of streets and buildings

Renaming or renumbering existing streets and buildings is normally only considered when changes occur which give rise (or are likely to give rise) to problems for the occupiers, Post Office, Emergency Services, etc.