

Guidance - The naming of new roads or streets

Public Health Act 1925, sections 17 to 19

Guidance for developers, community and town councils or anyone else asked to assist with the naming of a new road or street.

1. New developments

It is the Council's responsibility to decide on the names of new streets and it has the final say on new road or street names; however, it recognises the importance of giving consideration to local opinion.

Historical links

Where possible, we prefer to adopt a name that is consistent with the heritage and history of the area; you may wish to contact your local history society for help.

If there is no direct, historical link to the land under development, then adjacent areas may be explored for ideas.

Where no historical context can be determined, and the proposed development consists of a network of streets, a theme may be suggested. For example, a recent development took as a theme the names of wildflowers included in the bee-friendly seed mix Monmouthshire County Council uses on its roundabouts and verges.

Please ensure that any proposed themes conform to the rules outlined below.

Rules relating to new road names

The rules governing the naming of streets are strict; an original name is essential to ensure that properties can be located quickly and easily.

The Local Land and Property Gazetteer (the local database of addresses and streets) is consulted to verify any possible conflict or duplication of suggested street names. It is also a Royal Mail convention that only one street using the same name should exist within one post town.

When considering names and / or themes, the following guidelines need to be taken into consideration:

-  Where possible, the suggested street names will have a proven historical or local link to the development site or adjacent areas.
-  The name cannot be the same as or similar to any existing streets in the postcode area (i.e. NP7, NP16 etc.).
-  The suggested street name cannot be the name of a person either alive, or who has passed away within living memory. This is because the naming of streets after individuals can be controversial.
-  However, the names of historic individuals with a connection to the development site can be considered. For example, a development at Abergavenny recently used the surnames of nurses who worked at Maindiff Hospital during the First World War.
-  Distinctions by suffix only within the same or adjoining area are to be avoided, e.g. Apple Avenue and Apple Road.
-  Suggested names should not be difficult to pronounce or awkward to spell to avoid confusion in an emergency situation.
-  Names which are aesthetically unsuitable should be avoided i.e. Gaswork Road, Tip Avenue etc.
-  Names which are capable of deliberate misinterpretation should be avoided i.e. Hoare Road, Typple Avenue, Quare Street etc.
-  Suggested names that could be considered or construed as obscene, racist or which could contravene any aspect of the Monmouthshire County Council equal opportunities policies are not acceptable.
-  Subsidiary names i.e. a row of buildings within an already named road being called '...Terrace' should be avoided.

2. Dos and Don'ts

Dos

- ✓ Consult your community or town council for ideas about local links;
- ✓ Consult your local history society;
- ✓ Choose a name reflecting the history of the site or wider area;
- ✓ Choose a name reflecting the topography of the area (but only if it's original);
- ✓ Choose an original name.

Don'ts

- ✗ Choose a name which is the same or similar to any existing names in the postcode area (i.e. NP7, NP16 NP26, etc.)
- ✗ Choose a name which is difficult to pronounce or awkward to spell.
- ✗ Choose a name after a person either alive or who has passed away within living memory.
- ✗ Choose a name which is aesthetically unsuitable or which could be deliberately misinterpreted.
- ✗ Choose a name that could be considered obscene, racist or which could contravene any aspect of the Monmouthshire County Council equal opportunities policies.

Advice or guidance regarding historic or local context can be obtained by:

- Communicating with the Community Council/County Councillor;
- Visiting our Libraries and Information Service website at <http://libraries.monmouthshire.gov.uk/>;
- Contacting the Council's Equality and Welsh Language Policy Officer.

3. The Welsh Language Policy

All English street names will be translated into Welsh and both versions will have equal status; Welsh street names will be in Welsh only due to the impracticality of some translations from Welsh to English.

4. Monmouthshire County Council Street Naming and Numbering contact details

If you have any queries, please call 01633 644644 and ask for Street Naming and Numbering or email contact@monmouthshire.gov.uk