
Report to Protocol on Policy for Naming of New Developments

Under the current Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022, the following is stated:

16.10.5 Names of Residential Developments.

All new street and development names shall reflect local historical, heritage or cultural associations and the basic generic description (i.e., Court, Quay, Road, etc.) must be appropriate. The planning authority will approve the naming of residential developments in order to avoid confusion with similar names in other locations. Developers shall agree a scheme's name, which shall be in both the Irish and the English language, with the planning authority prior to commencement of development, and the name selected shall be installed on site. Street/road signs on the public road must be in both the Irish and English languages. Within residential or residential/mixed-use developments, street signage should be in both the Irish and English languages. All unit numbers must be visible.

The following policies are also contained in the plan:

CHC11: To preserve historic place and street names and ensure that new street names should reflect appropriate local historical or cultural associations.

CHC35: To highlight the profile of the Irish language in the urban environment, and support the Irish language as reflected in local history/ folklore/place-names and that such place names are stated in Irish.

In the draft Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 the following is stated:

15.8.9 Naming of Residential Estates

All new street and development names shall reflect local historical, heritage or cultural associations and the basic generic description (i.e., Court, Quay, Road, etc.) must be appropriate. The planning authority will approve the naming of residential developments in order to avoid confusion with similar names in other locations. Developers shall agree a scheme's name, which shall be in the Irish language, with the planning authority, prior to commencement of development, and the name selected shall be installed on site. Internal and external street/road signage must be in both the Irish and English languages or, for newly named developments, in Irish only. All unit numbers must be visible.

The draft plan also contains the objective:

CUO50 Naming of new developments

To ensure that all new developments are named in the Irish language only, to redress the historic under-representation of Irish language names in the City; whilst also reflecting the rich diversity of history and origins of place names and townland names within Dublin and also names that are reflective the social history of each place. All place names installed for new streets or estates must be bi-lingual.

The following policy is also contained in the draft plan:

BHA28 Historic Place and Street Names

To preserve historic place and street names and ensure that new street names reflect appropriate local archaeological, historical or cultural associations.

At present, the Area Office do the ground work between the Heritage Office and the Developer to ensure the name chosen is in line with the Council's criteria and also arranges the names translation into Irish (or gets confirmation that the correct Irish has been used where it has been provided by the developer).

The role of the Area Committee is to comment on the name submitted. The approval of the name is an Executive Function. The above procedure has to date worked well.

The changes in the timeline for compliance with planning conditions that came into effect on the 17th December 2021 will place pressure on turning around decisions on naming within the statutory 8 week period.

It is recommended that the standard condition be updated to include the following:
'Developer shall submit a minimum of 2 names and include details of the criteria (including consultation with An Post) used to select the names as well as confirmation that due diligence was undertaken to ensure there is no duplication of the name proposed with existing names in the city or bordering county areas (to ensure no confusion for emergency services). It is also advised that naming proposals are supported with a brief report by a suitably qualified and experienced historian.'

The naming of major infrastructure (new roads, bridges, etc.) comes under the Commemorative Naming Committee which is informed by the Policy for Commemorative Naming of Infrastructure and the Provision of Monuments, Memorials and Plaques.

Richard Shakespeare
Assistant Chief Executive
Planning & Property Development

16th March 2022