

Strong Leader Decision

Title:

To grant an exemption to the extant Street Naming and Numbering Policy to satisfy the Council resolution of 10 December 2020, in posthumous recognition of former Councillors Spiers and Stead.

Background:

Street naming and numbering is regulated through Schedule 14 of the Local Government Act 1972 which confirms that the provisions of the Public Health Acts (PHA) 1875 to 1925 apply throughout England and Wales, subject to specified exceptions. A road (street) is any thoroughfare, route, or way on land between two places that has been paved or otherwise improved to allow travel by foot or some form of conveyance, including a motor vehicle, cart, bicycle, or horse. The Road Traffic Act 1988, section 192(1) defines a 'road' as any highway to which the public has access.

Where the statute does not prescribe operational direction the Council has adopted a street naming and numbering policy. The policy currently states: *"The Council will only name a street or premises as a memorial to a person that has been deceased for more than 40 years. Consideration will be given to the possible sensitivities that may arise from naming streets or premises after public figures, and to the possibility that the public perception of a deceased person may change in the future. The individual must also have a significant and demonstrable connection to the site in question. Surnames only will be used, as opposed to full names, to avoid confusion in times of emergency."*

At the meeting of the Council on 10 December 2020, Members unanimously approved a report to posthumously recognise the contributions made by former Councillors Spiers and Stead ([resolution 52](#)):

RESOLVED that subject to all and any statutory checks and notifications:

1. The walkway along Waterhouse Lane toward Kingswood Village Hall be so named 'Spiers Walk' in posthumous recognition of former Councillor Joan Spiers.
2. The outdoor gym and refurbished playground in Nork Park be named in posthumous recognition of former Councillor Brian Stead.

Consequently, it is necessary for an enabling exemption to be granted by the Leader of the Council, to the street naming and numbering policy.

Consultation:

At the Council meeting of 24 September 2020, it was resolved that the Council, in posthumous recognition of the contribution of former Councillors Joan Spiers and Brian Stead, would seek a suitable form of appreciation and acknowledgment be reported to the December meeting of the Council. Consequently, during October, the views of all Members, Management Team, and Heads of Service, were sought on the form of appreciation, by the Mayors Office. Responses were received from Members, and copied to Management Team and Heads of Service. The proposals were reported to the meeting of Group Leaders on 18 November. Group Leaders endorsed the proposals for former Councillors Spiers and Stead, and recommended the proposals to Council on 10 December 2020 for approval. The draft report was sent to the Greenspaces Team, and the Planning team, prior to being published on the agenda for Council.

Subsequently, in January 2021, the Head of Legal and Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and the Digital Delivery Manager, were consulted on the preparation of this enabling exemption.

Decision(s):

That an exemption to the Street Naming and Numbering Policy be granted in order to satisfy the Council's resolution of 10 December 2020, in posthumous recognition of former Councillors Spiers and Stead.

Reason(s) for decision:

To provide an exemption to the current street naming and numbering policy so that the Council can recognise the contribution of two former Councillors, pursuant to the resolution of Council on 10 December 2020.

Alternative option(s):

There are two alternative options:

1. Not to grant the exemption, and in so doing, not be able to satisfy the Council resolution of 10 December 2020
2. Instead of granting an exemption to the extant policy, that the policy be reviewed with regard to posthumous recognition of Councillors. This would take time, but would allow for future applications to be considered.

Statutory Powers:

The Leader of the Council has responsibility for Executive functions, including Street Naming and Numbering. In practice the Leader has delegated such operational and administrative matters through the Officer Scheme of Delegation. However, Section 9E of the Localism Act 2011 provides for the Leader, as required, to exercise executive functions directly. This would include the granting of an exemption to an extant policy.

Declarations of interest:

Please refer to the [Code of Conduct](#) for guidance on interests.

There are none.

Authorised by Councillor M.A. Brunt, Leader of the Council

Signature..........Date.....27th January 2021.....