

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 16 June 2016

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Title: Call– in of a Cabinet decision -- Adoption of Street Naming and Numbering Policy

Summary

The decision made at Cabinet on 26 May 2016, Item 10 Street Naming and Numbering policy has been called in by Councillors Asker, Light and Sell.

Reason for call –in

From Councillor Hargreaves

The main issue is with section 1.5 of the document. It is unnecessarily prescriptive and restrictive in the names to be permitted. Particular ending words would be compulsory, there is a list of commonly used descriptive words which are banned, for no stated reason, and the number of words in a name, and the number of syllables within a word is restricted. It is also made clear in section 1.3 that these rules are compulsory not advisory and nothing breaking the rules, however reasonable will be permitted: 'If a suggestion does not meet the naming criteria it will be rejected no matter who suggests it'

Most of our new estates are composed of houses of little architectural merit or individuality and are the same as many thousands of houses being built throughout the country. The ability of parish councils to provide good and original names is about the only way in which some individuality and interest can be added. The new policy severely restricts this and we think would reduce the character of our settlements for no good reason. This has already happened in my ward. The policy requires that cul de sacs be called 'Close', so Granta Mead, for a development next to the Granta was barred. Almost all new development roads are dead ends so all would be called Close, when currently this is more effectively indicated by incorporating the internationally recognised road sign type T at the end of the sign.

My ward has 36 street names of which on the new policy 28 would be banned. Many of these are not obscure names from the past but recent developments whose character has been enhanced by the three parish councils taking care to pick good names.

The policy also has conflicting rules meaning implementation of one rule forces a breach of another rule.

Recommendation

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the decision and decide whether to

1. Refer it back to the decision making body for reconsideration.
2. Refer the matter to Full Council.