

Report to the Council Housebuilding Cabinet Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: CHB-016-2014/15
Date of meeting: 5 March 2015

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr David Stallan

**Subject: Street/Building Naming – Phase 1, Council Housebuilding
Programme, Waltham Abbey**

Responsible Officer: Alan Hall, Director of Communities (01992 564004)

Democratic Services Officer: Jackie Leither (01992 564756)

Recommendations:

That, following consultation with Waltham Abbey Town Council and the three Ward Members, and as suggested by the Town Council:

- (a) The four houses and two duplex flats at the site of the former Red Cross Hall, Roundhills, Waltham Abbey be named “Hockley Court”; and**
- (b) The two new houses to the rear of 66-72 Fairways be named “Wood Villas”.**

Executive Summary:

The Cabinet Committee has previously agreed to consult local town and parish councils on suggested names for building and street names developed under the Council Housebuilding Programme, and to also consult the relevant Ward Members on the local councils' suggestions.

Waltham Abbey Town Council has been consulted on the two remaining un-named developments within Phase 1 and, as requested, has provided five suggested names for each development, in a ranked order of preference.

The three Ward Members have been consulted on the Town Council's suggestions, and have raised no objections and generally appear to support the proposals.

It is therefore proposed that the two developments be named in accordance with the Town Council's two most preferred names.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The two remaining un-named developments in Phase 1 of the Council Housebuilding Programme require names. The Cabinet Committee has been authorised by the Leader of the Council to decide the names of new developments.

Other Options for Action:

The main options appear to be:

- (a) To name the developments after any of the other names suggested by the Town Council;
or
- (b) To agree different names proposed by the Cabinet Committee itself.

Background

1. It is the District Council's legal responsibility, exercised through the Director of Neighbourhoods, to ensure that all new properties built in the District are allocated an appropriate address. The Council already has a Policy that aids developers in suggesting street and building names, which the Council has the power to approve or reject under the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 (S64 and S65) in conjunction with S21 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907.

2. In April 2014, the Cabinet Committee recommended to the Leader of the Council that the Terms of Reference for the Cabinet Committee be amended to incorporate the naming of developments, which the Leader subsequently agreed. At its meeting held in August 2014, the Cabinet Committee agreed its approach to the naming of new developments within the Council Housebuilding Programme generally, as well as for the new developments within Phase 1.

3. In general terms, the Cabinet Committee agreed that:

- (a) Subject to the Cabinet Committee already agreeing a suitable name for new Council housing developments, or names not being required (e.g. where existing numbering can be utilised), Town and Parish Councils be invited to submit a list of 5 street names / property names in preference order for new Council housing developments in their locality, having regard to the Council's Street Naming and Numbering Policy;
- (b) The relevant ward members be consulted on the list of names submitted by Town and Parish Councils; and
- (c) The names of new streets or properties be determined by the Cabinet Committee, having regard to the list of names put forward by the Town and Parish Councils and the views of ward members.

4. In relation to Phase 1, the Cabinet agreed a proposal from the Chairman that the 9 new flats to be built at Harveyfields, Waltham Abbey be named "John Scott Court", in recognition of the Council's former Chief Housing Officer, District Health and Housing Officer and Joint Chief Executive, who retired in 2007 after giving 29 years' service to the Council. The Cabinet Committee also agreed that:

- (a) The four new Council houses to be provided adjacent to 12 Oakwood, Waltham Abbey be numbered 13 - 16 Oakwood, Roundhills, Waltham Abbey;
- (b) The two new Council houses to be provided adjacent to 27 Greenleas, Waltham Abbey be numbered 29 and 31 Greenleas, Roundhills, Waltham Abbey; and
- (c) Waltham Abbey Town Council be invited to submit a list of 5 street names / property names in preference order for the Cabinet Committee to consider, after consultation with ward members, for the following new Council housing developments:

- (i) The four houses and two duplex flats at the site of the former Red Cross Hall, Roundhills, Waltham Abbey (new street name required); and
- (ii) The two new houses to the rear of 66-72 Fairways (new property name required).

Proposals from Waltham Abbey Town Council

5. Accordingly, the Director of Communities has consulted Waltham Abbey Town Council on its views. In response, the Town Council has suggested the following 5 names for the two developments, in a ranked order as requested:

Rank	Former Red Cross Hall Site	Rear of 66-72 Fairways
1	Hockley Court	Wood Villas
2	Hockley Mews	Wood Court
3	Montacute Court	Pilgrim Mews
4	Colvin Mews	Montacute Mews
5	Colvin Court	Colvin Villas

6. The Town Clerk has explained that the references to:

- “Hockley” relates to Fred Hockley (now deceased), who was a long-time resident of Waltham Abbey and a member of the Red Cross for over 60 years.
- “Wood” relates to Mr A.E. Wood (aka “Slacker”) (also deceased), another resident of Waltham Abbey, born in 1884, who was a professional international athlete. He was a 10 & 15 Mile World Champion who, in 1912, broke three world lap time records during the World 15 Mile Championship. He retired from professional running around 1915 and moved to Ontario, Canada. He was called to war service in March 1916 and, at the age of 33 years, was killed in Ypres in October 1917.
- “Montacute” relates to the Somerset town where the Holy Cross was found before it was brought to Waltham Abbey - which was the basis of the great Abbey and making Waltham Abbey a place of pilgrimage.
- “Colvin” relates to a World War 1 officer from Waltham Abbey.

Views of Ward Members

7. The three Ward Members have been consulted on the Town Council’s proposals:

Cllr Watts - explained that he had made his views known at the Town Council meeting, and had no further comments to make.

Cllr Shiell - supported the suggestion of “Hockley” for the former Red Cross Hall site (being historically associated with the Red Cross Hall and an appropriate way of indicating the location of the new homes), and had no preference regarding reference to “Court” or “Mews”.

- supported the suggestion of “Wood Villas” for the homes to the rear of 66-72 Fairways, and felt that the name would fit in with the names of the surrounding properties, with her second choice being “Montacute” –

although she would prefer that this name be used for a larger development in the future.

Cllr Butler - said he was drawn to Hockley Court, as this has relevance to Waltham Abbey, but he also felt that the names 'Wood' and 'Colvin' are also most suitable, but was not keen on 'Montacute', as he felt that "this seems rather removed now".

Resource Implications:

The Housebuilding Programme's existing budget will need to meet the minimal (internal) cost of making the street naming application to the Director of Neighbourhoods.

Legal and Governance Implications:

Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 (S64 and S65), in conjunction with S21 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None

Consultation Undertaken:

As detailed in the main report

Background Papers:

None

Risk Management:

The risks are minimal, other than any reputational damage to the Council if the proposed names are subsequently found/considered to be inappropriate at a later date.

Due Regard Record

This page shows **which groups of people are affected** by the subject of this report. It sets out **how they are affected** and how any **unlawful discrimination** they experience can be eliminated. It also includes information about how **access to the service(s)** subject to this report can be improved for the different groups of people; and how they can be assisted to **understand each other better** as a result of the subject of this report.

S149 Equality Act 2010 requires that due regard must be paid to this information when considering the subject of this report.

The initial equalities assessment did not identify any equalities issues relating to the proposals.