

Street Numbering and Naming Draft policy – Consultation Process

South Lakeland District Council has a statutory duty to provide every property in their area with an individual, authoritative address, name roads and allocate house numbers, or names to new property.

A new document 'Street Naming and Numbering Guidance and Policy' has been drafted and consulted upon. It is intended to help the public, Parish Councils and property developers address properties using the principles of good addressing.

The policy will be used to assist the Council in determining an appropriate street name and property number or name, one that will not have the potential to cause ambiguity, misunderstanding or confusion.

It has been developed using guidance and recommendations contained in the Data Entry Conventions and Best Practice for the National Address Gazetteer published by GeoPlace, and it ensures compliance with BS7666.

Consultation process

The draft policy was shared on the consultation portal Citizenspace and advertised on the SNN pages of the Council's website.

The policy was circulated to Members and emails were sent to the following contacts to direct them to the draft policy consultation and request comments:

- Parish and Town Councils
- Property developers/housebuilders
- Northwest Ambulance Service
- Fire Service Support
- Cumbria County Council's Local Area Committee Manager

The consultation period ran from 24th November to 7th February.

The original deadline was 7th January, but this was extended after the team was reminded that Parish Councils do not meet in December. A section of the draft policy was slightly amended prior to the deadline extension being announced and this was highlighted in the email:

Section 9.1: Adding a Property Name to an Existing Numbered Property.

Where a property is numbered, this is the official registered address of the property. The Council will no longer add an alias name to a previously numbered property. This will bring our policy in line with that of our neighbouring authorities in Barrow and Eden and better reflects the national best practice principles for good addressing.

This is possibly why so many of the responses refer to this issue.

Consultation results

34 comments were received.

- 4 in support
- 7 identified existing issues with SNN in the District (some contrary to the policy)
- 6 comments that the policy isn't needed
- 16 comments have been considered and enacted where appropriate. (We will respond directly to the majority.) Most reflected the issues below:

Property names are preferred in rural locations over numbers

The policy states: *Only when it is impossible or impracticable for good addressing (such as in rural areas) should a name be allocated instead of a number.*

Objections to (section 9.1) that the Council will no longer register an alias name to a previously numbered property. Wording has been adjusted in the introduction to state.

*Should any person display an **unofficial street/property name, or an unofficial number as the only means of address identification on their property**, the Council reserves the right to issue a fine and take the necessary remedial action.*

Others were concerned that the policy would be applied retrospectively. This will not be the case unless the current street or property names/numbers are causing confusion to the emergency or delivery services.

Section 13 states: *The Council will only consider applications to rename or renumber existing streets and buildings as a last resort, and in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances could include where the emergency services report significant issues or where residents request a change because their street name is construed as racist or obscene.*

Some points made would contravene the guidance and recommendations contained in the Data Entry Conventions and Best Practice for the National Address Gazetteer and so can't be considered.

The policy no longer requires any input from Town Councils when new names are issued.

Section 6 states: *Where a new street consisting of 5 or more properties is to be constructed the local Parish or Town Council must consent to the new street name, and South Lakeland District Council requests that the developer liaises directly with the Parish or Town Clerk regarding street name proposals.*