

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOUTHERN LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM - 1 NOVEMBER 2007

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF STREET NAMES AT BALLOCHMYLE, MAUCHLINE

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To enable the Forum to consider the change of names of three streets within the private housing development at Ballochmyle, Mauchline, having regard to the outcome of implementation of the required statutory procedures in accordance with Section 97 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Forum at its last meeting on 6 September 2007, and following a request from the developer, Ardgowan Homes Ltd, agreed to implement the necessary statutory procedures in accordance with the terms of Section 97 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, in respect of proposals to change the names of the undernoted streets as follows, namely:-

- “Adam Way” be changed to “Ballochmyle Way”;
- “Wilhelmina Walk” be changed to “Adam Way”; and
- “Montgarswood” be changed to “Bard’s Gait”.

- 2.2** In accordance with the terms of the Act, the proposed street name changes were advertised in the local press with a period of 28 days allowed for the submission of public representations. The Act requires that any representations received must be taken into account by the Local Authority in determining whether or not to proceed with the change of names.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1** As of the closing date for the submission of public representations, being 19 October 2007, only one representation has been received, being that from Mr George Barr, resident of Sorn Road, Mauchline.

- 3.2** Mr Barr intimates that he dislikes the proposed name “Bards Gait”, firstly, on the basis that, in spoken form at least, the name might not be readily discernable, for example, in the case of a householder giving his/her address to a third party over the telephone. Secondly, Mr Barr suggests that the term “Gait” is becoming overused in relation to street names, and goes on to explain that the Oxford English Dictionary defines “Gait” as “a manner of walking or person’s carriage” and considers that the use of this term in relation to street naming is not appropriate.

3.3 No other representations have been received with regard to the proposed name changes.

4. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES

4.1 The Forum is empowered to, at this meeting, agree to implement the proposed name changes, having taken due account of the public representations received as indicated in Section 3, above.

4.2 The information provided by Mr Barr in relation to the Oxford English Dictionary definition of the word "Gait" is correct. However, it should also be noted that the Oxford English Dictionary indicates that the origin of the word "Gait" is "Gate" which the dictionary defines, in relation to place names, as "a street". Ultimately therefore, the judgement as to whether "Bard's Gait" is a suitable name is a subjective one, however, it is suggested that the representations received raise no significantly negative issues and that the Forum should now proceed to implement all of the proposed name changes.

4.3 Should the Forum agree not to proceed to implement any of the three proposed name changes, and wish to suggest an alternative name or names, such alternatives would again be, subject to the procedures set out in the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal authority in respect of this matter is as indicated in Section 2, above. There are no legal or policy implications arising directly from the report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The cost of advertising the proposal for change of street names has incurred and expenditure of £185.90 plus VAT which has been met from the departmental budget of Corporate Support (Democratic Services).

6.2 There are no further financial implications arising from implementation of the proposals set out in this report. The cost of erecting street signs will be met from existing budgets.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

7.1 It is considered that there are no significant risks or Community Planning issues associated with this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Forum:-

- (i) consider the representations received from Mr George Barr in respect of the proposed street name changes; and

- (ii) agree to implement or otherwise the proposed street name changes as referred to in paragraph 2.1, above.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

SN/SC
9 October 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Procedure Note - Naming of Streets by Local Committees.
2. Plans of proposed new streets.
3. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Section 97).
4. Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support submitted to the meeting of the Southern Local Community Planning Forum held on 6 September 2007.
5. Related correspondence.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer on Tel No (01563) 576151. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.