

Guidance Notes for Street Naming

This note is intended to clarify the requirements for the naming of new street developments in the Highland Council Area.

Gaelic

The Highland Council is implementing a statutory Gaelic Language Plan intended to support the development of the language. As part of this Plan, the Council encourages the adoption of Gaelic names for new streets and developments using local historical and cultural connections.

Names will be translated by The Highland Council, with street name signs being bilingual.

Proposed names should follow these basic principles:

Themes

Through **local historical or cultural connections** a suitable theme may found, this could be (but is not limited to) historical, geographical or natural subjects. An existing Gaelic name for an area or locality may offer thematic opportunities.

The use of a **theme** may be appropriate in a new development with multiple named roads. Words associated with a specific theme can then be used.

Examples may include:

Scottish Engineers – Telford Street, Stevenson Way, Arrol Place, Baird Avenue

Local features or names - Sealladh Càrn Eilrig (Carn Elrig view), Cèarn MhicPheadrais (Patterson Place), Clobhsa nan Cuaraidhean (Quarriers Close)

Trees (Birch, Oak, Cedar, Ash etc.)

Scottish Cities (Stirling, Melrose, Perth etc.)

Hills – Ben Wyvis Drive, Ben Macdui Close

etc...

The use of **Stem names** is **not acceptable**. This is where a distinctive name is followed by a range of suffix extensions e.g. Castle Drive, Castle Crescent, Castle Avenue, Castle Road etc.

The emergency services have voiced their concern over this style of naming as it can prove confusing to them in responding to incidents.

The use of a name relating to persons living should be avoided.

Suggested appropriate suffix terms and their usage

- **Street/Sràid and Road/Rathad** – generally used for a main thoroughfare
- **Drive/Slighe, Grove/Doire, Lane/Caolraid, Place/Ceàrn, Gardens/Gàrradh, View/Sealladh** – generally within a residential scheme
- **Avenue/Craobhraid** – generally straight with trees
- **Crescent/Corran** - for curved residential roads
- **Court/Cùirt** – space surrounded by or enclosed by buildings
- **Close/Clobhsa or Vennel/Aisir** – short (generally pedestrian accessed) and enclosed by buildings
- **Walk/Ceum, Path/Stairean or Way/Bealach** – access for pedestrians only
- **Terrace/Barraid** – row of houses along top or face of a street
- **Brae/Bruthach – or Hill/Cnoc** – street on a steep incline

Localities

There is no authoritative definition of “localities” across Scotland. The localities used by Royal Mail in address data have been found to be particularly inconsistent in their application across the Highland Council Area.

Where a development lies in an area that would be better identified using a locality – the use of this in the address will be considered by the **Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) Team** alongside existing adjacent addresses in the area.

Within most areas where street naming is required, localities are rarely used, an address formed as – [House Number/Name]&[Street Name]&[Town]&[Postcode] - is adequate for addressing purposes.

Where a new locality is required to be created – Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba/Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland will be consulted to ensure Gaelic locality names are encouraged.

Property Numbering

This will be carried out by the CAG Team. Numbers will refer to the street from which access to a property is taken.

Even numbers will be on one side – odd numbers on the other. Where possible increasing (on both sides) away from the start of the street.

In a cul-de-sac, numbering consecutively in a clockwise direction is preferred.

No numbers in a sequence will be omitted (i.e. no 13 will **always** be included)

Some street naming notes of interest

In the The Highland Council Area there are:

- 28 **Station Roads** (but only 1 **Station Lane, Drive, Crescent, Court** and **Brae**)

- 24 **High Streets**
- 11 **Main Streets**
- 8 **Rose Streets**

- 3 **Sutherland Streets** (in Tain, Hill of Fearn and Helmsdale)
- 3 **Sutherland Avenues** (none in Sutherland)
- 2 **Sutherland Roads** (both in Sutherland)
- 1 **Sutherland Crescent**
- 1 **Sutherland Court**

- 11 streets begin with '**Mackenzie**'
- 9 with '**Mackay**'
- 6 with '**Mcleod**'
- 18 start with '**Cameron**'
.....and 40 begin with '**Castle**'

Any questions regarding this guidance – please contact the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) Team – 01463 702551