

Naming of new streets

Residents, developers and Councillors need to comply with the guidelines below when considering suggestions for new street names:

Any new street name shall not be similar to, duplicate or phonetically sound similar to an existing street in the District or within at least two post town areas. A change in the suffix is not a sufficient reason to duplicate a name. For example, a request for a St Marys Close, off an existing St Marys Way near to a St Marys Church would not be accepted. Neither would Bush Hill Lane and Bushell Lane. Both examples could have a detrimental effect in an emergency.

Street names should not be difficult to pronounce or spell.

The use of more than two words (excluding the suffix) shall be avoided.

Street names that could be considered rude, obscene, discriminatory, racist, sexist or which would contravene any aspect of the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy will not be considered. Nor will names, and their combinations with numbers, that can easily be changed into any of the above by shortening or graffiti.

All street names must end with one of the following:

- Alley – a narrow passageway between or behind buildings usually refers to a rear service road or pedestrian way used as access to garages or gardens.
- Approach – usually refers to a path or road that leads to a place such as a railway or bus station.
- Avenue - can refer to a small residential street or a major roadway, usually indicates a wide straight road, often tree-lined, that is of major importance.
- Brook - usually used for residential streets that run near to a brook, river or stream.
- Close – used for any dead-end street, cul-de-sac or no through road.
- Court – used for streets that form a square or rectangle, similar to the use of Square.
- Drive - used in suburban areas both for residential streets and major roadways.
- End - usually associated with a street which comes to a natural end with no further possibility for development beyond.
- Gardens - used to designate a street populated by garden homes (subject to there being no confusion with any local open space).
- Hill - refers to a street that travels up or upon a hill.
- Lane - used for narrow roads, especially in the countryside.
- Mead - used for a former grassland site or where the development includes, proposes, or is adjacent to a field.
- Meadow - used for paths or residential streets that run through fields.
- Mews - a small residential street lined with small houses. Often used as a term for converted stables in a courtyard or lane or a short road at the rear of, and parallel to, a terrace of buildings.

- Park - refers to residential streets that contain or run through playing fields, recreational areas, country gardens or parks.
- Place - usually a small residential street, a narrow street or an open space in a commercial development.
- Rise - usually refers to a street that is on a hill, similar to the use of Hill.
- Road - used to describe a way that leads from one place to another in both residential and commercial areas but is used extensively for other types of streets.
- Street – used for a road in a town or city with houses or other buildings along it, can be small residential, intermediate, and major arterial roadways.
- Square - used for streets that form a square or rectangle, often with a park or a large square at their centre, used for markets, gatherings, etc.
- Terrace - used to describe a residential street for 2 or more adjoining buildings.
- View - used for streets that have a vista or panoramic outlook.

All pedestrian ways should end with Path, Walk or Way.

Consideration should be given to existing historical or geographical connections in the area, and if there are already any existing themes

Proposed names cannot be construed to be used for advertising or commercial gain for example named after the developer's company name.

We will not adopt any unofficial marketing titles used by developers in the sale of new properties.

St Albans City and District Council will not name streets after living or recently deceased individuals, unless they have made a significant contribution to the good of the District, through service, achievements or philanthropy. Supporting evidence should be provided to show they have been of the highest standing and such a view is likely to be shared by the public. Written consent from the individual or a close member of the family should be obtained.

If a deceased individual is proposed, we will follow English Heritage's Blue Plaque Guidance of an individual being deceased for at least 20 years before considering their name for a street or building. The person should have served the community, been born, or lived locally. An attempt should be made to obtain written consent from a close member of the family or a direct descendant. If that is not possible, a statement of the attempts made or reasons why it was not possible should be included with the application.

The application includes the opportunity to provide a supporting statement for the proposed street name.