

Naming of New Residential Developments

Policy Document



Kildare County Council

February 2018

1. Introduction

The policy of Kildare County Council in respect to the naming of new housing developments is contained in Chapter 17 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023:

17.4.2 Naming and Advertising of New Developments

Name of residential and other developments shall reflect local heritage by incorporating local place-names or names of geographical, historical or cultural significance to the site location. Names of developments shall include the use of the Irish language. In order to ensure the above and to avoid confusion and duplication, the naming of developments will require the prior agreement of the Planning Authority. Proposed names shall be submitted to the Planning Authority and agreed prior to launching any advertising campaign for the development.

Kildare County Council, as part of the planning process, seeks to conserve, preserve and enhance Kildare's heritage. Ireland's rich history of place-names is part of our cultural heritage and the Council actively seeks to ensure that this rich heritage is protected and enhanced through the naming of new residential developments. Ireland has over 61,000 townland names with County Kildare having 1,216 townlands which are as much part of our inheritance and identity as the monuments and manuscripts that have survived through the ages. Many of these enshrine personal and tribal names, Gaelic and Christian culture and the names of planter families. These names have developed from the use of the following root languages; Old Irish, Middle Irish, Norman and a small amount of others such as Danish.

The naming of residential developments also serves a practical purpose – the necessity for proper naming and signposting to make places attractive to live in, to avoid confusion for visitors, emergency services and the postal system.

2. Planning Condition

Where planning permission is granted for new residential developments, a planning condition is included in respect of the naming of the development, as follows:

Sample Planning Condition

Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant/developer shall submit proposals for the naming (in Irish and in English together with an explanation for the submitted names), signposting or other identifying structures and numbering of the development. The proposed name(s) shall be based on local, historical or topographical features, or other acceptable alternatives. Names capable of giving rise to confusion or with associations foreign to the area will not be permitted. All names shall be subject to prior written consent of the Planning Authority

The location and design of any name plaques or other signs shall be agreed in writing with the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of any site development works.

Reason: In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3. Guidelines for Developers

The following guidelines will assist developers in ensuring that the naming of new developments is dealt with promptly.

In practical terms, developers are requested to submit three naming proposals to the Planning Authority including an explanation reflecting local heritage in accordance with this policy.

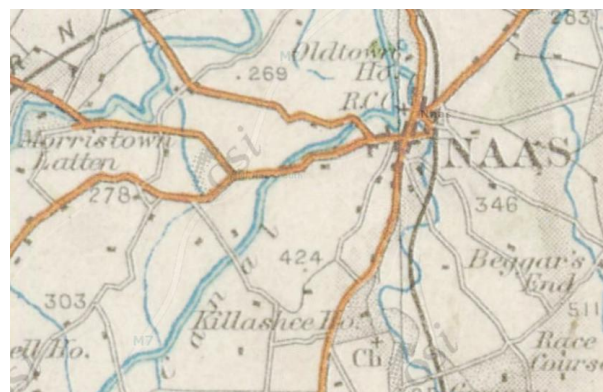
3.1 Three proposals

Developers should include three separate proposals for the naming of the development with the name translated into both English and Irish. There should be a brief description of the source and reason for the proposed name of the development.

3.2 Background Research

Background research by the developer is crucial to assisting the Planning Authority in making a prompt decision.

For example, an outline of the traditional



Historic mapping – 1837 Ordnance Survey of Ireland

or historical background of name submitted. Details of local usage of the proposed name and how long has it been in local usage, which may include, for example a development within a particular field, to be named after the traditional local name of that field. The name may not be marked on any maps, but may be well-known in the locality.

3.4 Townlands

The use of the name of the townland in which the development is situated is strongly encouraged. However, particular care should be taken in this instance to ensure that no duplication of addresses occurs. Townland or other place-names should not be translocated from other parts of the county or the country. Duplication or translocation of names is undesirable, not simply because of the impact this has on the cultural heritage of an area, but also because of the adverse impact it can have on access by emergency services.

3.5 Irish language

The use of the Irish language is strongly encouraged. However, mixing Irish and English in one name is not considered appropriate. When choosing an Irish name, for example which may describe a geographic feature in the locality, be sure to check the grammar and spelling of each word. For example, the following Irish language terms are accepted:

Avenue: *Ascaill*

Drive: *Ceide*

Lawn: *Plásog*

Capital letters should be used on street signs for both languages and the font size should be the same for both.

3.6 Names of persons

Using the names of living people or the recently dead will only exceptionally be agreed. If such names are proposed, the planning authority will require written acceptance from the named person, the person's family or estate administrators. If

the name of a historical figure is used, the name must have local relevance, and the developer should ensure that all parts of the name are spelled correctly.

3.7 Descriptors

In larger developments, it is preferable to include an overall scheme name in addition to a sub-name to assist with the sub division of the development, for example.

“Jigginstown Green, Jigginstown, Naas, Co. Kildare”

When using landscape features such as ‘river’, ‘wood’, ‘heights’ in the descriptor of the development, the Planning Authority will only accept this where it is appropriate to the locality. The use of the following descriptors is not encouraged: Downs, Manor,

In addition, developers should ensure that the name proposed, or one very similar, is not already in use in the locality and submit evidence of this search.

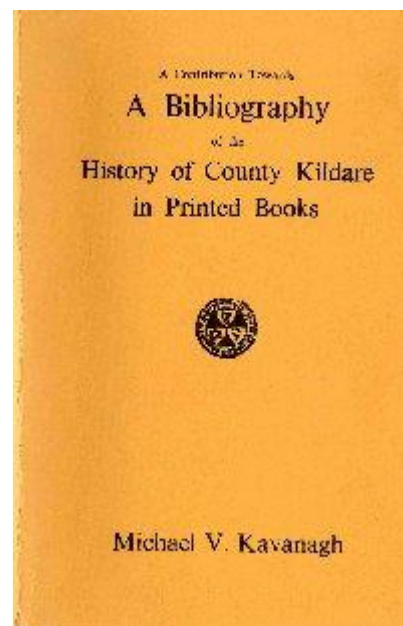
The Planning Authority is open to a ‘themed’ approach to the naming of the development which is consistent with the history or cultural of the locality, for example relating to the equine or some other past industry associated with an area. An example of good proposal includes “Wentworth Place, Jigginstown, Naas” names after the historic townland and an historic figure located with the location from the mid seventeenth century.

3.8 Sources

The following is a sample of sources available at the Kildare County Library and, in some instances on line which may be of assistance to developers:

- Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society 1891 – present
<http://kildare.ie/heritage/Journals-Kildare-Archaeological-society/index.asp>
- Lewis Topographical Index 1837 <http://kildare.ie/library/lewis-topographical-dictionary/index.asp>

- Kavanagh's Bibliography of County Kildare:
<http://kildare.ie/library/Bibliography/index.asp>
- Index to Townlands of Kildare:
<http://kildare.ie/library/townlands/index.asp>
- Grose's Antiquities of Ireland:
<http://kildare.ie/heritage/Grose-Antiquities-1792/index.asp>
- eHistory of County Kildare
<http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory>



3.5 Spelling and grammar

Spelling and grammar in English or Irish and correct spelling of proper names should be very carefully checked in the proposed name, and also in any subsequent signposts, plaques or name plates.

4. Checklist for Developers

The following checklist will be of assistance to developers prior to submitting a proposal for naming a housing development.

Checklist	√
Have you Included three naming proposals?	√
Have you included a short summary of the reasons for each proposed name?	√
Have you included an Irish and an English language version of the name?	√
Have you included historic evidence to support the proposal?	√
Have you included a list of sources?	√
Have you checked with An Post to ensure the name is acceptable?	√

All proposals should be sent to:

Compliance, Planning Department, Aras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare
045-980845

Email: plandept@kildarecoco.ie

'The name of a proposed development should be as much part of planning permission as the design, roof-height, sanitation and quality of materials and the maintenance of the necessary research, databases and controls should be a charge on the developers.'

Donnchadh O Corráin