



Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2454

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																																		
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for nine existing streets within the city.																																		
2.0	Recommendation																																		
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, St Johns Avenue, Tullagh Park, Corrina Park, Sunningdale Park North, Orient Gardens, Brookvale Avenue, Benmadigan Park South, Oakhurst Avenue and Suffolk Crescent.																																		
3.0	Main Report																																		
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>																																		
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																		
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th> <th>Non- English Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Persons surveyed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>St Johns Avenue, BT7 3JE</td> <td>Ascaill Eoin</td> <td>Off Ormeau Road, BT7</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tullagh Park, BT11 8NB</td> <td>Páirc na Tulaí</td> <td>Off Rossnareen Avenue, BT11</td> <td>66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corrina Park, BT17 0HA</td> <td>Páirc Corrina</td> <td>Off Upper Dunmurry Lane, BT17</td> <td>77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunningdale Park North, BT14 6RZ</td> <td>Páirc Sunningdale Thuaidh</td> <td>Off Ballysillan Road, BT14</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orient Gardens, BT14 6LH</td> <td>Gairdíní an Oirthir</td> <td>Off Cliftonville Road, BT14</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brookvale Avenue, BT14 6BW</td> <td>Ascaill Ghleann an tSrutháin</td> <td>Off Antrim Road, BT14</td> <td>132</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ben Madigan Park South, BT36 7PX</td> <td>Páirc Bheann Mhadagáin Theas</td> <td>Off Antrim Road, BT36</td> <td>69</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	St Johns Avenue, BT7 3JE	Ascaill Eoin	Off Ormeau Road, BT7	72	Tullagh Park, BT11 8NB	Páirc na Tulaí	Off Rossnareen Avenue, BT11	66	Corrina Park, BT17 0HA	Páirc Corrina	Off Upper Dunmurry Lane, BT17	77	Sunningdale Park North, BT14 6RZ	Páirc Sunningdale Thuaidh	Off Ballysillan Road, BT14	100	Orient Gardens, BT14 6LH	Gairdíní an Oirthir	Off Cliftonville Road, BT14	81	Brookvale Avenue, BT14 6BW	Ascaill Ghleann an tSrutháin	Off Antrim Road, BT14	132	Ben Madigan Park South, BT36 7PX	Páirc Bheann Mhadagáin Theas	Off Antrim Road, BT36	69
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Oakhurst Avenue, BT10 0PD	Ascaill Oakhurst	Off Blacks Road, BT10	316
Suffolk Crescent, BT11 9JT	Corrán Suffolk	Off Suffolk Avenue, BT11	146

3.4 The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

3.5 In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.

St Johns Avenue, BT7

- 3.6
- 17 occupiers (23.61%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
 - 5 occupiers (6.94%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
 - 3 occupiers (4.16%) had no preference either way.

One resident who has no preference was concerned about the cost of the signs.

Tullagh Park, BT11

- 3.7
- 25 occupiers (37.87%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
 - 2 occupiers (3.03%%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

Corrina Park, BT17

- 3.8
- 40 occupiers (51.94%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

Sunningdale Park North, BT14

- 3.9
- 22 occupiers (22%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
 - 33 occupier(33%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
 - 1 occupier (1%) had no preference either way.

3.10 An initial assessment for Sunningdale Park North was carried out by officers and potential adverse impacts were identified. A draft equality screening was carried out to assess the application for equality and good relations issues. The screening identified that the carrying out of the survey and the erection of the dual language street signs could cause community tension. An objection was also received by an elected member.

3.11 The application was subsequently brought to committee on 5th December 2023 where it was agreed that the survey would be carried out, ratified at council on 8th January 2024.

Orient Gardens, BT14

- 3.12
- 35 occupiers (43.21%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

3.13	<p>Brookvale Avenue, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 occupiers (23.48%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (3.03%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (1.51%) had no preference either way.
3.14	<p>Ben Madigan Park South, BT36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 occupiers (23.18%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 18 occupiers (26.08%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.15	<p>One resident who does not support the dual language street sign has stated that the street name is already an Irish name, meaning the hill of the dogs.</p>
3.16	<p>Two residents from one household who do not support the dual language street sign are concerned at the apparent lack of consultation with residents and that the threshold of 15% seems low. They are also concerned that the dual language signs may introduce uncertainties that could impact on property values and that the signs could become targets of vandalism and the safety and security of the community could be compromised. This could detract from the area's appeal and cohesion. The residents also enquired if a 15% quota would apply if residents wanted any decision reversed. Officers advised that there is no mechanism in the policy to remove the dual language street signs once they are approved.</p>
3.17	<p>Oakhurst Avenue, BT10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 153 occupiers (48.41%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (1.58%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupier (0.63%) had no preference either way.
3.18	<p>Suffolk Crescent, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 occupiers (52.05%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (2.05%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.68%) had no preference either way.
3.19	<p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p> <p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.20	<p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>

<p>3.21</p> <p>3.22</p> <p>3.23</p> <p>3.24</p>	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £4,500 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for eight of the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.</p> <p>Sunningdale Park North had been identified as having potential adverse impacts if the surveys were carried out and if Irish language street signs were erected. Approval for the survey of Sunningdale Park North to proceed was agreed by Council on 8th January 2024.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>