

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

2 October, 2026

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy/copies of the report for the following item(s) to be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 6th October, 2026.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- (a) Dual Language Street Signs Report (Pages 1 - 12)
- (a) Parks' Opening Times and Lighting (Councillor de Faoite to raise)

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Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	6 th October 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. 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 matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. 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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues																				
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for forty-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 Wynchurch Road, Sunningdale Park, Oakwood Park, Woodside Walk, Dunmore Avenue, Brooklands Grange, Coolnasilla Close, Harcourt Drive, Hamill Street, Dalebrook Park, North Queen Park, Stockmans Park, Carlisle Square, Flaxton Place, Suffolk Court, Windsor Park, Woodside Drive, Hardinge Place, Magnolia Park, Glenhill Park, Good Shepherd Drive, Coolnasilla Park West, Pineview Drive, Sicily Park, The Boulevard, Annadale Crescent, Kingsberry Park, Ardenlee Court, Cranbrook Court, Salisbury Gardens, Glencregagh Drive, Cedar Avenue, Clonelly Avenue, Havana Gardens, Mount Merrion Park, Somerton Park, Gracehill Court, Cliftonville Drive, Oldpark Terrace, Glanworth Drive, Lepper Street, Westland Gardens, Coolnasilla Park, Hannahglen Heights, Tullymore Drive, Fruithill Park, Springfield Meadows and Chlorine Gardens. The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Ulster Scots at Ravenscroft Avenue.																				
3.0	Main Report																				
3.1	<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.																				
3.2	Members are reminded that at the People and Communities Committee meeting on 11th August 2026, members were advised that the reporting of DLSS survey results to Committee would be paused whilst waiting for Counsel advice on an interpretation issue relating to the Policy. The report can be found at the following link:																				
3.3	Counsel has advised that whilst clause 3.0 (iii) provides that the Council will ‘note for its records those Occupiers who did not reply’, clause 3.0 (viii) of the Policy states that where 15% of the Occupiers of that street have indicated they are in favour of a second language street sign, then that sign may be erected subject to the Council’s residual discretion. It does not refer to 15% of the responses. Counsel concluded that, in their view, officers have been correctly applying the Policy.																				
3.4	Members are therefore asked to consider the following applications to erect dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish. <table><tr><th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr><tr><td>Wynchurch Road</td><td>Bóthar Wynchurch</td><td>Off Upper Knockbreda Road, BT6</td><td>159</td></tr><tr><td>Sunningdale Park</td><td>Páirc Sunningdale</td><td>Off Cavehill Road, BT14</td><td>191</td></tr><tr><td>Oakwood Park</td><td>Páirc Choill na Darach</td><td>Off Malone Court, BT9</td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td>Woodside Walk</td><td>Siúlán Thaobh na Coille</td><td>Off Bell Steel Road, BT17</td><td>79</td></tr></table>	English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Wynchurch Road	Bóthar Wynchurch	Off Upper Knockbreda Road, BT6	159	Sunningdale Park	Páirc Sunningdale	Off Cavehill Road, BT14	191	Oakwood Park	Páirc Choill na Darach	Off Malone Court, BT9	64	Woodside Walk	Siúlán Thaobh na Coille	Off Bell Steel Road, BT17	79
English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed																		
Wynchurch Road	Bóthar Wynchurch	Off Upper Knockbreda Road, BT6	159																		
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Dunmore Avenue	Ascaill an Dúin Mhóir	Off Alexandra Park Avenue, BT15	51
Brooklands Grange	Gráinseach Fhearann an tSrutháin	Off Upper Dunmurry Lane, BT17	123
Coolnasilla Close	Clós Chúil na Saileach	Off Coolnasilla Park East, BT11	41
Harcourt Drive	Céide Harcourt	Off Oldpark Avenue, BT14	94
Hamill Street	Sráid Uí Ámaill	Off Institution Place, BT12	72
Dalebrook Park	Páirc Shruthán an Ghleanntáin	Off Ladybrook Park, BT11	121
North Queen Park	Páirc na Banríona Thuaidh	Off North Queen Street, BT15	24
Stockmans Park	Páirc Mhic Giolla Stoic	Off Stockmans Avenue, BT11	57
Carlisle Square	Cearnóg Carlisle	Off Carlisle Road, BT15	67
Flaxton Place	Plás Flaxton	Off Old Mill Way, BT14	49
Suffolk Court	Cúirt Suffolk	Off Upper Suffolk Road, BT11	58
Windsor Park	Páirc Windsor	Off Lisburn Road, BT9	135
Woodside Drive	Céide Thaobh na Coille	Off Bell Steel Road, BT17	154
Hardinge Place	Plás Hardinge	Off Newlodge Road & Spamount Street, BT15	19
Magnolia Park	Páirc na Magnóilianna	Off Broom Park, BT17	35
Glenhill Park	Páirc Chnoc an Ghleanna	Off Glen Road, BT11	104
Good Shepherd Drive	Céide an Aoire Mhaith	Off Good Shepherd Road, BT17	33
Coolnasilla Park West	Páirc Chúil na Saileach Thiar	Off Coolnasilla Avenue, BT11	145
Pineview Drive	Céide Radharc na Giúise	Off Pineview Road, BT36	35
Sicily Park	Páirc na Sicile	Off Upper Lisburn Road, BT10	357
The Boulevard	An Búlbhard	Off Annadale Embankment, BT7	165
Annadale Crescent	Corrán Ghleanntán Anna	Off Annadale Embankment, BT7	215
Kingsberry Park	Páirc Kingsberry	Off Cheltenham Park, BT6	58
Ardenlee Court	Cúirt Ardán Liath	Off Ardenlee Gardens, BT6	31
Cranbrook Court	Cúirt Cranbrook	Off Ardoyne Road, BT14	89
Salisbury Gardens	Gairdíní Salisbury	Off Salisbury Avenue, BT15	54
Glencregagh Drive	Céide Ghleann na Creagaí	Off Glencregagh Park, BT6	108

	Cedar Avenue	Ascaill an Chéadrais	Off Antrim Road/Cavehill Road, BT15	144								
	Clonelly Avenue	Ascaill Chluain Ailí	Off Ramoan Gardens, BT11	41								
	Havana Gardens	Gairdíní Havana	Off Ardoyne Avenue, BT14	64								
	Mount Merrion Park	Páirc Chnoc Mhuirfean	Off Rosetta Road, BT6	222								
	Somerton Park	Páirc Somerton	Off Somerton Road, BT15	110								
	Gracehill Court	Cúirt Chnoc an Ghrásta	Off Ardilea Street, BT14	18								
	Cliftonville Drive	Céide Cliftonville	Off Cliftonville Road, BT14	31								
	Oldpark Terrace	Ardán na Seanpháirce	Off Oldpark Road, BT14	29								
	Glanworth Drive	Céide Ghleannúir	Off Skegoneill Avenue, BT15	50								
	Lepper Street	Sráid Lepper	Off Duncairn Gardens, BT15	88								
	Westland Gardens	Gairdíní Westland	Off Westland Road, BT14	60								
	Coolnasilla Park	Páirc Chúil na Saileach	Off Coolnasilla Park East, BT11	87								
	Hannahglen Heights	Arda Ghleann Haine	Off Glen Road, BT17	123								
	Tullymore Drive	Céide na Tulaí Móire	Off Tullymore Gardens, BT11	47								
	Fruithill Park	Páirc Chnoc na dTorthaí	Off Andersonstown Road, BT11	225								
	Springfield Meadows	Cluainte Chluanaí	Off Springfield Road, BT13	47								
	Chlorine Gardens	Gairdíní an Chlóirín	Off Malone Road, BT9	40								
3.5	Members are asked to consider the following application to erect dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Ulster Scots.											
	<table><tr><th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr><tr><td>Ravenscroft Avenue</td><td>Corbiescroft Evvenye</td><td>Off Upper Newtownards Road/Beersbridge Road, BT5</td><td>110</td></tr></table>				English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Ravenscroft Avenue	Corbiescroft Evvenye	Off Upper Newtownards Road/Beersbridge Road, BT5	110
English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed									
Ravenscroft Avenue	Corbiescroft Evvenye	Off Upper Newtownards Road/Beersbridge Road, BT5	110									
3.6	The Irish translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council. The Ulster Scots translations were authenticated by a group of academics in conjunction with the Council's Ulster-Scots Stakeholder Forum.											
3.7	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.											

3.8	Wynchurch Road, BT6 • 74 occupiers (46.54%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 23 occupiers (14.47%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (3.14%) had no preference either way.
3.9	Following member notification, an objection was received from Councillor Davy Douglas, “Wynchurch is a mixed area close to the Cregagh estate and Flush Park, both traditional unionist areas. It is an area where people of both denominations live side by side without issue. I feel that the adoption of Irish street signage could be seen as divisive and have an adverse impact on good relations within the community, creating division where none currently exists. This has already been seen recently in Wynchurch Avenue where the street was surveyed twice, resulting in an increasing majority rejecting the proposal each time. Despite this, the views of the people who live in the street were ignored and dual language street signage was imposed against their wishes, damaging community relations in the process”.
3.10	Sunningdale Park, BT14 • 62 occupiers (32.46%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 55 occupiers (28.80%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 7 occupiers (3.66%) had no preference either way.
3.11	One resident commented that band parades which have never come down the road were the result of the dual language signs erected in nearby Sunningdale Park North. They state that they have no objection to dual language signs, but when it results in parades as a way of protest, they don't believe that just 15% of the road should be making the decision.
3.12	Another resident also mentioned the band parades and stated that they would like to avoid ruining the peaceful street.
3.13	Oakwood Park, BT9 • 29 occupiers (45.31%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 9 occupiers (14.06%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1.56%) had no preference either way.
3.14	Woodside Walk, BT17 • 23 occupiers (29.11%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.15	Dunmore Avenue, BT15 • 32 occupiers (62.75%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 6 occupiers (11.76%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.16	Brooklands Grange, BT17 • 54 occupiers (43.90%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

	• 2 occupiers (1.63%) had no preference either way.
3.17	Coolnasilla Close, BT11 • 15 occupiers (36.59%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.18	Harcourt Drive, BT14 • 28 occupiers (29.79%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.19	Hamill Street, BT12 • 25 occupiers (34.72%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1.39%) had no preference either way.
3.20	Dalebrook Park, BT11 • 41 occupiers (33.88%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.83%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.21	North Queen Park, BT15 • 11 occupiers (45.83%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.22	Stockmans Park, BT11 • 21 occupiers (36.84%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (5.26%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.23	Carlisle Square, BT15 • 27 occupiers (40.30%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.24	Flaxton Place, BT14 • 13 occupiers (26.53%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (2.04%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (2.04%) had no preference either way.
3.25	Suffolk Court, BT11 • 26 occupiers (44.83%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.26	Windsor Park, BT9 • 44 occupiers (32.59%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

	• 11 occupiers (8.15%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (3.70%) had no preference either way.
3.27	Woodside Drive, BT17
	• 39 occupiers (25.32%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.65%) had no preference either way.
3.28	Hardinge Place, BT15
	• 9 occupiers (47.37%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.29	Magnolia Park, BT17
	• 8 occupiers (22.86%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.30	Glenhill Park, BT11
	• 54 occupiers (51.92%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.31	Good Shepherd Drive, BT17
	• 5 occupiers (15.15%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.32	Coolnasilla Park West, BT11
	• 55 occupiers (37.93%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.33	Pineview Drive, BT36
	• 14 occupiers (40%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (8.57%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.34	Sicily Park, BT10
	• 96 occupiers (26.89%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 120 occupiers (33.61%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 8 occupiers (2.24%) had no preference either way.
3.35	One resident pointed out that Sicily Park is a main access road to Taughmonagh Estate which is a majority Loyalist area. They believe the erection of signs in Irish would lead to vandalism and civil unrest in an area of mixed religious and political beliefs, which is a normally peaceful and friendly community.
3.36	One resident commented that they are keen on Irish street signs but do not wish to cause tension with Taughmonagh/Benmore. They believe the signage may cause tensions in a quiet street.

3.37	One other resident commented whilst they would like an Irish translation on the street nameplate, due to the proximity to a loyalist estate they chose the no preference option in order to support good relations.
3.38	The Boulevard, BT7 • 46 occupiers (27.88%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 15 occupiers (9.09%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (1.82%) had no preference either way.
3.39	One resident commented that they believe the area is a settled and mixed community with great social cohesion amongst its residents. They feel that the application will create division where there is currently none. They support the growth of the Irish language, but believe this application is an attempt not to promote the Irish language, but to mark territory and divide. The resident further remarks that they believe it will have an impact on property value in the street in that a percentage of NI population may view the area to be hostile to their beliefs and background.
3.40	Annadale Crescent, BT7 • 41 occupiers (19.07%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 32 occupiers (14.88%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (1.40%) had no preference either way. • A member objection was received from Cllr Bradley Ferguson member for Lisnasharragh, see paragraph 3.70
3.41	Kingsberry Park, BT6 • 25 occupiers (43.10%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1.72%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. A member objection was received from Cllr Bradley Ferguson member for Lisnasharragh, see paragraph 3.70
3.42	Ardenlee Court, BT6 • 12 occupiers (38.71%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (3.23%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. A member objection was received from Cllr Bradley Ferguson member for Lisnasharragh, see paragraph 3.70
3.43	Cranbrook Court, BT14 • 20 occupiers (22.47%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.44	Salisbury Gardens, BT15 • 18 occupiers (33.33%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 11 occupiers (20.37%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

3.45	3 occupiers (5.56%) had no preference either way. Glencregagh Drive, BT6
3.46	29 occupiers (26.85%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 24 occupiers (22.22%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 2 occupiers (1.85%) had no preference either way. Cedar Avenue, BT15
3.47	53 occupiers (36.81%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 5 occupiers (3.47%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 3 occupiers (2.08%) had no preference either way. Clonelly Avenue, BT11
3.48	10 occupiers (24.39%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (2.44%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (2.44%) had no preference either way. Havana Gardens, BT14
3.49	24 occupiers (37.50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. Mount Merrion Park, BT6
3.50	91 occupiers (40.99%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 35 occupiers (15.77%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 5 occupiers (2.25%) had no preference either way. Somerton Park, BT15
3.51	46 occupiers (41.82%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (0.91%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 2 occupiers (1.82%) had no preference either way. Gracehill Court, BT14
3.52	7 occupiers (38.89%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. Cliftonville Drive, BT14
3.53	14 occupiers (45.16%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. Oldpark Terrace, BT14
	7 occupiers (24.14%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

3.54	Glanworth Drive, BT15 17 occupiers (34%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.55	Lepper Street, BT15 34 occupiers (38.64%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 2 occupiers (2.27%) had no preference either way.
3.56	Westland Gardens, BT14 23 occupiers (38.33%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (1.67%) had no preference either way.
3.57	Coolnasilla Park, BT11 39 occupiers (44.83%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 1 occupier (1.15%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 2 occupiers (2.30%) had no preference either way.
3.58	Hannahglen Heights, BT17 34 occupiers (27.64%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 4 occupiers (3.25%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.59	Tullymore Drive, BT11 25 occupiers (53.19%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.60	Fruithill Park, BT11 106 occupiers (47.11%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.61	Springfield Meadows, BT13 16 occupiers (34.04%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.62	Chlorine Gardens, BT9 13 occupiers (32.50%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.63	Ravenscroft Avenue, BT5 19 occupiers (17.27%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 10 occupiers (9.09%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

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	presented previously to Committee prior to survey in line with the agreed process referencing the initial assessment and screening and the streets were approved for survey by Committee and full Council.
3.70	A member objection was received from Cllr Bradley Ferguson member for Lisnasharragh raised an objection for Annadale Crescent, Kingsberry Park and Ardenlee Court stating: - <i>“While I fully respect the cultural traditions and identities of all communities in Northern Ireland, I believe the introduction of bilingual signage in Lisnasharragh is divisive, unnecessary, and does not reflect the wishes of the majority of residents in the area. Lisnasharragh is a diverse and shared space and introducing street signs that are strongly associated with one particular political and cultural identity risks undermining community cohesion and alienating those from a different background.</i> <i>Public consultation should play a central role in decisions of this nature. However, I have serious concerns about the consultation process, particularly around the weighting of responses, the level of local engagement, and whether it genuinely reflects the majority opinion in each affected street. The interests of the whole community must be taken into account – not just those of activists or lobby groups.</i> <i>The Irish language is, for some, a deeply valued part of their cultural heritage. However, for others, it is seen – fairly or not – as a political symbol. As such, I strongly believe that street signage should remain neutral and inclusive to foster a shared future for everyone in Belfast.</i> <i>I urge the council to prioritise policies that promote inclusivity and mutual respect rather than those that risk increasing division”</i>
3.71	These applications were presented to Committee prior to survey in line with the agreed process referencing the member objections and the streets were approved for survey by Committee and full Council.
3.72	There were no other member objections received for all other streets. In addition, there were no other of the above streets where the potential for adverse impacts were identified during the initial assessment.
4.0	Appendices
	None