

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL (PLANNING & FINANCE)

13 SEPTEMBER 2005

CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2005

STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING REVIEW (Report by Head of Environment & Transport)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance) at their meetings on 12 April and 14 June 2005 considered reports on the problems experienced with the naming and numbering of properties throughout the district. The Panel requested a further report to update responses from Parish Councils on problems that they had noted on name plates and on the problems of inconsistent street naming and lack of numbers to rural properties.
- 1.2 This report gives an update of the progress of this work and sets out future proposed work

2. RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

- 2.1 All the Parish Councils were contacted in April and before the June report 12 replies had been received. Since that report a further 7 councils have responded and details of these are given in the table below:

Name of Council	Comments Received
Warboys	4 signs missing hedges growing over signs benefit if signs said "leading to"
Ellington	1 sign missing
Gt Staughton	7 sign missing
Holywell cum Needingworth	4 signs missing
Covington	None missing
Leighton Bromswold	None missing
Gt Gransden	1 sign missing

- 2.2 This shows that in total 19 parish councils replied, with 1 parish concerned with lack of signage, 29 signs that are missing and 4 damaged. These missing or damaged signs are being checked and acted upon in the normal process.

3. PROGRESS ON ASSET MANAGEMENT SURVEY

- 3.1 Work started on the survey of the street name plates throughout the district in April and was completed in August with a total of 5,500 signs being logged. Of these, 45 were found to be damaged, and 33 in poor condition. Action is being taken to correct this.

- 3.2 This data will be added to the GIS system to make it available to you internal users. A system is to be set up to update the database in the future.

4. CONSISTENT STREET NAMES

- 4.1 The survey listed in para. 3.1 above, the LLPG study and the National Street Gazetteer have identified that there are inconsistencies in the naming of certain streets, mainly in the rural areas. In certain villages, although street names are not used in postal addresses and there are no street nameplates erected, the Street Gazetteer allocates names to these streets.
- 4.2 It would be desirable for this anomaly to be resolved and street name plates provided. A data comparison has been run between the LLPG, the asset survey and the Gazetteer to highlight the differences. These will be further investigated manually.
- 4.3 It is proposed that discussions are held with Parish Councils to agree names for these streets and provide street names plates. The Gazetteer will be revised as necessary.
- 4.4 It is expected that this work will take about 12 months to carry out and will be covered from existing budgets.

5. NUMBERING OF PROPERTIES IN VILLAGES

- 5.1 There are several villages in the district which have few or no numbered properties, but with them being named only. This might cause difficulties with deliveries or the emergency services, although the relevant bodies, of whom we have enquired, have not reported any problems. There is no legal requirement on the council to number all properties. The LLPG system will also function without numbers as each property is given a unique property reference number anyway.
- 5.2 It is estimated that it would take about 1 person year to complete the task and could also be very unpopular with some residents who do not want their homes numbered, or for those who will need their existing numbers changing to fit in with the new system.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The survey of street name plates has shown that there were few damaged or needing urgent repair. These have been attended to already. Only about 20% of the Parish Councils responded and the matters identified have been resolved.
- 6.2 The anomalies of the naming of streets where common usage and the National Street Gazetteer differ are being investigated. Any differences will be discussed with Parish Councils, and hopefully resolved. This work is programmed for completion in 12 months.
- 6.3 There have been no complaints from the emergency service with the lack of numbers for all properties and this does not appear to be a

major problem to the LLPG. Since there would need to be an increase in funding and there could be many complaints received during the process, it is not considered that this should be undertaken at present.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) note the progress of the asset survey, that a small percentage of name plates were found to be damaged and that defects will be dealt with from within existing budgets;
- b) agree that the Council should seek to resolve the problems of inconsistent names between common use and the National Street Gazetteer subject to agreement with the relevant Parish Councils;
- c) agree that retention of the existing policy of not numbering properties in villages where established practice is for householders to provide house names.

Background Papers

Environment and Transport files.

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