

# **Gorey Municipal District**

## **Placenames Scheme**

*October 2014*

### **1. Introduction**

- Schedule 14A (Part 1) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 establishes the reserved functions to be performed by the Municipal District. Reference No 41 confirms that the Municipal District member have the power to

“Adopt a proposal to substitute a new placename in respect of a place’, under Section 189 (as amended by section 48 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011)’.

### **2. Selecting a Placename**

The selection of placenames can arise in three different ways:

- a) As a condition of planning permission
- b) Following the development of a new social housing scheme
- c) Following the development of new public infrastructure e.g road, building

#### **a) Selection of Placename as a condition of Planning Permission**

Wexford Co. Council has a Placenames Committee which was established in 2006 for the purpose for monitoring and assessing the naming of new developments in order to comply with a condition of planning permission. In general this applies to residential developments over five houses, large commercial developments and mixed use developments.

An application form (See Appendix A) is sent to the developer requiring them to submit the following information:

- Contact Details
- Details of the proposed development
- Proposed placenames

The committee has adopted the following protocol for the consideration of placenames submitted:

- The proposals should reflect the local townslands, landscape, culture or historical persons associated with the area
- Placenames should be easily pronounced and the use of the Irish Language is encouraged, where possible.
- Correct spelling is vital. Spelling and translation of proposed names are checked with the Wexford Co. Council Irish Officer or alternatively with the Placenames Branch in the Dept. of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs or on the Placename Database of Ireland <http://www.loganim.ie/>
- Multiple names within housing estates should be avoided as this generally leads to confusion
- Duplication of names is not permitted within the same electoral area. There is an internal database of existing names which can be referred to

The intent of the scheme is that as far as possible placenames reflect local culture and heritage as they can positively re-enforce it. They have the ability to communicate the relationship between people and their landscape and environment.

Care needs to be taken when naming new developments such as housing estates, streets, shopping centres, community facilities and so on, to ensure that the name is relevant to the area. It is important that duplication of placenames is avoided as this can impact the operation of emergency and other services.

Thought also needs to be given to associated signage and numbering schemes.

In summary it is important that modern placenames reflect the local topography, history, culture and heritage of an area and also have regard for the Irish language.

See Appendix C for note on legislative background.

Once formally approved a letter of confirmation is issued to the developer confirming the name to be used.

**b) Naming a new social housing development**

On completion of a new social housing development the Housing Department will, in consultation with relevant interests, propose suggested names for the new development having regard to Wexford Co. Council's guidelines for the selection of an appropriate name. The Municipal District members will consider the proposals and will formally approve the preferred option.

**c) Naming a new public infrastructure**

On completion of a new public infrastructure development e.g. road, building, public park, a public consultation process will be undertaken seeking suggested names for the new development having regard to the Council's guidelines for the selection of an appropriate name. The Municipal District members will consider the proposals and may:

- select one of the proposed names,
- select a different name
- offer a choice of names to the public and/or interested parties such as the Placenames Committee to make the final selection
- The final decision will be made by the members of the Municipal District

**3. General Guidelines on Naming New Developments**

The following guidelines have been developed to ensure, in as far as possible that an appropriate name is selected for a new development requiring a placename:

Research into the history, geography and traditions of the area should be evident from the name choice. Other points include:

- At least three names should be submitted for consideration.
- Details of why the name was chosen, with geographic, historic or other references as appropriate.
- Ensure that the name proposed, or one very similar, is the electoral area.
- In rural areas, the use of the name of the townland in which the development is situated is strongly encouraged when selecting a placename. However, particular care should be taken in this instance to ensure that no duplication of addresses occurs.
- Townland, estate names or other placenames should not be translocated from other parts of the County or the Country. Duplication or translocation of names is undesirable because of the impact this has on the cultural heritage of the area, and because of the adverse impact it can have on access by emergency or other services.

- The use of the Irish language is 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.
- 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 personae's ™, family or estate administrators. If the name of a historical figure is used, the name must have local relevance.
- 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.
- Developers are encouraged to erect interpretive signage explaining the source or deprivation of the new placename. This is particularly appropriate in the case of placenames after a historical or other locally important person.

#### **4. Summary**

1. Proposed names for all new developments conditioned through the planning process are to be directed to Gorey Municipal District for final approval.
2. Proposed names for new social housing schemes developed by the housing section in association with residents are to be directed to Gorey Municipal District for final approval.
3. Proposals for new public infrastructure within the Gorey Municipal District be put to open public consultation whereby interested members of the public, groups and schools can make formal submissions on the application form (sample attached to this report) and in accordance with the Council's general guidelines for selection of a placename. Gorey Municipal District reserve the right to choose any one of the proposed names, to select a different name and/or to take a selection of names and give the public and/or interested parties an opportunity to vote for their favorite.

## Appendix B

### Public Infrastructure Naming Consultation Form

**Sample**

**Tesco Link Road**



The road which links the end of The Avenue to the Gorey Clough Road (old N11) opened in late 2013. The road provides access to Gorey Shopping Centre, the new Tesco development and several other business units. The Ramstown road which provides access to Gorey Business Park leads off the new road. More detail on the history and heritage of the area can be found on  
[www.wexford.ie/goreymunicipaldistrict/placenameconsultationprocessoctober2014](http://www.wexford.ie/goreymunicipaldistrict/placenameconsultationprocessoctober2014)

<b>Submission for Proposed Placename</b>	
Name of Applicant:	
If Group/Committee – name of Chairperson/contact name:	
Contact Number:	
Proposed Placename (English):	
Proposed Placename (Irish):	
Origin/Inspiration for the name: (Attach additional sheets if necessary)	

## **Appendix C**

As outlined at the start of this document Schedule 14A (Part 1) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 establishes that the Municipal District members have the power to “Adopt a proposal to substitute a new placename in respect of a place’. Further advice is needed to determine how this function is interpreted vis a vis the Statutory Planning process where placename development is a condition of the planning process.