



## CABINET

Tuesday 4 June 2019

### NAMING OF NEW ACCESS ROAD, RIVERSIDE, LOWESTOFT

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Street Naming and Numbering is a statutory function of East Suffolk Council, usually undertaken under delegated powers by the Gazetteer Officer within the ICT Business Solutions team.
2. A name been put forward by the former Waveney District Council for the proposed access road to the Riverside business area in Lowestoft, as part of the work needed for the third river crossing, however Lowestoft Town Council have objected to this proposal and put forward a different name for consideration.
3. Cabinet is asked to make a decision on naming of this proposed road.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Kirkley & Pakefield
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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Steve Gallant – Leader of the Council
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<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Sandra Lewis Business Solutions Manager 01394 444205 sandra.lewis@eastssuffolk.gov.uk
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 East Suffolk Council (ESC) is the street naming and numbering authority for all streets/properties in East Suffolk, under Sections 64 and 65 of The Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 and Sections 17, 18 and 19 of The Public Health Act 1925.
- 1.2 All proposals for new street names and property numbers or changes of street or property name must be approved by ESC. This is usually done under delegated powers within the Street Naming and Numbering function by the Gazetteer Officer, in consultation with the relevant bodies – usually the appropriate Town or Parish Council and the developer of the road/area.
- 1.3 With the proposal of the third crossing in Lowestoft, there will be a new access road to serve the Riverside business area. Please note; this report is related to the access road only, shown below, and not the bridge itself. Suffolk County Council are proposing to hold a local competition to name the bridge.



- 1.4 In this case, the proposed name of the access road marked above has been put forward by the previous district council – Waveney District Council. The proposal is to name the road after an ex-leader of Waveney District Council, the late Colin Law.
- 1.5 Lowestoft Town Council is a consultee on these matters with the decision-making authority remaining with ESC. Consultation with Lowestoft Town Council has taken place, their response was to put forward a different proposal, to name the road after a local World War II veteran, Dorothy Dallimer, awarded for her vital civilian work as a telephone supervisor at Lowestoft Post Office, which was carried out in “very much an active war setting” during World War II.
- 1.6 Under usual circumstances, negotiation would take place between the interested parties to reach a mutual decision on the street name. As we have not been able to reach an agreement between Lowestoft Town Council and East Suffolk Council, this matter must

be decided by Cabinet, particularly as the original proposal of naming the street came from Waveney District Council.

## 2 ESC STREET NAMING PROTOCOL

- 2.1 There are certain protocols we adhere to when naming streets, these are clearly shown on our website and outlined below:

All new street names will end with a terminal word such as:

<b>Road</b>	<b>Lane</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>Avenue</b>	<b>Gardens</b>	<b>Drive</b>	<b>Way</b>

Certain suffixes are only used in certain circumstances:

- **Crescent** - Crescent shaped road only.
- **Close** - Cul-de-sac only.
- **Square** - Square only.
- **Hill** - Hill only.
- **Terrace** - Terrace of houses but not a subsidiary name within another road.
- **Mews** - Converted stables in a courtyard or lane but would be considered acceptable for most small terraced developments.

Pedestrian routes only will be named as:

<b>Walk</b>	<b>Path</b>	<b>Way</b>
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### Naming protocols

The following considerations should be given for all new street/property names:

- If a name refers to a person or event, there should be a connection to the area.
- The names of living people should not be used in order to avoid the possibility of any future negative publicity.
- If family names (of deceased persons only) are to be considered, permission must be obtained from any living relatives before submitting the name for consultation.
- Names which follow a theme (usually in developments with several new roads) should reflect the history or environment.
- Names which are difficult to pronounce or spell should not be used.
- Names which may be deemed offensive in terms of race, faith/religion, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or are inappropriate language must not be used.
- Street names or building names should not duplicate existing names, especially if they fall within the same postcode sector. A postcode sector is identified by the first character of the second part of a postcode e.g. IP12 2\*\*
- Phonetically similar names should be avoided e.g. having Churchill Close then creating new road named as Birch Hill Close.
- If a road is split, e.g. in case of stopping up order, the separate parts of the road should have different names. This is to avoid situations such as the emergency services entering the road from the wrong end.
- The use of street names which include numbers which can cause confusion, for example, 20 Seven Foot Lane sounds the same as 27 Foot Lane.
- The use of a name with royal connotations. The consent of the Lord Chamberlain's office must be obtained if a name with any reference to the royal family or the use of the word 'royal' is suggested.

- 2.2 The protocols have been followed in relation to both name proposals. As both proposals relate to naming the street after a person, the first naming protocol is particularly

significant, “If a name refers to a person or event, there should be a connection to the area.”

- 2.3 The proposed naming of the street after Colin Law adheres to this protocol. The access road serves the Riverside offices of both the District and County Council, at which he served as Leader of Waveney District Council for six years and a longer period as a Waveney Councillor for the Oulton Broad ward, he also served as a Suffolk County Councillor.
- 2.4 The proposed naming of the street after Dorothy Dallimer also adheres to this protocol, as she played a vital role for Lowestoft during World War II. Miss Dallimer was born in St Margaret’s, Lowestoft, on December 1, 1889. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in October 1941, “for her bravery in maintaining an efficient telephone service during periods of constant danger, while raids were targeting the port and the naval establishments.”

### **3 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?**

- 3.1 This is a statutory function on which a decision needs to be made.

### **4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial or governance implications.

### **5 OTHER KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 This report has been prepared having taken into account the results of an Equality Impact Assessment, there is no impact on any of the characteristic groups assessed.

### **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Lowestoft Town Council have been consulted on the proposed street name, objecting as outlined in this report and submitting a different name for consideration. The reasons stated by Lowestoft Town Council for objecting to the proposed name by the District Council are:

“It is not understood why there is a deviation from the protocol on road naming which states that names of the recently deceased should not be used. The Town Council is also disappointed that so few roads are named after women in the town. In the event that a decision is made to use the name Colin Law Road, the Council would urge the District Council to rename the road to the bridge on the south side, currently known as Riverside Road, Dorothy Dallimer Drive. Additionally, the Town Council considers that the Post Office should be named Dorothy Dallimer House in rightful recognition of this significant woman to Lowestoft’s history.”

The first sentence in the statement submitted by Lowestoft Town Council is incorrect, our protocol does not state that we should not use names of the recently deceased. Currently there are no proposals to rename Riverside Road, we will also need to understand the outcome of the Suffolk County Council process on naming of the new bridge which will be taken into consideration and future discussions will take place with Lowestoft Town Council on this matter.

- 6.2 Colin Law’s family have been consulted on the proposed street name and have given permission for a street to be named after the late Colin Law.

### **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 There is proposed development of the ex-Post Office building in Lowestoft and the

surrounding area, an option would be to consider using the name Dorothy Dallimer in connection with any naming in this area as there is a significant link to the immediate vicinity due to her war efforts whilst working for the Post Office. This is not to be considered in this report and will be dealt with as normal street naming processes once the street naming and numbering for that area is actioned.

## **8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to name the street after Colin Law due to the reasons outlined in paragraph 2.3 above – there is significant connection to the immediate vicinity of the street.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the proposed access road to the Riverside business area (as a result of the proposed third river crossing) be named after Colin Law.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please note that copies of background papers have not been published on the Council's website [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk) but copies of the background papers listed below are available for public inspection free of charge by contacting the relevant Council Department.

Date	Type	Available From
21 May 2019	Equality Impact Assessment	Sandra.lewis@eastsuffolk.gov.uk