

9 March 2022		ITEM: 18
Cabinet		
Petition 557 – Renaming of B1335		
Wards and communities affected: Aveley & Uplands	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Councillor Ben Maney, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport		
Accountable Assistant Director: Julie Nelder - Assistant Director of Highways, Fleet and Logistics		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers - Director of Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Following the implementation of a Naming and Numbering of Streets and Highway Assets Policy in July 2021, a process was created which allowed for the consideration of requests to rename streets or highway assets in memory of deceased individuals.

The Council is in receipt of a Petition which calls on Thurrock Council to rename the B1335 (Aveley bypass) ‘Lance Corporal Nicky Mason Way’. The Petitioner states that they believe it would be a fitting and lasting tribute to Lance Corporal Mason, a former Aveley resident, who gave his life whilst on active duty in Afghanistan on 13 September 2008.

As set out in the above-named Policy all applications received will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and be subject to Cabinet approval.

Ward Members were consulted on the proposal to rename the Bypass. Whilst Ward Members supported the proposal, an objection was received from Aveley Forum.

1. Recommendation(s):

- 1.1 That Cabinet consider renaming the Aveley By-Pass in honour of Lance Corporal Nicky Mason by agreeing one of the suggested names below:

Mason Way
Lance Corporal Mason Way
Mason Road
Lance Corporal Mason Road
Mason Avenue

Lance Corporal Mason Avenue

Or

- 1.2 That Cabinet consider the content of the objection presented by Aveley Forum and acknowledge the Aveley Bypass as an Avenue of Remembrance (in part and where appropriate).**
- 1.3 That Cabinet consider the content of the objection presented by Aveley Forum and agree to name a roundabout after Lance Corporal Nicky Mason.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the Naming and Numbering of Streets and Highway Assets Policy in July 2021. This created a process for requests to rename streets or highway asset in memory of deceased individuals to be considered.
- 2.2 A process was created as the naming of a street or building after a deceased person can generate controversy or have potential consequences at a later stage and should not therefore be sanctioned without due consideration. Therefore, a process was created to ensure due diligence in the decision making process.
- 2.3 The Policy states, the individual must have been born or lived in the locality or must have made a demonstrable contribution to the local community; or they will be an individual of significant national importance. Consent should also be sought from the deceased person's living direct relatives or descendants where possible.
- 2.4 Any submission made will be considered on a case-by-case basis and approval obtained by Cabinet following approval by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways.
- 2.5 In December 2021 the Council received a petition with 234 signatories requesting Thurrock Council to rename the B1335 (Aveley bypass) 'Lance Corporal Nicky Mason Way'. The lead Petitioner states that they believe it would be a fitting and lasting tribute to Lance Corporal Mason, a former Aveley resident, who gave his life whilst on active duty in Afghanistan on 13 September 2008.
- 2.6 The B1335 (Aveley bypass) is a local distributor road feeding through Aveley into South Ockendon and is the prescribed route for all local traffic. There are no fronting registered postal addresses on the B1335. Should the request be granted and the road renamed, there would be no requirement to amend postal addresses. Therefore, should the decision be taken to name the road, there would just be a requirement to erect signage and notify partners as named in the Street Naming and Numbering Policy.

- 2.7 The Policy requires us to consult Ward Members and Aveley Forum. Whilst support was obtained from the local Ward Members, an objection was received by email on 18 January 2022 from the Local Forum. The details of this are contained within the Appendix.

An extract of the poignant elements below:

Objection from Aveley Forum – *“The Forum feels it would be more appropriate to recognise all and not one soldier who has fallen so not to segregate one from all.”*

“In view of this, in the event that the B1335 is considered for renaming, it would perhaps be more appropriate to recognise all fallen soldiers in our community by naming it as an Avenue of Remembrance.”

Comments from Resident incorporated into the objection – *“It is easier to direct motorists around the area to say “continue along the B1335” or “along the By-Pass” than to say “continue along the Lance Corporal Nicky Mason Way”*

“To keep the Lance Corporal Nicky Mason name in the public domain, there is already a corner of the Aveley War Memorial Garden dedicated to his memory. So I don’t believe another project needs to be named in the Lance Corporal Mason memory.”

Additional comments from Forum – *“In addition to part of the memorial garden being dedicated to Nicky Mason, there is a further memorial dedicated to Nicky Mason on the High Street the side of Leonard House.”*

“Perhaps a more suitable or alternative option would be to name one of the roundabouts at the entrances to the B1335.”

- 2.8 There has been some consideration by Officers for roads around the borough to be considered as an Avenue of Remembrance should the Authority decided to create one / some and the B1335 has in part only, been considered as a suitable road due to the accessibility of the road and verges.
- 2.9 Should an Avenue of Remembrance be adopted then a plaque and tree could be planted in dedication to Lance Corporal Mason along with others who have fallen during active duty. This would then provide a focal point for remembrance and respects to be paid.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Under the Naming and Numbering of Streets and Highway Assets Policy ‘ROAD’ is considered to be used on any thoroughfare or ‘WAY’ on any major route. The use of ‘AVENUE’ is more in line with a residential road (though over time the remaining land to the north could succumb to residential developments so in advance of this we could consider using Avenue.

- 3.2 Is also needs to be considered, that if named, the new name needs to be succinct and memorable whilst still honoring Lance Corporal Nicky Mason. Therefore, the following are suggested names should it be deemed acceptable to rename the road.

Mason Way
Nicky Mason Way
Lance Corporal Mason Way
Mason Road
Lance Corporal Mason Road
Mason Avenue
Lance Corporal Mason Avenue

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 As the renaming of the B1335 does not affect any existing postal addresses and does not affect any future aspiration or planned use for the B1335, it is possible to name the B1335 Aveley Bypass should the preference of Cabinet be to grant the Petitioner's request. The comments within the objection are considered to be reasonable and Cabinet is therefore requested to consider and determine the most appropriate recommendation.
- 4.2 Should it be decided to rename the road then we would advise to consider **Lance Corporal Mason Way** which is more in keeping with the road in its present status than Avenue.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 As required by the Policy consent has been sought from Lance Corporal Nicky Mason's direct descendent Dennis Mason (Father) who has supported the proposal for the road name change, although direct discussion on the preferred name has not taken place.
- 5.2 Ward Members have been consulted and support the proposal
- 5.3 The Forums' comments are contained above.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 This report and recommendations comply with Thurrock Council's policies, priorities and community impact.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Management Accountant

The only additional cost is expected to be the provision of a street name plate which would be met from the existing Highways revenue budgets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**
Governance Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Under Schedule 14 of the Local Government Act 1972, paragraphs 23, all provisions of the Public Health Acts (PHA) 1875 to 1925 apply throughout England and Wales, subject to specified exceptions. Thurrock Council has the power under the above to approve or reject property addresses submitted by developers or the general public. This power extends to both domestic and commercial properties as defined in the following provisions of the Public Health Act 1925.

Section 18 Enables the Council to alter both the name of a street as well as provide a name to an un-named road. The Council does not have a statutory obligation to amend an existing premise's name or number in line with property owners wishes as such this is a discretionary service.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities

There are no diversity and equality implications arising from the report.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e., Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

NA

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Petition 557 – Rename the B1335

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1: Aveley Forum objection

Report Author

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Public Realm