

Report for: 30 July 2020 Corporate Committee

Title: Information Report: Potential Renaming of Black Boy Lane

Report authorised by: Emma Williamson, Assistant Director for Planning, Building Standards and Sustainability

Lead Officer: Jonathan Unger; Local Land Charges & Property Gazetteer Manager; x1791 (jonathan.unger@haringey.gov.uk)

Ward(s) affected: St Ann's

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1. This report sets out the Council's proposed approach to the potential renaming of Black Boy Lane. The report seeks to inform the Committee of the process and the timetable.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1. To note and endorse the proposed approach to the renaming of Black Boy Lane.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1. On 9 June 2020 the Mayor of London [announced a Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm](#) to review and improve the diversity across London's public realm to ensure the capital's landmarks suitably reflect London's achievements and diversity:

"The Commission will focus on increasing representation among Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, women, the LGBTQ+ community and disability groups. London is one of the most diverse cities in the world, with more than 300 languages spoken every day, yet statues, plaques and street names largely reflect Victorian Britain – as highlighted by recent Black Lives Matter protests."

4.2. As a result of the Black Lives Matter movement and protests, residents of Haringey have raised concerns that this street name is not appropriate and have called on the council to consider changing the name of the street. This is a response to those requests.

4.3. On 12 June 2020 the Leader of Haringey Council [announced a Review of Monuments, Building, Place and Street Names in Haringey](#):

“If we are to truly demonstrate our commitment and solidarity with the aims of the Black Lives Matter movement, we must seriously address these issues... Street names such as Black Boy Lane may have a more contested history, but we cannot ignore the fact that meaning change over time, and the term Black Boy is now used most commonly as a derogatory name for African heritage men. As a borough, everything we do must be a reflection of our values and to do this we must not shy away from correcting the mistakes of the past. This is why we will be working with our residents, BAME communities and organisations, and experts to understand the history of our street names and other memorials, to understand their true meaning and reflect on whether or not they are appropriate for our society today.”

4.4. The Council’s current [Street and Building Naming and Numbering Policy](#) is available on the Council’s website and is provided as Appendix 1. The existing process for renaming streets is not currently set up to deal with whole street renaming. It is predominantly set up to deal with:

- Building and street naming of new developments; and
- Renaming / renumbering of an individual property or a small number of properties.

4.5. Specifically, the policy:

- States that “Renaming/renumbering of existing buildings and streets is normally only considered when changes occur which give rise (or are likely to give rise) to problems for the occupiers, Post Office or emergency services”.
- Follows London Fire Brigade guidance and conforms to the Data Entry Conventions and British Standards 7666 - which sets out best practice of how streets and properties should be formally addressed.

4.6. [Corporate Committee on 20 September 2018](#) did consider a report regarding the renaming of Town Hall Approach Road to New Windrush Gardens but this was not taken forward due to the costs involved, as reported at [Corporate Committee on 3 December 2018](#).

4.7. Therefore, the proposed approach and process set out in this report is required to fill any gaps in the existing policy on renaming of a street, such as the potential renaming of Black Boy Lane.

4.8. GeoPlace (the Statutory body that governs both the street and property (building) name records across England and Wales) is currently looking into publishing guidance on building and street re-naming in response to recent demands. Initial national draft guidance is expected shortly.

4.9. The Greater London Authority may also publish / coordinate some London-wide good practice guidance on building and street re-naming, as part of the Mayor's new Commission.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1. This report sets out the proposed approach to the potential renaming of Black Boy Lane. There is the option of only bringing a report to the Committee at the 'notice of intention' / consultation stage of the process. Officers are of the view that a report to the Committee at an earlier stage is preferable as it allows the Committee to have an early appraisal of the process and to have an input.

6. Background information

6.1. One of the street names that has been identified as needing immediate review is your road, Black Boy Lane. Meanings change over time, and the term "Black Boy" is now used most commonly as a derogatory name for African heritage men.

National Legislation

6.2. The relevant legislation and Council powers relating to street renaming are set out in section 8 Legal comments.

Voluntary payments

6.3. Whilst the Council is unlikely to be legally liable to pay compensation to those affected by any street name change the Council considers that it may be appropriate to make a small payment in recognition of potential disruption.

6.4. The Council also has a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to consider the impacts of a decision on protected groups. Through an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on any decision to rename a street the Council may conclude that to mitigate any negative impacts on protected groups, some form of voluntary payments could be made to those affected, and support provided. If it is proposed at a later date that the Council proceed with a change to the name of Black Boy Lane, this will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment that will be published alongside relevant committee papers.

6.5. The Council acknowledges that residents and businesses will be inconvenienced and may have concerns in having to change addresses. Potential impacts are as follows:

- Addresses linked with accounts for online shopping etc.
- Utility companies e.g. internet, telephone, electric, gas, water
- Bank accounts
- Mortgages
- Credit ratings
- Insurance: home, contents, etc
- NHS / GP / hospital / pharmacy information

- Tenancy agreements, deposit agreements etc
- Internet shopping / delivery addresses
- Businesses / self-employed – Companies House, websites, stationery, business accounts, invoices, contracts

6.6. It should be noted that Royal Mail has confirmed that the post code will not change as a result of any street renaming.

6.7. The Council will publish more detailed information about any voluntary payments, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and provide a support resource in due course.

Proposed approach and timescales

6.8. The proposed approach to the potential renaming of Black Boy Lane and the approximate timescales are set out below (subject to change):

- July 2020 – Information letter to residents and businesses on Black Boy Lane
- 30 July 2020 – Corporate Committee information report – this report
- September / October 2020 – Non-statutory informal consultation on 2x possible street names (which meet the Policy requirements)
- October / November 2020 – informal consultation responses analysed
- 3 December 2020 – Corporate Committee report for decision to undertake the required statutory ‘notice of intention’ / consultation on the street name change
- December 2020 / January 2021 – At least 1 month statutory ‘notice of intention’ / consultation
- January 2021 – Consultation responses analysed
- 4 February 2021 – Corporate Committee to consider the outcome of consultation and make a decision to change the street name, with a later effect date to be determined
- February 2021 – Notify residents and businesses of the decision and the effect date
- Spring 2021 – Continued information provided to residents and businesses regarding any voluntary payments, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and a support resource.
- Spring 2021 – Effect date

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1. The Borough Plan’s Equality Principles state “Haringey Council is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity, fairness and quality of life for all, both in terms of how we work with the community and in our role as an employer”.

7.2. The Borough Plan’s People Priority has a vision for “a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live

well and achieve their potential". The People Priority states we will "tackle the barriers that disproportionately affect the independence, health and wellbeing of some residents, using a social model to tackling disadvantage that looks at the systemic and other barriers that can prevent people from, achieving their potential". The Priority also states "we will work alongside local communities in confronting challenges early and in building cohesive, supportive and connected communities which nurture, project and support all residents".

7.3. Outcome 5 of the People Priority is for "Happy childhood: all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family and in our community". Objective 5d) states "Children will grow up free from violence and fear of violence in the community wherever they live in the borough".

7.4. Outcome 8 of the People Priority is for "Strong communities where people look out and care for one another". Objective 8c) "Caring and cohesive communities which can offer support" states we will "Develop multi-agency approaches to tackle and reduce Hate Crime based on a zero tolerance approach: crime targeted at people because of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity".

7.5. Outcome 11 of the Place Priority is for "A culturally engaged place" includes objective a/b) to "Foster a strong and diverse cultural offer". It states we will "Celebrate what is distinctive about Haringey so that our residents are inspired to take part in the great culture on their doorstep and attract visitors from across London and beyond to join us".

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance

8.1. The report seeks approval of the proposed approach to the potential renaming of Black Boy Lane. This approach involves residents' consultation to households and businesses

8.2. Subject to a positive outcome of this consultation, there will be further cost implication such as cost of replacing street name plates, bus stop changes, voluntary payments etc.

8.3. The costs of the consultation will be met from existing budgets and depending on the outcome of this proposal any further costs will need to be quantified and funding sources will need to be identified.

Procurement

N/A

Legal

- 8.4. The Council has the power to rename streets and roads in the borough. Under Part II Section 6 of the London Building Acts (Amendment) 1939, the Council may by order substitute the name of any street, way, place, row of houses or block of buildings with any name they think fit. The 1939 Act is a Local Act and a local choice function. Under the Council's constitution, the function is a non-executive function allocated to the Corporate Committee.
- 8.5. The Council is required to consult on the proposed change. Before making an order, the Council shall (at their option) either: post notice of their intention in some conspicuous position in the street way or place or adjacent to the row of houses or block of buildings; or give notice of their intention by circular delivered at every building situated in the street way or place or forming part of the row of houses or block of buildings (s.6(2) 1939 Act).
- 8.6. Every notice must state how and when (allowing at least 1 month) objections to the intended order may be sent to the Council (s.6(3) 1939 Act).
- 8.7. The Council must consider any objections before making the order. The Council may amend any name they propose to assign having regard to any objection (s.6(3) 1939 Act).
- 8.8. The proposed approach to the renaming of Black Boy Lane set out in this report meets the statutory requirement.

Equality

- 8.9. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 8.10. The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 8.11. The report recommends noting of the proposed approach to the renaming of Black Boy Lane in St Ann's ward. The reasons for the proposed approach to rename the road reflect the Council's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and arise from an anti-racist social movement. A renaming that results from the proposed approach may be considered a measure to foster a community that shares these values. As such, a renaming may be a step towards fostering good relations within the community between people who

share the protected characteristic of race and ethnicity and white British residents.

- 8.12. The proposed approach includes extensive consultation. In order to meet the Council's public sector equality duty this consultation will be inclusive of all residents and reasonable adjustments will be made to this end. These may include, but will not be limited to, publication of information in a range of formats, use of multiple channels to gather views of residents, and making translation available on request. Officers will be required to analyse and report consultation responses objectively. If consultation reveals any potential for indirect discrimination based on any of the protected characteristics, the Council will be obliged to consider measures that may prevent or mitigate any such impact.

Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Guidelines for street and building naming and numbering

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985