

Important: Consultation on street renaming

[Fname] [Sname],
Add1
Add2
Tottenham
London [Pcode]

27th October 2020

Dear [Fname] [Sname],

RE: Renaming of “Black Boy Lane”

I am writing to you in relation to the proposal to change the name of your street. Some of your neighbours have already responded to the letters that I sent in July and in September. However, I now understand that not all residents saw those letters. This has led to some concerns and confusion about the process, its implications and how you can have your say. I am sorry that this is the case, and hence I am writing to you again in order to clarify some of these matters. I am also enclosing a copy of the original letter sent in September for your information.

As residents of “Black Boy Lane”, I would be surprised if you were unaware of how difficult and uncomfortable that many Haringey residents feel about the name of your street.

Haringey Council believes that the names of our monuments, buildings, places and streets must reflect the values and diversity that we are so proud of in the borough. Meanings change overtime, and the term “Black Boy” is now most commonly used as a derogatory name for men of African heritage.

The truth is, that if we were naming the street now, we would not be calling it “Black Boy” Lane, and irrespective of the historical reasons behind naming it more than a century ago, as a community, as a society, we have to ask whether it remains an appropriate street name now.

Haringey Council completely understands the very practical concerns that some residents may have about the inconvenience a name change may cause. However, I want to reassure you, in particular, of the following:

- Haringey Council will notify as many organisations as we can on your behalf, including Royal Mail, the national address database, Veolia, Thames Water, the Land Registry and others. We will compile a full list of these in due course and share it with you.
- Your postcode and house number will not change. Therefore, there should be no interruption to your post, even if not all those companies that normally write to you are immediately notified.

- Should residents have issues with individual providers or companies they will be able to show a copy of the final Street Naming and Numbering Order document – an official document that will be provided to each household.
- The Council will provide practical help and support during the name change process including ‘pro-forma’ documents and **a named person** that residents can speak to if they are facing any difficulties or need any particular support.
- A change in the name of the street will not affect any resident’s immigration status. Any resident with a visa or who is in the process of applying for one will be able to make a change to their address online and there is no charge for doing so.
- Residents will be provided with a financial payment, to compensate residents for their inconvenience. It is important to say at this stage that we do not recognise the figure of £3,000 per household, however we will confirm the exact amount of financial support that will be paid to residents, shortly, once we understand the costs that residents would incur, though we believe it will more than cover any costs you may incur.

In addition, to this there is an updated Frequently Asked Questions list at the end of this letter.

I understand that some residents are concerned that the current consultation is the only chance they have to express a view. This is not the case.

When the proposed name change was first raised, we had a number of names proposed, including from residents. We believed – considering the current motivator for change was the Black Lives Matter Movement – that it was appropriate to rename the street after a black person whose life deserved recognition. A number of suggestions were made, and these were checked with the London Fire Brigade (as is required) and also at a meeting of St Ann’s and West Green Councillors.

The current informal consultation with residents is on *choosing an alternative name*.

There will be a statutory formal consultation at the end of the year, asking residents for their view on *whether* to change the name to the chosen alternative name or not.

I recognise that undertaking the consultation in these stages may have given the impression that this was the only opportunity to share your views. We simply wanted to get residents views on potential alternatives, before launching a formal consultation on the principle of the change.

As some residents may not yet have had the chance to express a view on the proposed alternative road names yet, I am extending this part of the consultation until Monday 9th November.

You can respond to this consultation online at www.haringey.gov.uk/renaming-black-boy-lane. Alternatively, if you wish to submit comments by email or telephone, please contact bblconsultation@haringey.gov.uk or call our Street Naming and Numbering Team on 020 8489 3797 and we will respond to your queries.

You can also send written submissions in response to the consultation. Letters should be addressed to Consultation Co-ordinator, The Communications Team, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London, N22 8HQ.

As I am sure you already know, the two names being considered are 'Jocelyn Barrow Lane' and 'La Rose Lane'.

Dame Jocelyn Anita Barrow (15 April 1929 – 9 April 2020) was a Barbadian/Trinidadian British educator, community activist and politician, who was the Director for UK Development at Focus Consultancy Ltd. She was the first Black woman to be a governor of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and was founder and Deputy Chair of the Broadcasting Standards Council.

John La Rose (27 December 1927 – 28 February 2006) was a publisher, poet and essayist. He founded the Caribbean Artists' Movement and publishing company New Beacon Books which has a bookshop in Stroud Green. In 1975, he co-founded the Black Parents Movement from the core of the parents involved in the George Padmore Supplementary School incident in which a young Black schoolboy was beaten up by the police outside his school in Haringey.

In order to engage further with you on this important topic and to give you an opportunity to share your questions with me directly, I am also organising an on-line meeting for the residents of the Lane on Thursday 12th November 6.30-7.30pm. If you would like to join in the meeting please email Leader@haringey.gov.uk and we will send you the link and instructions for joining.

I understand that changing the name of your street may cause some inconvenience, however, I hope that you will agree that we simply cannot ignore historical decisions that are now inappropriate in today's world.

Together, we can create a borough that reflects our amazing communities, and a street with a name that you, your families and communities can be proud of.

I appreciate your support and understanding on this matter and look forward to meeting some of you soon.

Regards,



Cllr Joseph Ejiofor
Leader of the Council

FAQs – Renaming of “Black Boy Lane”

Background

1. What are the timescales?

The planned timescale is as follows:

Informal consultation on two alternative street names i.e. ‘Jocelyn Barrow Lane’ and ‘La Rose Lane’ for 6 weeks from Monday 28th September to Monday 9th November 2020.

November 2020 – We will analyse your responses to the consultation which will inform the chosen new street name

Late 2020 – Decision by the Council’s Corporate Committee on whether to progress to changing the name or not. If the Committee decides to progress, it will decide to undertake the formal statutory consultation on the chosen new street name

Late 2020 / early 2021 – Notification of, and formal statutory consultation on, the chosen new street name

Early 2021 – Council final decision on whether to change to the chosen new name or not

Spring 2021 – Effect date of the new name

The Council will keep residents informed throughout the process

Once completed, Haringey Council will provide each household with a copy of the Street Naming and Numbering Order as official proof of the change to use when updating your details, and we will also offer additional practical support to residents including a named council officer to contact.

2. Where can I find guidance on the Street & Building Naming & Numbering process?

You can find our current Street Naming & Numbering guidance on our website by visiting <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-streets/street-and-building-naming-and-numbering/guidelines-street-and-building-naming-and-numbering>

If you cannot access the Internet, then please contact the Street Naming & Numbering Team on 020 8489 3797 and we will be happy to discuss the process with you.

3. Where can I find out more information on the Council’s review on building place and street names in Haringey?

You can find the statement from the Leader of Haringey Council on our website, www.haringey.gov.uk/leader-names-review or you can email bblconsultation@haringey.gov.uk for more information or with any queries you have.

4. Will I need to inform Royal Mail of the change to the street name?

No. The Council will inform all relevant stakeholders, including (but not limited to), Council Tax, Waste Collection (Veolia), London Fire Brigade and Royal Mail of the address change. Because your postcode won't change, a change in the road name, should not affect any letters or parcels sent via Royal Mail.

5. Will I need to inform my bank, mortgage, insurance, health, employment, utility companies, Companies House and other organisations such as HM Passport Office etc. of the street name change?

Yes, you will need to inform some of these organisations yourself. However, the Council will inform as many as we can. Also, many organisations use the National Address database and so your details would be automatically updated. Unfortunately, we cannot inform all organisations and residents will have to do some of this themselves. We will provide model letters for residents to fill in and send and also copies of the official name change Order, which will be proof of the name change.

We will ensure you have plenty of notice before any name change takes effect. The Council's change to the street name will be updated on a national Address Database and most companies use this database and will show the new street name shortly after this. Please note that some companies might use older address information and may not update this regularly.

Should you have issues with some providers you can show them a copy of the final Street Naming and Numbering Order to help alleviate this.

6. Will the Council reimburse me for the cost of updating my information with organisations?

In most cases there isn't a cost to updating your address details. However, the council will make a voluntary payment per household to contribute to any costs that may arise from this process. The details of this are still being worked on to ensure it is an appropriate amount. We will confirm this as soon as possible.

7. Will there be new street name plates?

Yes, the Council will provide replacement street name plates, showing the new name once the street name has been approved and the Order produced. The Council will also inform Transport for London of the change and be responsible for making sure that TfL update all their relevant information, including nearby bus stops.

8. Will I need to update my title deeds with HM Land Registry?

No, the Council will also contact HM Land Registry to provide them with an update so that your title deeds and any other information held by them will be updated to reflect the new street name.

9. Will this affect my residency or UK Visa?

At the point at which any change in road name takes effect, if you have previously applied or are in the process of applying for a UK visa, you may need to update your address as part of your application. Haringey Council will provide a Street Naming and Numbering

Order as official proof of the change to use when updating your details, and any other practical support to do this. This can be done online and there is no cost.

10. How much will it cost the council to change the name?

The process is being managed within existing resources. There are some direct costs of changing the street plates and for printing and posting letters to residents but these costs total less than £10,000. The most significant cost will be the payments to residents. Once the amount of this payment has been fixed we will be able to provide an estimate of total costs.

11. Has Haringey Council completed an equality impact risk assessment on the name change to Black Boy Lane and, if so, may I be provided with a copy please?

We have not completed an equality impact assessment so far. This will be completed ahead of the formal consultation planned for the end of the year and will be publicly available.

12. Why were the previous letters not address to residents directly?

Due to data protection rules the Council is not allowed to use data we hold on residents for other purposes eg Council Tax information, to write to you about unrelated matters. This time we have used data from the Electoral Register, which is publicly available, and from your correspondence with us on this topic to put together a list of residents.

13. Why didn't the consultation ask us if we want to change the name?

The current informal consultation on an alternative name, is simply the first step in the consultation process with residents. There will be a further formal consultation at the end of the year, asking residents for their view on whether to change the name to the chosen alternative or not. We recognise that undertaking the consultation in two stages may have given the impression that this was the only opportunity to share your views. We simply wanted to get residents views on potential alternatives, before launching a formal consultation on the principle of the change.

14. Is there a way to take part in the consultation for people who do not have internet access?

If you wish to submit comments by telephone, please contact our Street Naming and Numbering Team on 020 8489 3797 and we will respond to your queries.

You can also send written submissions in response to the consultation. Letters should be addressed to Consultation Co-ordinator, The Communications Team, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London, N22 8HQ.

15. Will it cost me £3000 to make all the necessary changes to my address details?

No. Most organisations and companies allow customers to change contact details for free for instance the DVLA change driving licence details free of charge when you inform them of an address change. The Council will inform as many organisations as possible on your behalf.

16. I'm told utility companies buy address lists from the Royal Mail. Will the Council inform Royal Mail for us?

Yes.