

Councillors vote for more control over local street naming

Since the creation of a Unitary Council in April 2009 the responsibility for Street Naming and Numbering, previously managed by North Wiltshire District Council, now rests with Wiltshire Council.

A consultation was carried out in 2010 in order to ascertain whether a change of policy would be beneficial and Parish and Town Councils were contacted for their views. Wootton Bassett Town Councillors are strongly in favour of having more involvement in street naming and the results of the consultation, which closed in October 2010, show that this view is largely shared, with 65.9% of local councils responding similarly.

In a proposal presented in December last year, Wiltshire Council was asked to consider approving an amendment to the current policy allowing a 'pre-application process' to be applied. If adopted, this would allow Parish and Town Councils to agree street names with applicants or developers before a formal application is submitted to Wiltshire Council.

Legislation demanding that any objections raised regarding street naming be handled by Wiltshire Council within one month would not be affected.

"We look forward to working in partnership with Wiltshire Council," says Wootton Bassett's Town Clerk, Johnathan Bourne, "and providing suggestions for new street names inspired by the history and character of the town."

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