

London Building Act (Amendment) Act 1939 Part II

Guidelines on street naming and numbering in the London Borough of Southwark



The following policy guidelines have been established and followed over many years by the London Fire Brigade the Royal Mail and Southwark Council.

1. Naming streets and buildings



- 1.1 New street names should not duplicate any similar name already in use within the borough or neighbouring borough e.g. Lambeth, Lewisham or Bromley (check areas near boundary roads and post code book/) A variation in the terminal word e.g. Street/Road etc. should not be accepted as sufficient reason to duplicate a name.
- 1.2 Street names should not be difficult to pronounce or awkward to spell. Words of more than three syllables should be avoided and this includes the use of two words except in special cases.
- 1.3 Subsidiary names such as a row of buildings within an already named road being called terrace should only be used in roads of a short length.

1.4 All street names should end with one of the following suffixes.

Street	for any thoroughfare
Road	for any thoroughfare
Way	for major roads
Avenue	for residential roads
Drive	for residential roads
Grove	for residential roads
Lane	for residential roads
Gardens	subject to there being no confusion with any local open space
Place	subject to there being no confusion with any local open space
Crescent	for a crescent shape road only
Close	for a cul de sac only
Square	for a square only
Hill	for a hill side road only
Circus	for a large roundabout
Vale	for residential roads (for exceptional use)
Dene	as above
Rise	as above
Mead	as above
Row	as above
Wharf	as above
Mews	as above



- 1.5 **Non acceptable suffixes.**
End, Court, Cross, Side, View, Walk, Park, Meadow.

All these words may be used if they are incorporated in a street name provided it terminates with an appropriate suffix e.g. Mile End Road.

Exceptions:

Single or dual names without suffixes in appropriate places e.g. Broadway for major roads only



- 1.6 All new pedestrian ways should end with one of the following
Walk
Path
Way
- 1.7 No street or building name to start with (the)
e.g. The Elms The Oaks

- 1.8 All new building names should end with one of the following
- Lodge
 - Apartments
 - Mansions
 - House
 - Court Residential only
 - Point High block residential only
 - Tower High block offices or residential only
 - Heights High block offices or residential only

1.9 For private houses it is sufficient that the name should not repeat the name of the road or that of any other house or building in the area.

1.10 The use of North, East, South, West (as in Alfred Road North and Alfred Road South) is only acceptable where the road is continuous and passes over a major junction. It is unacceptable when the road is in two separate parts with no vehicular access between the two. In such a case half should be re named.

1.11 You must avoid having two phonetically similar names within a postal area and if possible within the Borough, e.g. Alfred Road and Alfred Close or Churchill Street Burch Hill Street.

2. The numbering of streets and buildings.



- 2.1 A new street should be numbered with even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the other, except for a cul de sac which should have consecutive numbering in a clockwise direction.
- 2.2 Private garages and similar buildings used for housing cars etc, should not be numbered.
- 2.3 There will be NO sanction given to the avoidance of any numbers i.e. 13 or 4 etc. and a proper sequence must be maintained.
- 2.4 Buildings including those on the corner sites are numbered according to the street in which the main entrance is to be found. The manipulation of numbering in order to secure a prestige address, or to avoid an address which is thought to have undesired associations, or to increase the market value of the property, will not be sanctioned.
- 2.5 If a building has entrances in more than one street but it is a multi occupied building and each entrance leads to a separate occupier, then each entrance should be numbered in the appropriate road. Exceptions may be made, depending on the circumstances, for a house divided into flats.

- 2.6 A named building may not have more than one number in one street.
- 2.7 In residential buildings e.g. blocks of flats it is usual to give a street number to each dwelling where the block is up to six storeys in height. When the block exceeds this height, or there are not sufficient street numbers available because of existing development, it should be given a name and or number in the street.

All internal flats numbers must be numbered in a clockwise direction where this is possible, or from left to right, or you should consult with the local District Postmaster.

When flats are numbered internally they should be numbered not lettered e.g. Flat 2 21 Smith Street.

- 2.8 The London Building Act (Amendment) Act 1939 permits the use of numbers followed by letters or fractions (section 11 (2)). These are needed, for instance, when one large old house in a road is demolished and replaced by four smaller houses. To include the new houses in the numbered sequence would involve renumbering all the higher numbered houses on that side of the road.

To avoid a large number of other higher numbered houses being affected each new house should be given the number of the old house followed by A, B, C, and D.

Fractions can only be used if it is not possible to assign a letter.

E.g. 59 1/2 Southwark Street

3. Re naming or renumbering of streets & buildings



Renaming or renumbering of existing street and buildings is normally only considered when changes occur which give rise (or are likely to give rise) to problems for the occupiers, The Royal Mail, and Emergency Services etc.

4. Duty of care

Before we consider any application for a name change you **MUST** obtain the owners permission. Any application received without this permission will not be accepted.

The development management and building control business unit administers the street naming and numbering duties.

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