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| Subject: | Proposal for dual language street signs |
| Date: | 9 th January, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control |
| Contact Officer: | Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Roisin Adams, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2454 |

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| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted. | |
| Insert number <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime | |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sometime in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1.1 | To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for seven existing streets within the city. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.0 | Recommendation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at, Mount Eagles Glen, Emersons Lane, Dunblane Avenue, Floral Gardens, Cardigan Drive, Thornberry Road and Mill Valley Road | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.0 | Main Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | <p><u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a dual language street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.3 | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th> <th>Non- English Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Persons surveyed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mount Eagles Glen, BT17</td> <td>Gleann Chnocán na nIolar</td> <td>Off Mount Eagles Park, BT17</td> <td>185</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emersons Lane, BT14</td> <td>Lána Emerson</td> <td>Off Wolfhill Link, BT14</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dunblane Avenue, BT14</td> <td>Ascaill Dhún Bhláthain</td> <td>Off Oldpark Road, BT14</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floral Gardens, BT36</td> <td>Na Gairdíní Bláthacha</td> <td>Off Whitewell Road, BT36</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardigan Drive, BT14</td> <td>Céide Chairdeagain</td> <td>Off Cliftonville Road, BT14</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thornberry Road, BT14</td> <td>Bóthar Thornberry</td> <td>Off Mill Avenue, BT14</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mill Valley Way, BT14</td> <td>Bealach Ghleann an Mhuilinn</td> <td>Off Mill Valley Road, BT14</td> <td>124</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | English Name | Non- English Name | Location | Persons surveyed | Mount Eagles Glen, BT17 | Gleann Chnocán na nIolar | Off Mount Eagles Park, BT17 | 185 | Emersons Lane, BT14 | Lána Emerson | Off Wolfhill Link, BT14 | 4 | Dunblane Avenue, BT14 | Ascaill Dhún Bhláthain | Off Oldpark Road, BT14 | 63 | Floral Gardens, BT36 | Na Gairdíní Bláthacha | Off Whitewell Road, BT36 | 63 | Cardigan Drive, BT14 | Céide Chairdeagain | Off Cliftonville Road, BT14 | 100 | Thornberry Road, BT14 | Bóthar Thornberry | Off Mill Avenue, BT14 | 84 | Mill Valley Way, BT14 | Bealach Ghleann an Mhuilinn | Off Mill Valley Road, BT14 | 124 |
| English Name | Non- English Name | Location | Persons surveyed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mount Eagles Glen, BT17 | Gleann Chnocán na nIolar | Off Mount Eagles Park, BT17 | 185 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Emersons Lane, BT14 | Lána Emerson | Off Wolfhill Link, BT14 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dunblane Avenue, BT14 | Ascaill Dhún Bhláthain | Off Oldpark Road, BT14 | 63 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Floral Gardens, BT36 | Na Gairdíní Bláthacha | Off Whitewell Road, BT36 | 63 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardigan Drive, BT14 | Céide Chairdeagain | Off Cliftonville Road, BT14 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thornberry Road, BT14 | Bóthar Thornberry | Off Mill Avenue, BT14 | 84 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mill Valley Way, BT14 | Bealach Ghleann an Mhuilinn | Off Mill Valley Road, BT14 | 124 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4 | The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 3.5 | <p>In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.</p> |
| 3.6 | <p>Mount Eagles Glen, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 occupiers (23.78%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (1.62%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 138 occupiers (74.59%) did not respond to the survey. <p>One resident not in support of the dual language sign is concerned about the cost of the signage. Another resident not in support of the dual language sign has advised that they do not speak Irish and that there are a number of nationalities in the community.</p> |
| 3.7 | <p>Emersons Lane, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 occupier (25%) was in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (25%%) had no preference either way. • 2 occupiers (50%) did not respond to the survey. <p>One resident who has no preference either way has suggested that both signs could be incorporated into one sign and perhaps use a local artist for the design.</p> |
| 3.8 | <p>Dunblane Avenue, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 occupiers (39.68%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (3.17%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 36 occupiers (57.14%) did not respond to the survey. <p>Members are asked to note the close proximity of the local Girl's Model school.</p> <p>An objection was received by Cllr Doran during the elected member notification process as follows – "Dunblane Avenue is a mixed and diverse community, and I have strong concerns that the proposal to add an Irish street name to Dunblane Avenue would have a strongly negative impact on community relations within the area". This was brought to Committee who agreed that a survey of occupiers should be carried out.</p> |
| 3.9 | <p>Floral Gardens, BT36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 occupiers (44.44%%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (7.93%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 2 occupiers (3.17%) had no preference either way. • 28 occupiers (44.44%) did not respond to the survey. |
| 3.10 | <p>Cardigan Drive, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 (52%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (5%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 43 occupiers (43%) did not respond to the survey. |

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| | <p>An objection was received by Cllr Doran during the elected member notification process as follows – “Cardigan Drive has a mixed and diverse community in and around it, and I have reservations that the proposal to add an Irish street name to Cardigan Drive would have a negative impact on community relations within and surrounding the area”. This was brought to the committee who agreed that a survey of occupiers should be carried out.</p> |
| 3.11 | <p>Thornberry Road, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 occupiers (16.66%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 5 occupiers (5.95%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1.19%) had no preference either way. • 64 occupiers (76.19%) did not respond to the survey. |
| | <p>Two residents from one household have advised that whilst they are both Irish speakers, they are opposed to a dual language nameplate and object to the low threshold for approval of the signs.</p> |
| 3.12 | <p>Mill Valley Way, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 occupiers (31.45%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 3 occupiers (2.41%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 82 occupiers (66.12%) did not respond to the survey |
| | <p>One resident who is supportive of the dual language street sign would prefer additional bins in the street to cater for the dog mess in the street.</p> |
| | <p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p> |
| 3.13 | <p>The Council’s policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p> |
| 3.14 | <p>All of the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy. However the Committee is reminded that the Council retain a residual discretion under the Policy to decide to erect or not to erect a street sign in a language other than English in certain circumstances. This will be done on a case by case basis.</p> |
| 3.15 | <p>The Policy states that it may be appropriate to depart from the procedures in this Policy when there are clear reasons for doing so. This may include taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the views of the Occupiers of the street; (b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs; (c) consideration of the local context of the application; (d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and (e) all material considerations relating to the application. |
| | <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> |
| 3.16 | <p>There is a cost of approximately £2,900 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> |

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| <p>3.17</p> <p>3.18</p> | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the seven applications being considered identified concerns for both Dunblane Avenue and Cardigan Drive as outlined in sections 3.8 and 3.10 respectively. These were considered by Committee which agreed to the surveys being carried out.</p> |
| <p>4.0</p> | <p>Appendices</p> |
| | <p>None</p> |