Street Naming- Gorebridge

Report by John Blair, Director, Corporate Resources

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to invite the Council to consider changing the Street name “Stobhill Road” Gorebridge

2 Background

Stobhill Road, Gorebridge consists of five properties which date back to the early part of the twentieth century. Residents at this location have, in recent times, experienced considerable difficulty with the delivery of mail; goods and other services due to confusion with Stobhill Road, Gowkshill, notwithstanding that each of the streets has it’s own postcode. Representations have been made to Councillor Muirhead as local member to try and remedy the situation.

The residents of Stobhill Road, Gorebridge have indicated that they do not consider “stobhill road” to be the “natural “ address of these properties but consider the properties should be incorporated into Bonnybank Road, Gorebridge, which reflects the information contained in some title deeds.

3 Council Powers

In terms of Section 97 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 the Council in relation to any street or road to which the public have access may,”after advertising in a newspaper circulating in their area any proposal to alter its name and taking into account any representation thereupon made to them within 28 days after the date of the first publication of the advertisement, alter any such name”.

It is therefore open to the Council to change the name of this street, if it considers it appropriate, having first advertised it’s intention to do so and having taken into account any representations received as a result of the advertisement. Whilst not specifically required by the Act, it is good practice to write to all affected proprietors directly advising them of the Council’s proposals.

4 Effects of Change of Street Name

If the Council ultimately decide to change the street name, then it is also good practice to allow a lead in time before the decision to change the street name is effected. This is normally three months and allows proprietors/residents sufficient time to amend their own records and advise other interested parties (e.g. DVLA; Insurers; employers; banks etc) and also gives other public bodies (e.g. LVJB; Royal Mail) sufficient time and notice to amend their records.
5 Report Implications

5.1 Resource

The Council will need to meet the cost of advertising its intentions, if this is so decided, and ultimately the cost of providing new street nameplates etc, which would be met from existing budgets.

5.2 Risk

The failure to address the issues outlined in paragraph 2 would mean that residents could well continue to face the existing problems.

5.3 Policy

Strategy

This report does not relate to any existing strategy of the Council.

Consultation

No consultations have been carried out in relation to this report and consultation, in effect, would be undertaken, by way of public advertisement.

Equalities

There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

The Council is invited to consider proposals to amend the addresses of those properties in Stobhill Road, Gorebridge and incorporate these into Bonnybank Road, Gorebridge or such other street name it considers appropriate.

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Background Papers: