

FAQ's

What is the Place Names Committee?

The Donegal Place Names Committee has been established by Donegal County Council to assist in the implementation of the Donegal Placenames Policy.

What's in the Place Names Policy?

The objective of this Place Names Policy, adopted by Donegal County Council in December 2006, is to encourage the use of names for new and existing housing developments that make use of the Irish language, which reflect the history, environment and topography of the region, reflect the rich cultural heritage of the County.

What does this mean to me?

If you have recently received planning permission from Donegal County Council for a multi unit housing development a condition has been inserted into your planning permission stating that the housing development shall be named and numbered by the developer in accordance with a written agreement between the developer and the Donegal Placenames Committee.

I have this condition in my Planning Permission, what do I do next?

As early as possible before commencement you should make contact with the Place Names office of Donegal County Council where you will be sent a short application form seeking your proposal for naming and numbering of the scheme. Your proposals will be discussing with you and forwarded to the Place Names Committee for discussion and agreement.

How will I know if I have fulfilled the condition of planning?

Upon agreement of the name and numbering scheme a letter of confirmation will issue to you from the Place Names Office.

Do all names now have to be in Irish?

The objective of the policy is to encourage the use of names for new and existing housing developments that make use of the Irish language, which reflect the history, environment and topography of the region, reflect the rich cultural heritage of the County.

Does the Council now pick the names for the estates?

No, Donegal County Council, through the Place Names Committee, aims to reach a consensus with developers for naming and numbering of new multi unit housing schemes.

Does this mean that all the estate names in the County will be changed?

The policy at the moment will deal in the main with new estates that are being developed.

Does the policy deal with Housing Estates only?

No, the Place Names Committee also have a role in naming other public infrastructure as well.

Does this policy include Council estates as well?

Yes, not only housing schemes but other public infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

Sources of Information on Placenames of Ireland

The Placenames Branch

The primary function of the Placenames Branch in the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the placenames of Ireland and to publish them for official use. The results of the research of the Branch are published in the Liostaí Logainmneacha Series. The Head of the Branch is Secretary of the Placenames Commission (see below). Phone 01 6473000, www.pobail.ie.

The Placenames Commission

An Coimisiún Logainmneacha, which was established in 1946, advises on research into the placenames of Ireland, www.logainm.ie.

Foras na Gaeilge

Foras na Gaeilge is the body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the whole island of Ireland. Details at www.forasnagaeilge.ie

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Údarás na Gaeltachta is responsible for the development and administration of a range of initiatives to support the Irish language and culture within the Gaeltacht areas. Details at www.udaras.ie

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs aim to promote and support the sustainable and inclusive development of communities, both urban and rural, including Gaeltacht and island communities, thereby fostering better regional balance and alleviating disadvantage, and to advance the use of the Irish language.



Donegal County Council Place Names Committee

Community & Enterprise Section
Donegal County Council
Dungloe Public Service Centre
Letterkenny
Co. Donegal

Tel: 074 9561300

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Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council

COISTE LOGAINMNEACHA PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE



A GUIDE TO NAMING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Introduction

Place names are an important aspect of our cultural heritage. They have the ability to communicate the relationship between people and their landscapes and environments in County Donegal.

There are 2,758 townlands in County Donegal and the place names contained within them reflect the natural, built and cultural heritage of these localities and have the ability to convey and complement the County's landscape character.

Today, care needs to be taken when deciding on names for new developments such as housing estates, streets, shopping centres etc. and their associated signage and numbering schemes.

It is important that modern placenames reflect the local topography, history, culture or ecology, such as ancient fields, hills, woods, roads, people, significant events and the importance of the Irish language in the County.

The Donegal Placenames Committee was established in 2007 to assist in the implementation of the Donegal County Council Place Names Policy.



Membership of the Committee

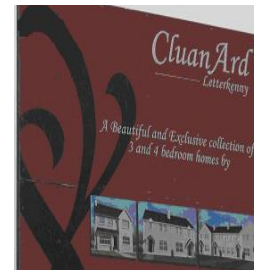
The membership of the Donegal Placenames Committee is drawn from the following sectors:

- Elected Members of Donegal Local Authorities: (Members of Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Town Council, Buncrana Town Council, Bundoran Town Council and Ballyshannon Town Council).
- Placenames experts.
- Statutory Sector.
- Community Sector.

General Guidelines on Naming New Developments

Research into the history, geography and traditions of the area remains the responsibility of the developer. When submitting a new name for approval by the Placenames Committee, please consider the following points:

- Include full details of why the name was chosen, with geographic, historic or other references as appropriate.
- Ensure that the name proposed, or one very similar, is not already in use in the locality
- The use of the name of the townland in which the development is situated, in naming a new developments is strongly encouraged. However, particular care should be taken in this instance to ensure that no duplication of addresses occurs.
- Townland, estate names or other placenames should not be translocated from other parts of the County or the Country. Duplication or translocation of names is undesirable not simply because of the impact this has on the cultural heritage of an area, but also because of the adverse impact it can have on access by emergency services.
- The use of the Irish language is strongly encouraged. However, mixing Irish and English in one name is not considered appropriate. When choosing an Irish name, for example which may describe a geographic feature in the locality, be sure to check the grammar and spelling of each word.
- Using the names of living people or the recently dead will only exceptionally be agreed. If such names are proposed, the Planning Authority will require written acceptance from the named person, the person's family or estate administrators. If the name of a historical figure is used, the name must have local relevance, and the developer should ensure that all parts of the name are spelled correctly.
- Spelling and grammar in English or Irish and correct spelling of proper names should be very carefully checked in the proposed name, and also in any subsequent signposts, plaques or name plates.
- Developers are encouraged to erect interpretive signage explaining the source or derivation of the new place name. This is particularly appropriate in the case of places names after a historical or other locally important person.



Agreement of New Placenames

Upon granting of planning permission for multi unit housing and major infrastructure development a condition of planning requires the developer to agree a naming and numbering scheme with the Donegal Placenames Committee.

As early as possible before commencing a proposed development, developers should make initial contact with the Placenames Committee office, Community & Enterprise Section, Donegal County Council, Dungloe, Co. Donegal.
Tel: 074 9561300 email: placenames@donegalcoco.ie

An application form will be sent to the developer seeking the following information:

Contact Details

Details regarding proposed development.

Three choices for a proposed name and reasons for choice of same.
Proposed numbering scheme for housing development (if applicable)

Upon return of the completed application form an executive of Donegal County Council will meet with the promoter on site to discuss the naming and numbering options.

An Coiste Logainmneacha will make a proposal to accept or reject the proposed naming and numbering scheme.

Upon agreement a letter of confirmation will issue to the developer confirming the name and townland to be used in the development numbering scheme and other details if applicable.

