

Our Vision

'To provide guidance for the naming of new streets and council buildings in Southwark, so that new names chosen are meaningful locally, collaboratively selected and representative of our borough's population. The aim is for this new approach to bring to life the borough's deep and rich history, including our unique places, our diverse communities and our local heroes.'

Southwark Stands Together

In response to the death of George Floyd, a series of world-wide protests, known as the Black Lives Matter movement, sparked conversations over the inequality and injustice faced by black people. In response, in September 2020, the Council agreed the Southwark Stands Together (SST) programme in order to address racism, inequality and injustice.

The SST work programme includes looking at the public realm and how it can be 'renewed and reinvented' so that we positively embed change that celebrates diversity, and that is unashamedly anti-racist in its approach, design and delivery - creating inclusive and diverse places.

To ensure that our built environment celebrates the diversity of our communities, there is a need to review and renew our approach to the naming and re-naming of local streets and buildings, to ensure that they reflect and contribute to the community and the Council's vision for a diverse and inclusive public realm.

Naming Principles

The selection of new names will be based around them meeting the following core requirements:

1. Having a strong connection to Southwark (or at least South East London)
2. Diversity - being representative of the community, including Black And Minority Ethnic role models, especially women, as there is an under representation of women's names in the public realm
3. The positive impact the individual made (how the person enriched people's lives/ how they were inspirational)
4. The person is no longer alive
5. Consideration may also be given to an historic non-person, non-geographical name (add examples)
6. The name is likely to be discounted if there is the possibility of it being muddled with another person with the same name (names could be shared with other people more infamous)

All names that meet key principles outlined above will need to be approved by the Fire Brigade and Post Office, to ensure that they meet safety and operational requirements.

How to propose/select the name

When nominating a person, there are a few considerations that need to be thought about:

- Research your nominee – please ensure you research into the history of the person, ensuring they have no links to the Slave Trade.
- Look through Southwark's Archives
- Local heritage services

To further help when researching the name you wish to nominate, considering the principles above, further information can be found using the following links:

Heritage England

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/propose-a-plaque/>

UCL database also can help with your research into the nominee.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>