**WBCIR:17364**

**I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to know whether the council has changed the names of any roads in the area between 1 May 2020 and 6 October 2023. If so, I would like to know:
a) The former name of the road, and what it was changed to
b) The date the change took place
c) Which stakeholders were consulted regarding the change
d) How many road names have been changed in total**

Please see below table

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Gorse Ride Regeneration Project** | **Town Centre Regeneration** |
| **The former name of the road, and what it was changed to** | As part of the regeneration project, several of the roads will undergo name changes.  These include Firs Close, Dart Close, Orbit Avenue and Billing Avenue.  The new roads will be called **Sunflower Way, Primrose Crescent and Daffodil Drive.** | As part of the Town Centre regeneration project, two new roads were created.  The new roads were called **Biscoe Way and Earle Crescent.** |
| **The date the change took place** | The name changes will take place as each phase of the development completes and the new properties are ready for occupation.   | The roads were completed by March 2019, but opened in phases as the development completed alongside. Earle Crescent was fully opened in June 2021 and Biscoe Way fully opened in February 2023.  |
| **Which stakeholders were consulted regarding the change** | The local schools, residents and local community were asked for suggestions relating to the history, the environment or the local area.  A number of themes were put forwarded by local residents and from the local primary schools.  The information was shared in the newsletter, on social media and at the steering group. A vote was run and the theme of ‘flowers’ was selected.  To tie into the theme of yellow ‘Gorse’ flowers, a number of yellow flower names were considered and shared with the Steering Group.  Five names were selected, of these 2 were disregarded due to spelling difficulty and similarities elsewhere and then the final 3 were checked and approved by Royal Mail.  | The Wokingham Society and Town Council were asked to research and propose names for the new roads based on the history of the site. The names Earle Crescent and Biscoe Way were put forward as names of historic local families who lived in the Elms Dower House at the top of Elms Road. These names were checked and approved by Royal Mail.  |
| **How many road names have been changed in total?** | 4 | 2 new roads created. No road names changed  |

**2. I would also like to know whether the council has removed or relocated any monuments, statues or plaques in the area between 1 May 2020 and 6 October 2023. If so, I would like to know:
a) What the monument/statue represents (e.g. who is it a statue of?) or what is written on the plaque
b) Where it has been moved and where it was previously installed
c) Which stakeholders were consulted regarding the change
d) How many monuments, statues or plaques have been relocated or removed in total**

Please see below table.

We have also been advised two private memorials have been relocated from other cemeteries into our own cemeteries. These have been at the request of individual family members who have purchased new grave spaces.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Redevelopment of Carnival Hub – Leisure Centre and Library** | **Redevelopment of Carnival Hub – Leisure Centre and Library** |
| **What the monument/statue represents (e.g. who is it a statue of?) or what is written on the plaque** | Plaque for the original Carnival Pool time capsule | Mark Tildesley memorial bench (with plaque) |
| **Where it has been moved and where it was previously installed** | The original plaque was located on the outside of the old Leisure Centre in Wokingham.   As part of the redevelopment, the old Leisure Centre was demolished but the original time capsule was dug up and put into a new time capsule. Both time capsules are now located in the Boulevard outside of the Carnival Hub, marked with an engraved slab. | This was removed during the construction of Carnival Hub but relocated in the same position following completion of the works. |
| **Which stakeholders were consulted regarding the change** | Councillors and Officers on the Project Board and Team | Councillors and Officers on the Project Board and Team |
| **How many monuments, statues or plaques have been relocated or removed in total** | 1 | 1 |