



Havelock Road

Have Your Say

Proposed Street Name Change

Public Consultation

Ealing Council

Havelock Road | Proposed Street Name Change

Background

The Mayor of London has recently (9th June) announced a new commission to review and improve diversity across London's public realm. The Mayor's stated aim is to ensure that the capital's landmarks suitably reflect London's achievements and diversity. The Leader of Ealing Council has also announced that our borough will have its own commission on the same theme, here in Ealing.

Ealing is one of the most diverse and multicultural boroughs in the country. The council recognises and values all people and communities and we believe our public realm should reflect this diversity.

Proposals

Ealing is home to the largest Sikh population outside of India and sited within Havelock Road, is the largest Sikh Gurdwara in western Europe. This year marks the 551st anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism. To celebrate and honour this occasion, the council are proposing to change the name of Havelock Road, between King Street and Merrick Road, to Guru Nanak Road or Guru Nanak Way. This will symbolise the huge contribution of our Sikh community and our diversity and unity as a borough.

Who was Guru Nanak?

Guru Nanak was born in Punjab in 1469 and was the founder of the Sikh Religion and the first of the 10 Sikh Gurus. He taught the complete equality of all humans and in his first sermon, he said, *na koi Hindu na koi Muslim*; that is, in God's eyes, there are neither Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sikhs or any other religious groupings. God is not interested in labels, but in the conduct of people. He also taught that all human beings can have direct access to God, with no need of rituals or priests.

Guru Nanak travelled far and wide to spread the message of one God and oneness of all humanity. No distinction is made according to caste, creed, gender, race, ethnicity or financial status but all are enjoined to engage in 'seva' (service), strive for justice, honest conduct and livelihood while living a householder's life. He said Truth is high but higher is truthful living.

Guru Nanak advocated complete equality of women with men in all religious, social, political and economic affairs. At the time of Guru Nanak, and indeed in many parts of the world today, women were and are considered inferior to men. He condemned such attitudes and said, *"In a woman we are conceived, from a woman we are born..... It is through women that society is perpetuated. Why should we call her inferior, who gives birth to kings and rulers?"* Guru Nanak welcomed women to the congregation (sangat) and encouraged women to conduct services and work side by side in preparing langar, sharing responsibilities and taking leading roles in all spheres of life.

Guru Nanak taught that 'serving others is serving God'. Thus, laying great emphasis on constantly working for the uplift of society. Serving involves giving money, or giving time, or using one's skills or expertise to support others who are vulnerable and cannot look after themselves.

Havelock Road | **Proposed Street Name Change**

The Sikh Gurdwara & the community

Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall (SGSSS) is the largest Gurdwara organisation outside of India. Initially programmes were held at Shakleton Hall, until the move to 11 Beaconsfield Road. The first Gurdwara was established at The Green. In 1967 a dairy on Havelock Road was purchased and transformed into a Gurdwara. From such humble beginnings, SGSSS soon emerged as the leading Gurdwara outside of India. In 1997 the Gurdwara moved to a Park Avenue site to allow for the construction of the current day Havelock Road Gurdwara. On 30th March 2003, the Gurdwara site on Havelock Road, was inaugurated by His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince of Wales.

SGSSS has been involved in most issues concerning Sikh's, such as precipitating an overwhelming response to the racist programmes in the 1970's in the UK, to ensure turbans and other Sikh practices are allowed in work and social places. Today, the 2 Gurdwara's serve as the hub of community, both Sikh and non-Sikh, with over 15,000 worshippers and visitors entering the Guru's door every week.

The langar (the free kitchen) hall, provides food to around 20,000 citizens of the community each week, in the continuous and unique Sikh tradition, where all are welcome. The food is always free and always strictly vegetarian.

Implications to Residents and Businesses

A change to a street name, inevitably has some implications on residents and businesses, as various documents and systems will require updating to reflect the new address. It would be the responsibility of residents and businesses to arrange these changes. In most instances, the costs of making these changes will be minimal, however residents and businesses would be responsible for any costs that are incurred. Below are some examples of where an address would require updating:

- Utilities - including phone/broadband
- Insurance
- Banks, Mortgage providers
- Deeds
- NHS
- Stationery
- Website
- Solicitors



**Do it
Online**

Please give us **Your Views** and **Have Your Say**

The council would like to know your views on this proposal. Whether you support or oppose the proposal or would just like to give your views, **Have Your Say** by completing the online survey at:

www.ealing.gov.uk/havelockroad

The closing date for this consultation is:

Monday 7 September 2020

What Happens Next?

Your responses will be reviewed by Senior council officers, the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Business and Community Services.

The results of the consultation will be published online at **www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations** within 4 weeks of the conclusion of the consultation.

Further Information

If you require further information regarding this consultation, or do not have access to the internet and would like to request a paper questionnaire, please contact us via email:



havelockroad@ealing.gov.uk



(020) 8825 6553