

Road Names in Willaston

This is a transcript of a letter sent by the Willaston Residents' Society to the Borough Planning Officer commenting on proposals for naming new roads in Willaston.

11th February 1978

Dear Mr Oakley,

Thank you for your letter of February 2nd about the naming of streets on the Broadlake Estate. The Committee of the Residents' Society talked about this on Monday and we did feel it was a bit confusing to have three Broadlakes. No one fancied Broadlake Mews. Mews simply is not a local use. Johnston Close was suggested – Mrs Johnston being a past beneficiary to the village who gave the recreation ground and Church Hall to Wilaston. Other names associated with Broadlake itself are Oakshott and Stern. What about Broadlake as the generic name, Broadlake Way and Johnston or Oakshott Close?

Incidentally, we all felt there would be such a number of road names to think up in the near future, we should do some work for you locally. Mr and Mrs Morris, The Briars, Briardale Road, Willaston have been doing a great deal of research work on the old tithe maps of Willaston, field names etc. It seems a shame to forget the old names and obviously estate developers have not the time to discover them and will be inclined to use 'The Pines' etc. The field nearest Broadlake for instance was Tailor's Field, the next one Tailor's Croft. At tithe commutation the owner was the Rev. James Mainwaring, occupier William Millington. This gives you a lot of scope for argument and choice!

The site behind the Old Vicarage (Thornways Estate although why we cannot think) has Pemberton's Field (owner John Pemberton Haywood, occupier John Frances). There is also a field further back called the Intake with a lane along the side. What about Intake Lane? Frances Field?

Mr and Mrs Morris would be delighted to help you and are thinking up some lovely old names. They are not happy about Mr Hall's estate 'The Pines' although there are some Pine Trees. But there must be a field name somewhere there which would be more interesting, and more appropriate.

Little did you think what your letter would bring forth! Seriously, Mrs Morris would love to give you some suggestions.

Yours sincerely

Following this, an article in the September 1978 Parish News by the Residents' Society said:

As you will be aware, there are a number of new housing estates being built in the village. The Residents' Society is asked for its views on the road names suggested for these estates, so we thought you might be interested to know what the proposed names are, and from whence they come. It is hoped that all the names will have local connections.

1. *Broadlake Estate. The house which occupied the land before the development was called 'Broadlake' so 'Broadlake Way' for the main road and 'Broadlake' for one of the cul-de-sacs were considered appropriate names. The second cul-de-sac is to be 'Oakshott Close' after a previous owner, Mrs Oakshott.*

2. *Thornways Estate. The suggested names for the roads on Phases I and II of the estate are as follows:*

Access road from Hooton Road – Old Vicarage Road

Road leading towards Smithy Lane – Old Hall Road

Road giving access to Smithy Lane – Intake Close

Roads leading off – Pemberton Close, Bennet Close

Old Vicarage Road is self-explanatory – the estate is built on the site of the old vicarage. Old Hall Road will be close to the wall of the Old Hall. On the 1848 tithe map, the field on which the vicarage stood is Pemberton's Meadow and the other field on the site is called 'Intake'. Part of the footpath from Smithy Lane to Change Lane is called Lane-in-Intake, hence Pemberton Close and Intake Close. Bennet Close is named after Edward Bennet who, in 1848, owned this field along with a quarter of Willaston, including the Old Hall.

3. *Red Cottage Site (Pines Crescent). We have been asked to suggest an acceptable name for this development as Pines Crescent is only a temporary name. The land on which the estate is built was called Anyon's Croft but by 1848 had become Annial's croft. However, Annial's Croft is already in use as a house name. In 1848 the land was occupied by William Delamore, a substantial tenant farmer and later tenant of the Nag's Head. As this plot is approximately one acre it has been suggested that Delamore Acre would be appropriate.*