



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway – Naming of Bridge in Victoria Park
Date:	10 October 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Committee agreed at its June 2013 meeting to the consultative approach to naming the new bridge in Victoria Park which is part of the Connswater Community Greenway Programme.</p> <p>Both offline and online communication methods were used to ensure that residents and park users and interested parties who reside outside the catchment area were afforded the opportunity to participate in the consultation process.</p> <p>The process which was undertaken involved two stages as outlined at Appendix 1.</p> <p>During the first stage of the naming process applicants were asked to submit their entry to name the bridge in Victoria Park.</p> <p>All entries were submitted to the first stage of short listing which was decided by a naming panel. The panel was representative of the Council's Parks and Leisure department, CCGT/EBP, EBCDA, Victoria Park user group and Titanic Quarter.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The competition received a fantastic response with 3,637 submissions (not all unique). The panel of judges narrowed the entries down to : Avalon Bridge 'Avalon' is a mythical island paradise. The word also has links to East Belfast's Van Morrison who has an album 'Avalon Sunset' which includes the track 'Orangefield'. Cranes Bridge The iconic Harland and Wolf cranes, Samson and Goliath can be viewed from the bridge as well as the opportunity to see a bird also called a crane.

	<p>Sam Thompson Bridge East Belfast man, trade unionist, playwright and shipyard worker who also wrote the play 'Over the Bridge'</p> <p>Island Bridge The bridge will link Victoria Park to Airport Road and subsequently to Queen's Island. The central part of Victoria Park is an island.</p> <p>Victoria (Vicky) Bridge Reflects the park's name and location which is often referred to locally as 'Vicky Park'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting on the short listed names concludes on Wednesday 9 October 2013 and the result of the naming competition will be presented to committee at the October meeting • The new steel bowstring bridge will be lifted into place overnight on Saturday 12 – Sunday 13 October between 9.30pm and 6.30am when the George Best Belfast City Airport will be closed. • A date is to be agreed and arrangements finalised for the formal opening of the bridge.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> No financial implications</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No implications</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The Connswater Community Greenway will create a 9km linear park through East Belfast, following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers, connecting the open and green spaces and remediating the Connswater River itself. The Greenway will reconnect the communities of East Belfast and restore the rivers as community assets. It will create vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation and community events and activities.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	The process followed was in line with the Council's naming policy and the chosen name will be screened in line with the Council's equality process.

5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to approve the proposed name for the new bridge at Victoria Park.

6.	Decision Tracking
6.1	Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>CCG – Connswater Community Greenway</p> <p>EBP – East Belfast Partnership</p> <p>EBCDA – East Belfast Community Development Association</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Competition Stages