



Subject:	Request from Blackstaff Residents' Association re: John Stewart Bell
Date:	13th January 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.0	To consider a request to erect a memorial to the Belfast-born physicist John Stewart Bell at the Olympia Drive entrance to Olympia Leisure Centre.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the report and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Born in the Village area of Belfast in 1928, John Stewart Bell is regarded as one of the 20th Century's greatest physicists. In October 2017, the Committee acceded to a request from the Blackstaff Residents' Association to rename the Olympia Drive entrance to Olympia Leisure Centre in honour of the John Stewart Bell. That decision was taken after a wider community consultation exercise and as part of the then Olympia site development. A small plaque was erected in 2017 at the entrance in recognition of Mr. Bell.
3.2	Correspondence has since been received from Mr. William Dickson on behalf of the Blackstaff Residents' Association requesting that the Council consider erecting a metal arch incorporating the wording 'John Stewart Bell Entrance' over the entrance from Olympia Drive (appendix 1 refers). The residents' association feels this would be more appropriate and fitting gesture to the eminent physicist.
4.0	Finance and Resource Implications None at this stage.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.

APPENDIX 1

OLYMPIA DRIVE ENTRANCE TO OLYMPIA LEISURE CENTRE



Google Maps