



Subject:	Naming of New Park and Sportszone at Divis Back Path
Date:	7 th December 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input 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
1.1	The purpose of the report is for Members to consider the naming process for the Divis Back Path development (funded by Department for Communities).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approve the two options identified with local stakeholders to proceed to public consultation (Divis Back Path Park and Páirc an Lonnáin)
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members are advised that the former Parks & Leisure Committee, at its meeting in August 2008 agreed a policy framework for managing requests to name parks.

3.2	<p>The policy follows a 4-stage process and has also previously been used to (re)name a bridge on the Connswater Community Greenway and Páirc Nua Chollann;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with key stakeholders to develop a long list of new park names, which reflect; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a sense of place, reflecting the geographic location, community, neighbourhood or street where the park, facility or amenity is located. ○ the historical significance of the area or reflects unique characteristics of the site (unique flora / fauna). • Shortlisted names based on stakeholder feedback and assessed against the policy criteria as outlined above; • Community consultation on the agreed shortlisted names; • Recommendation to People & Communities Committee to reflect preferred name identified via the community consultation.
3.3	<p>Names will not be considered which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause confusion due to duplication or names sounding similar to existing named facilities/locations within the City. • Unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of Section 75, the Good Relations Plan (2007) and the Shared Future agenda. • Are party-political in intention or use. <p><u>Divis “Back Path” Naming Process</u></p>
3.4	<p>The Westlink Sports Activity Park (which was its working title for funding purposes) is situated at the Divis “Back Path” area located between the rear of Cullingtree Road and the Westlink. It stretches from Devonshire Place, near Grosvenor Road to land adjacent to the Frank Gillen Centre, near Divis Street. It was opened to the public in early July 2021 following a major £1m development, creating a valuable new asset for residents in this part of the west of the city.</p>
3.5	<p>The area, which had previously experienced a high level of anti-social behaviour has been transformed by the new park through a Department for Communities (DfC) Building</p>

Successful Communities project which includes new fencing and surfacing, a MUGA, gym equipment, sprint tracks and play equipment. There is also a play area, raised beds, seating and a community garden and improved footbridge and access ramp across the Westlink.

3.6 In line with the policy framework, local stakeholders have come together to develop a list of potential names for Divis “Back Path” and a panel (including nominated members of the “Back Path” Forum which was the local reference group for the development) have considered the submissions against the criteria in the Council’s policy framework.

3.7 Engagement took place via local meetings with Youth Organisations, Healthy Living Centres, Churches, Community Groups and Sporting Organisations. Suggestions were put forward by the groups after they received information around the site and its historical background. A range of three potential names were discussed with following agreed for consultation in line with Council policy:

1. Nuggets Nest – this was suggested to acknowledge the work carried out by Gerry “Nugget” Nugent who has volunteered in the community, particularly Immaculata Amateur Boxing Club, for over 45 years. However, naming the park after a living individual would not comply with the criteria of the naming policy.
2. Divis Back Path – This site was always referred to as “Divis Back Path” and people associate the location with the name.
3. Páirc an Lonnáin (Loney Park) – this is most popular among local groups given the historical context of the site which was the location of the old Pound Loney. Many people still living in the area are originally from the Loney.

3.8 The outcome of this is that the initial, agreed options to proceed to public consultation are:

- Divis Back Path Park
- Páirc an Lonnáin

3.9 In line with the Council’s naming policy framework, Committee approval is now being sought to carry out a full public consultation using the Council’s Citizenspace around these naming options. The results of this consultation will then be brought back to Committee seeking approval to select the final name of the park.

3.10	It is expected that final recommendations on the official name for Divis Back Path development will be tabled for consideration again at People and Communities Committee Spring 2022.
3.11	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications beyond the CNS departmental budget already in place.</p>
3.12	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>The naming process followed will be in line with the Council's naming policy and the chosen name will be screened in line with the Council's equality process.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: New Park and Sportzone at Divis Back Path – Layout and Images