



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism

Council – 6 March 2024

### Naming Proposal

<b>Purpose:</b>	To consider the naming proposal for the Coastal Park.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea Corporate Plan 2024/28
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, CMT, CWG
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Council adopts the naming proposal as recommended by the Constitution Working Group.
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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swansea Council's Naming Policy (the 'Policy') was adopted by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024. See appendix A.
- 1.2 This report outlines a proposal to formally name the new coastal park adjacent to Swansea Arena as the Amy Dillwyn Park, and to subsequently add a new slate naming plaque to the site.

#### 2. The Coastal Park

- 2.1 The coastal park can be accessed via the bridge over Oystermouth Road or the spiral staircase that leads to the Arena from Oystermouth Road.

An access ramp has been developed to the coastal park from Paxton Street, with a lift also available from close to the spiral stairway on Oystermouth Road.

- 2.2 About the same size as a football pitch, the coastal park also includes water features and a selection of new trees.

### **3. Key Points**

- 3.1 The nominee should, in most cases, be deceased; having made a significant contribution to public life.
- 3.2 Correspondence with the surviving family member has confirmed he is happy with the proposal and has requested only that some interpretation is available nearby, describing his Great Great Grandmother, which is entirely possible.
- 3.3 Any proposals to name spaces after individuals should be based on a significant contribution to public life and have a connection to Swansea clearly evidenced. Applicable historical records and available information have been summarised by the Archives service within S.4 of this report.
- 3.4 The proposal was put forward by Councillors and ratified by CMT after which the Head of Cultural Services was asked to lead on securing a plaque and announcement to be followed by an event.
- 3.5 The Head of Cultural Services has consulted with fellow Heads in Place responsible for all aspects of managing the site and all confirmed they were content with the proposal.
- 3.6 The Park is a public open space with two key stakeholders being the Ambassador Theatre Group who manage the Arena, and the Secret Hospitality Group who lease the Green Room café bar. Both stakeholders have been contacted and we await their comments.
- 3.7 The Constitutional Working Group (CWG) received a report regarding this proposal on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. CWG members discussed and deliberated the proposal based on the information received, and in line with the Naming Policy (Appendix A). It was agreed that a report be submitted to Council recommending the formal adoption of the name as outlined above.
- 3.8 The proposal is in line with a review of monuments, collections and place names in considering 'overlooked' notable persons, as part of the Council's commitment to greater representation of individuals with protected characteristics following its Black Lives Matter Motion in 2020.

#### **4. Amy Dillwyn**

- 4.1 Amy Dillwyn (1845-1935) was by the time of her death a much-loved icon of Swansea life, famous for her unconventional outward manner, rock-solid Liberalism and her unflinching but always non-violent feminism.
- 4.2 On the death of her father, Amy Dillwyn found she had inherited responsibility for her father's factory at Llansamlet which was deeply in a debt which had been concealed by a dishonest solicitor, and that as a result hundreds of her workers faced the spectre of unemployment. She scorned the cowardly option of selling up and decided to run the works herself with the aid of an experienced manager named John Corfield. She gave up the considerable comfort of a mansion with servants for a life of real austerity and set out to prove that a woman could successfully function in what was essentially a man's world of competitive industry. She personally managed the business, and by 1899 had fully repaid her father's debts. In 1902, she turned her business into a registered company.
- 4.3 From the 1870s to the early 1890s, Dillwyn, wrote 6 novels. Her themes included feminism and social reform. She joined the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and campaigned for votes for women.
- 4.4 Amy Dillwyn was also forward-thinking in her personal life. She referred to her lifelong partner Olive Talbot as her wife. She was nicknamed 'The Pioneer' by friends and in this, as in all the above-mentioned activity, she was decades ahead of her time.
- 4.5 She died in Swansea on 13 December 1935, at the age of ninety, was cremated and her ashes buried in the churchyard of St Paul's Church, Sketty.
- 4.6 In 2018, Dillwyn was chosen as one of the top 100 Welsh Women by Women's Equality Network Wales, in their project to mark the centenary of women's suffrage.

#### **5. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage

- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 5.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 5.4 Positive impacts have been identified and no mitigation is required. Clear communications and signage will be required, and information provided to the public and other Council departments on the name and location / coordinates etc. The screening is undertaken by the Head of Cultural Services, in that it is the service's role in collating historic material and records on notable individuals that has informed this nomination. The Cabinet Member is identified as being the portfolio holder for parks and regeneration initiatives, 'Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism'.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Costs at this stage are anticipated to be in the region of £1,000 for supply of a name plate and up to the same for installation and interpretation on site and online. A quote for the name plate, to be produced in material sympathetic to the environment in which it is placed, e.g. slate / concrete which is anticipated to cost no more than £3,000 which will be allocated from the budget for Blue Plaques, Monuments and other heritage features in Cultural Services.

**Background papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A – Naming Policy
- Appendix B – IIA Screening Form