
Naming of bridge over the Royal Canal at Russell Street, Dublin 1

The Central Area Committee, at its meeting of 10 November 2020, considered and adopted the following motion:

‘This committee agrees that the Royal Canal Bridge at Russell Street, currently named Clonliffe Bridge/Russell Street Bridge, be officially renamed as ‘Bloody Sunday Bridge’ in commemoration of the events at Croke Park on 21 November 2020 when 14 innocent civilians were killed by RIC/Auxiliaries/Black and Tans.’

The first two victims of Bloody Sunday, William ‘Perry’ Robinson (11) and Jerome O’Leary (10), were both killed by shots fired from the bridge.

Having been adopted, the motion was referred to the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation Strategic Policy Committee which, at its meeting of 30 November 2020, referred the motion to the Commemorations & Naming Committee for its consideration.

At its meeting of 25 March 2021 the Commemorations & Naming Committee considered the motion. Officials reported that the bridge is in the ownership of Dublin City Council and there is no record of a formal naming of this bridge.

It was noted that under the Council’s policy on Commemorative Naming (adopted by the Council on 12 June 2017), public consultation would be required as part of the process¹ and that any recommendation to name the bridge would need to be brought before the full Council for a final decision.²

The Committee approved the motion to name the bridge and asked officials to set up a consultation process.

Members of the public were invited to comment on the proposal, via the Council’s online Consultation Hub, between 8 July and 9 September 2022. A total of 969 comments were received via the online system. 450 (46.44%) of the comments were in favour of the proposal; 513 (52.94%) of the comments were not in favour of the proposal.

The proposal to name the bridge was considered again and in detail at the meeting of the Commemorations & Naming Committee on 1 December 2022. As required under the policy³, a vote was taken by members present to confirm the proposal to name the bridge, with a majority of members voting in favour.

¹ Policy for Commemorative Naming of Infrastructure and the Provision of Monuments, Memorials and Plaques, section 11.

² Ibid. section 12.

³ Ibid. section 16.3.

The Committee referred the motion back to the SPC requesting that it be placed before the City Council for approval.

At its meeting of 27 February 2023 the SPC approved the following motion:

'That this SPC approves the proposal from the Commemorations & Naming Committee that the bridge over the Royal Canal at Russell Street be named 'Bloody Sunday Bridge' and recommends that this proposal be approved at a meeting of the full City Council.'

Therefore it is recommended that the City Council approves the naming of the bridge over the Royal Canal at Russel Street as 'Bloody Sunday Bridge'.

Richard Shakespeare
Assistant Chief Executive
17th May 2023