
Report To:	Environment and Regeneration Committee	Date:	2 May 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	E&R/19/05/03/SJ/ AW
Contact Officer:	Alan Williamson	Contact No:	01475 712491
Subject:	Street Naming of Unnamed Road at the Harbours, Greenock		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to name an unnamed road at the Harbours, Greenock.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council's Roads Service has requested that a name be given to the unnamed road which sits to the front (south) of the 'Tail O' The Bank' public house/restaurant in Greenock. It was proposed that it should be named Virginia Street, as it is a continuation of the existing Virginia Street. The Committee requested that the origins of the name be investigated. Investigations found the street to be named after the U.S. state of Virginia, with which Greenock had connections through the sugar industry.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the following:
- (a) apply the existing Virginia Street name to the unnamed road at the Harbours, Greenock.

Stuart W. Jamieson
Head of Regeneration and Planning

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Section 97 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 gives a local authority power to name roads within its area.

5.0 UNNAMED ROAD AT THE HARBOURS, GREENOCK

5.1 A report to the 7 March 2019 meeting of the Committee sought approval to name the road to the front (south) of the 'Tail O' The Bank' public house/restaurant at Greenock Harbours Virginia Street, as the street as existing does not appear to be officially named. The unnamed road is a continuation of the existing Virginia Street but does not follow its former route, and whilst some might assume it to be called Virginia Street, this name has never officially been assigned to this road.

5.2 Members continued the report to allow investigations into the origins of the street name and in particular if it had links to slavery and tobacco. Investigations by officers focused on the 1907 book 'Greenock Street Names' by Gardner Blair. This links the naming of the street to the U.S. state of Virginia, making a connection to its sugar growing industry, rather than tobacco. The book is silent on the slavery issue, however it is generally well understood that there was slavery involvement in the sugar industry and within the state of Virginia.

5.3 It is typical of that era of development that street and place names – in Greenock, the west of Scotland, and the whole of the UK – were named after places and products of the 'new world', which were often built on the backs of slavery. There are arguments as to whether such names should be changed or retained as a reminder of that era. In this instance, there is an existing street named Virginia Street and the proposal was to extend the application of this name to a currently unnamed street.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Legal

6.2 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Human Resources

6.3 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

Equalities

6.4 There are no equalities issues associated with this report.

Repopulation

6.5 There are no repopulation implications associated with this report.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Council's Legal and Property Services were consulted during the preparation of this report.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

Appendix 1: Unnamed road at the Harbours, Greenock

APPENDIX 1

