

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Planning and Transportation	20/02/2018
<b>Subject:</b> Renaming of Pedestrian Route: Barker Bridge	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Policy and Performance Director	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Hannah Brooks, Department of the Built Environment	

### Summary

This report advises Members that an application has been made to rename a section of St Alphage Highwalk as the 'BARKER BRIDGE'. This would commemorate John Alfred Barker OBE, the former Chief Commoner and Member for Cripplegate Ward who died in May 2017. The naming of streets or structures/buildings after living or recently deceased persons is contrary to the City Corporation's published Advice Note. Therefore this report is brought before the Committee to consider whether an exception is merited on this occasion.

### Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

1. Agree the name 'BARKER BRIDGE' for the new footbridge, and approve a statutory consultation on the proposed name.
2. Agree that if the statutory consultation results in no objections, then the Director of the Built Environment be delegated to approve the name 'BARKER BRIDGE', and require that a statutory order be issued.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City Corporation is responsible for the authorisation of all building names, street numbers and street names within the City in accordance with the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939. The normal procedure is for such applications to be dealt with by officers under delegated authority but there is provision for high profile or unusual cases to be reported for decision by Planning & Transportation Committee.
2. The footbridge referenced in this report has recently been under construction, and it will link existing 'City Walkways' The Postern/Alban Highwalk with the new London Wall Place development (see map in Appendix 1). It was formally named as part of St Alphage Highwalk on 26th April 2016 (Street Naming and Numbering Notification ref: 2016LONWAL0121). Appendix 1 shows the site, with the new footbridge indicated in short dashes on the plan (ref **SXALHW1000**).

## **The Site and Proposal**

3. In October 2017 a suggestion was received from Marianne Fredericks (Member, Tower Ward) to name the new footbridge to commemorate John Alfred Barker OBE, the recently deceased former Chief Commoner and Member. This has been treated as a formal application to re-name the footbridge.
- 4.
5. This bridge was formally named as part of the re-instated St Alphage Highwalk, and so any change would involve a formal re-naming, including a public consultation with relevant parties. However, as the site is a footbridge link with no related building addresses, there are no residential or commercial occupiers who would be directly affected by the re-naming as 'Barker Bridge'.
6. The prefix 'Barker' references Mr Barker in a consistent format to 'Gilbert Bridge', a similar footbridge within the Barbican complex named after the explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert. The suffix 'Bridge' clearly describes the walkway and its character as a footbridge.

## **Considerations**

7. The City's Street Naming and Numbering Advice Note (p11) states that:  
"In applications to name streets after deceased persons, permission must be obtained from the person's family or estate administrators. In order to be considered the individual in question should:
  - Have been dead for 20 years or have passed the centenary of their birth;
  - Have a significant and demonstrable connection to the site in question"

### **Permission from the Family**

8. Representatives for Mr Barker's family have been consulted about the proposed naming of the footbridge as Barker Bridge. They are supportive of the proposal.

### **Connection with the Area**

9. Mr Barker lived in the Barbican area and had a strong association with the City of London. He had been a local government councillor for over 60 years, representing parts of Holborn, Camden and the City. He served as a Member for Cripplegate Ward (1981-2017) and as Chief Commoner (2008), as well as undertaking a variety of other public service and charitable roles. In 2005 he received an OBE for services to the Corporation and City of London. Mr Barker made frequent use of the Barbican highwalks to access Guildhall to carry out his many duties and so had a significant connection with the site.

### **Naming after a Deceased Person**

10. Regarding naming proposals relating to a deceased person, the City Corporation's Advice Note follows the English Heritage guideline that 20 years should have elapsed before the case is considered to give time for the merit of

the individual to be properly established. Mr Barker died in May 2017, aged 87, and so consideration of the naming application today is not consistent with the Advice Note.

11. Members are invited to consider this naming proposal as an exceptional case. Mr Barker does have a clear connection to the Barbican area and a long and distinguished history of public service. It is not considered that agreeing to this proposal today would set a precedent that would undermine the effectiveness of the Advice Note as a way of managing inappropriate personal naming proposals.

## **Consultation**

12. This pedestrian route is City Walkway and was formally named as part of St Alphage Highwalk on 26th April 2016 (SNN ref: 2016LONWAL0121). Therefore should Members approve the proposed name, a full Consultation will be undertaken. This will invite the views of Statutory Consultees (internal and external), Ward Members for Bassishaw and Cripplegate and the developers of the adjacent London Wall Place site. Informal contact suggests that the developers of London Wall Place are supportive of the proposal. Public notices will be posted on site.

## **Conclusion**

13. This pedestrian route is City Walkway and was formally named as part of St Alphage. This report recommends that Members approve in principle the proposed re-naming of the footbridge as the Barker Bridge. This is considered to be an exceptional case justified by Mr Barker's clear connection to the Barbican area and his long and distinguished history of public service.

### **Contact: Paul Beckett**

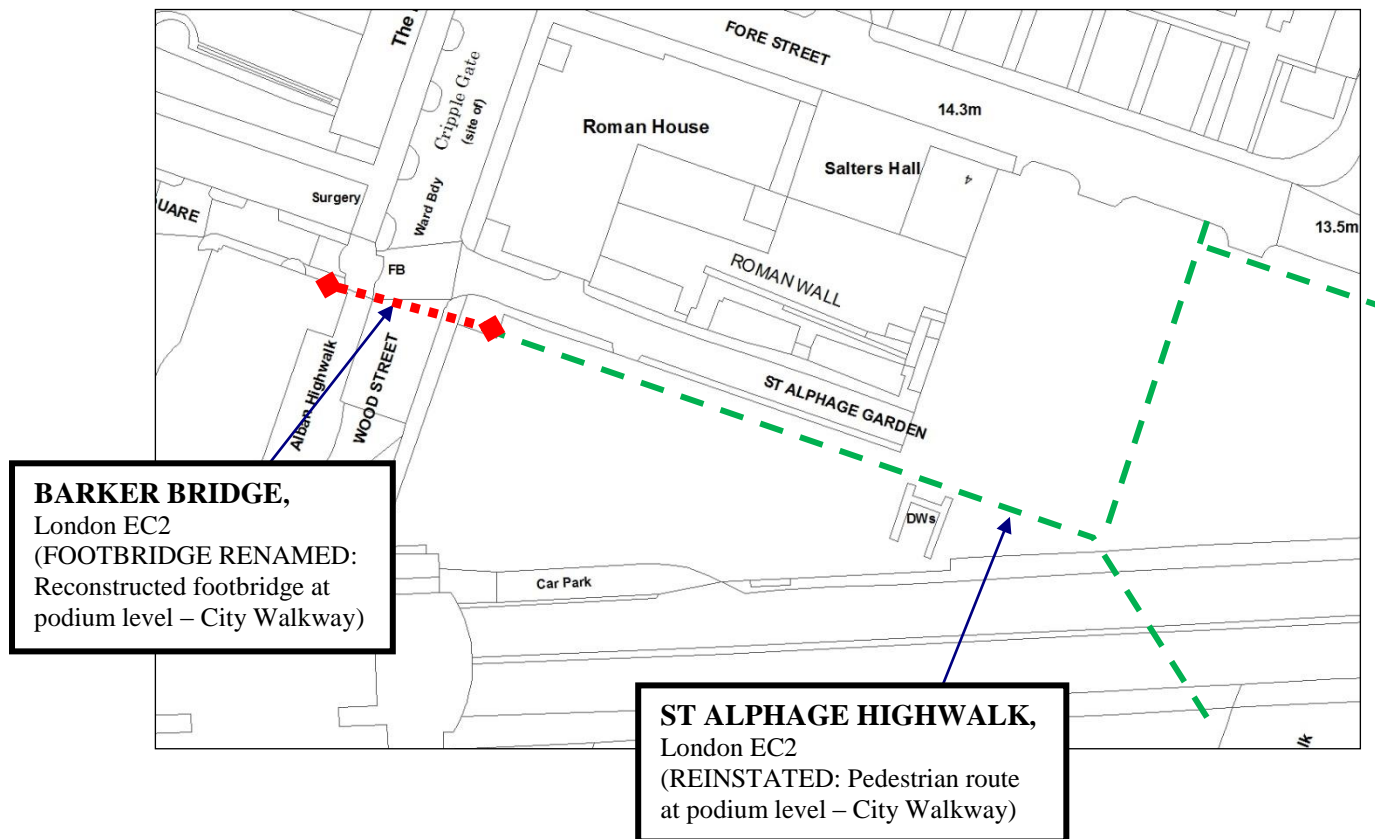
Policy and Performance Director

T: 0207 332 1970

E: [paul.beckett@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.beckett@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1: Drawing Reference **SXALHW1000**

### Podium level site plan with new alignment of City Walkway



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Map Reference: TQ – 532387, 181623

If you require further details on this development, reference can be made on the City of London's internet site to Planning Application 10/00832/FULEIA (varied by 14/00259/FULL and 13/00464/LBC).

<http://www.planning2.cityoflondon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

The development description: Demolition of existing buildings and structures and erection of two buildings comprising an 18 storey west building and 14 storey east building providing 66,839sq.m of office (Class B1) floorspace and 2,075 sq.m of retail floorspace (Classes A1/A2/A3). Alterations to City Highwalk at Willoughby Highwalk, removal, realignment and reinstatement of Bassishaw Highwalk across London Wall, alterations to Moorfields Highwalk over Fore Street Avenue, removal, realignment and reinstatement of Alban Highwalk between Wallside/The Postern and Alban Gate and removal of Alban Gate Rotunda at London Wall and Alban Gate. Removal of stair from St Alphage podium level to St Alphage Garden and Salters Garden. Hard and soft landscaping and necessary enabling works, including alterations to and within the public highway.