

Motion for consideration by Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee on 13th November 2025:-

“Renaming the Govan-Partick Bridge in honour of Mary Barbour

On the 11th December 2024, Govan Community Council submitted a petition entitled “The Mary Barbour Bridge” to be heard by the council’s Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement committee. This petition included the required support of a community council and the attached minutes from the September 2024 confirming the community councils desire to submit this petition.

This petition reads: “ Govan Community Council wishes to petition the council to rename the new Govan-Partick bridge as "The Mary Barbour Bridge".

As councillors will be aware, Mary Barbour brought together the tenants’ movements of Govan and Partick to campaign for the freezing of rents during the First World War. The 1915 rent strike campaign was successful and rents across the UK were fixed at their pre-war level for the rest of the war. Ultimately the movement led to the first development of council-owned housing in 1919. Mary Barbour herself was elected in 1920 as one of Glasgow’s first women councillors, and later became Glasgow’s first female Bailie and first woman magistrate. As a councillor, she led campaigns for free school milk, municipal wash-houses and Glasgow’s first family planning clinic.

Govan Community Council feels the renaming of the bridge would be a fitting and significant tribute to a key figure in our city's history.

We also hope it might provide educational and practical benefits. Mrs Barbour is already commemorated with a statue at Govan Cross. With the new bridge, Govan is now the closest subway station for visitors to the Riverside Museum. Thousands of people will pass the Mary Barbour Statue. Linking the bridge with the statue might encourage them to learn more Mary Barbour and the other heritage attractions in Govan, such as The Govan Stones and the Fairfield Heritage Centre. We would like people to spend time in Govan and not just pass through it on their way to the museum.”

Committee agrees:

- A hearing will be called within 6 weeks of this motion to hear the petition which includes Govan Community Councillors and the expert witnesses that they have arranged for such a hearing.”

Proposed by Cllr Dan Hutchison

Seconded by Bailie Seonad Hoy