BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

24 AUGUST 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

USE OF THE NAME PICTON IN STREET NAMES AND BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet Committee Equalities with information on the use of the name Picton in street names and buildings across Bridgend County Borough.

- 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities
- 2.1 The Strategic Equality Plan sets out our objectives to comply with the Equality Act 2012 and the Public Sector Equality Duty general duties:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity and;
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 2.2 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
 - 1. Supporting a successful economy taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county borough.
 - 2. Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 - **3. Smarter use of resources** ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The Equality Act introduced a General Duty for public bodies to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity and;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2 The Equality Act also introduced specific duties which include:
 - Setting Equality Objectives and publishing a Strategic Equality Plan;
 - Ensuring it engages with people who have an interest in how the Council's decisions affect them and:
 - Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments and publishing the results if there is a substantial impact on the Council's identified.
- 3.3 Following the death of George Floyd in America, National protests and demonstrations as part of the Black Lives Matter movement have resulted in several UK councils taking steps to remove some statues of historical figures. Local authorities are also considering whether buildings, parks, playing fields and streets may have links with individuals criticised as part of the protests. Campaigns began to remove memorials to General Thomas Picton, mainly focusing on a statue in Cardiff and a 25 metre tall monument in Carmarthenⁱ.
- 3.4 With a number of streets named 'Picton' across Bridgend County, this report looks at the history of these streets with the aim of identifying if they are associated with General Thomas Picton. Although the research has been unable to identify the exact reason for the street naming, the research has suggested that there are links between the Picton family and to land ownership in Bridgend.
- 3.5 Initial research has suggested there are two possible sources of the name Picton in Bridgend county borough. It is recommended that in order to verify this information and ensure its accuracy further work should be undertaken by a local historian and the findings of that research will be considered once Welsh Government have concluded their review.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Streets named 'Picton' in Bridgend County Borough

Bridgend:

Street name	Number of properties
Picton Gardens	61
Picton Avenue	9
Picton Close	9

Porthcawl:

Street name	Number of properties
Picton Avenue	48
Middleton Court, Picton Avenue	60

Kenfig Hill:

Street name	Number of properties
Picton Street	39

Nantyffyllon:

Street name	Number of properties
Picton Place	18
Picton Street	116

4.2 General Thomas Picton

Thomas Picton was born in 1758 in Pembrokeshire. He was a celebrated general who was known as the highest ranking general to die at the battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. He served in the West Indies, including five years as the governor of Trinidad, during which he acquired a reputation for brutalityⁱⁱⁱ and became known as 'The Tyrant of Trinidad'^{iv}.

The number of slaves while General Thomas Picton was Governor doubled to nearly 20,000 and he too was a slave owner, who sanctioned torture. In 1806 he was convicted of ordering the illegal torture of 14-year-old girl, Luisa Calderón, after she was accused of stealing, but this was then later overturned in 1808 after arguing that Trinidad was under Spanish rule which allowed torture vi. He was also believed to have amassed his fortune from the trading of slaves, executing several during his governorshipvii.

4.3 Use of the name Picton in the naming of streets/buildings across the county borough

The use of the name Picton and the link to General Thomas Picton in the borough was uncertain, some assumed the use of the name was associated with General Thomas Picton, and others believed that it was linked to Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Picton Turberville, a former owner of Ewenny Priory. However research has shown that the use of the name Picton in the borough, including that at Ewenny Priory, is linked to the family of General Thomas Picton^{viii} in Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl.

This is also the case with the Brogden family, who are credited with the substantial expansion and development of Porthcawlix. While the Brogden family did indeed own land and expand the area of Porthcawl, this family is also linked to the family of Sir Thomas Picton. Research began with the lineage of these two families (the Brodgens

and Picton-Turbervills). A family tree outlining General Thomas Picton was created to explore these family links (Appendix 1).

General Thomas Picton was one of 10 siblings^x. It is these siblings that land ownership in Bridgend County focuses on as land in the borough was subsequently owned by the siblings, through inheritance or marriage. The tree is incomplete as it only focuses on General Thomas Picton's generation and those family members linked to land ownership in Bridgend County. Other siblings of General Thomas Picton not outlined in the family tree are: Edward, Francis, Elizabeth, William, Cecil and John^{xi}. For an outline of descendants please click here.

All the direct male lines from General Thomas Picton became extinct by 1861, the last male descendant being Gervas Powell Turbervill of Ewenny. The Picton surname was then adopted by the heirs and descendants through various female lines, as they took over the ownership and management of the Iscoed estate at Ferryside, Carmarthenshire, from 1867 onwards^{xii}.

4.4 **Ewenny Priory**

It was believed that the use of 'Picton' is linked to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Picton-Turberville, a former owner of Ewenny Priory. This was thought to be a different family to that of General Thomas Picton, however research has found that this family is linked to that of General Thomas Picton.

In the early eighteenth century Ewenny Priory passed by marriage to the Turbervills. It was a condition of subsequent inheritance of the Ewenny Estate that the occupier should change their name to Turbervill^{xiii}. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the house was ruinous. It was Richard Turbervill Picton, elder brother of General Thomas Picton, who rebuilt the house^{xiv} (also documented in the Glamorgan archives^{xv}).

Richard Turbervill Picton succeeded to the Ewenny estate. He was succeeded by his son Richard Turbervill, who was succeeded by his brother Colonel Gervase Powell Turberville. He was succeeded by his great-nephew, John Thomas Picton-Warlow (born 1837) the grandson of John Warlow and Catherine (General Thomas Picton's sister)^{xvi}. He changed his name to Colonel Thomas Picton-Turbervill in 1867^{xvii}.

The Turberville estate included properties at Maesteg, Nantyffyllon, Llanharan, Bridgend and St Brides Minor^{xviii}. Research suggests that Thomas Picton Turbervill also had links to land ownership in Porthcawl^{xix} and links to land in Maesteg^{xx} and Nantyffyllon^{xxi}.

Research also suggests that General Thomas Picton stayed and took his last communion in the church before leaving to join Wellington in Belgium. Evidence also suggest that this visit is commemorated by the grove of trees on the left hand side as

you approach the village from Bridgend^{xxii} and these trees were planted as a memorial to his death^{xxiii}.

4.5 The Brogden family

General Thomas Picton (1758-1815) purchased Iscoed (Old) and Iscoed (Modern) and two other farms from Sir John Bell William Mansel for £30,000 in 1804. The estate descended to Lucy Eleanor Picton who sold it in 1914 and 1917^{xxiv}. Evidence of ownership and sale can be found here.

General Thomas Picton's sister, Charlotte, married John Beete. Their son, also named John, married and assumed the name of his maternal uncle (which was General Thomas Picton)^{xxv}. Their great-grandaughter, Mary, married James Brogden.

The Brogden family (Brogden & Sons) was a partnership of father and sons (including James Brogden) who owned and developed land across Bridgend County. In 1854 the Brogdens purchased the ironworks and land at Tondu from Sir Robert Price as well as land at Tir Gunter and Park, Bettws and Tywith in the Llynfi valley. In 1863, they authorised the construction of a standard railway from Nantymoel to a junction with the Llynvi Valley Railway at Tondu. They also constructed a new dock at Porthcawl^{xxvi}.

In 1865, James Brogden purchased land adjoining the new dock at Porthcawl, and in 1867 he granted building leases on the western side of what he planned was to be its main street and was to be named John Street in honour of the head of the family firm^{xxvii}.

In 1874, James Brogden married his second wife Mary Caroline Beete, daughter of John Picton Beete, the nephew of General Thomas Picton^{xxviii}. In December 1880 John Brogden & Sons dissolved and Mrs. James Brogden purchased the 30 acres adjoining the new Porthcawl dock that her husband had previously bought for the company. By the end of the century, she had developed the early stages of the modern town of Porthcawl. By 1927, Mary Brogden had sold off all her properties in Porthcawl and the death of Mary's daughter, Lucy, was the end of the family in Porthcawl^{xxix}.

4.6 Other evidence relating to land ownership and references to General Thomas Picton and his family

- Picton Street in Nantyffyllon, also believed to be named after General Thomas Picton. He owned a large amount of land in this area^{xxx}.
- Charlotte Edwards married Rev Edward Picton, the younger brother of Sir Thomas Picton, who was the vicar of St Brides Major^{xxxi}. Rev Edward Picton died in 1834. In

1837 Charlotte Maria Picton made a claim for 98 slaves at Aranjuez in Trindad^{xxxii} and was awarded £4224 11s 6d^{xxxiii}.

- The National Library of Wales holds information which suggest links with Porthcawl and Ewenny Priory as well as between the Picton family, the Picton-Turbervills and the Brogden family^{xxxiv}.
- In 1889 Colonel Thomas Picton Turbervill of Ewenny Priory gives consent to Llynvi and Tondu Co Ltd to assign licence to the Company for the right to use tramway from Cwmdu to No.9 screen of the Company^{xxxv}.
- During a comprehensive survey of great landowners in 1837, Colonel Thomas Picton Turbervill of Ewenny Priory is ranked at number 140 through owning 3274 acres in Glamorgan^{xxxvi}.
- The Rest Convalescent home in Porthcawl was the idea of James Lewis. James Lewis established himself in general practice in Maesteg in the Llynfi Valley. The doctor and his wife purchased three small cottages with the help of donations and in the summer of 1862 opened their doors to a few of his patients. It was subsequently used as an auxiliary military hospital from 1915. Colonel Thomas Picton Turberville of Ewenny Priory was the chairman of the committeexxxvii and trustee during the sale of the landxxxviii. Colonel Thomas Picton-Turbervill was the grandson of John Warlow and Catherine (Sir Thomas Picton's sister). This building has now been turned into flatsxxxiix.
- In 1886 Richard Edwin Jones acquired The Marine Hotel, Porthcawl, shortly after it had been built by local entrepreneur Jamie Brogden. He financed the building of many Edwardian houses and streets, renaming Mary Street to Esplanade Avenue, the land he acquired from the Pickets Lease^{xl}. In 1911 he was a partner in the development of Picton Avenue and Esplande Avenue^{xli}.
- In 1916 Timothy James bought property in Bethania Street, Llwydarth Road, Wood Street, Park Street and Princes Street, in Maesteg, and Picton Street, Barnardo Street, Picton Place, and Bangor Terrace, in Nantyffyllon, relating to lot 779 cemetery and schoolroom behind Bethania Baptist chapel from the Turbervill estatexlii. Indicating previous ownership in Maesteg and Nanyffyllon.
- Evidence has been found that shows in 1827 Richard Turbervill Turbervill of Ewenny Abbey leased land at Maesteg with links to Duffryn Llynvi ironworks, a parcel of land at Llynvi and Porthcawl railroad and Maesteg Farm with buildings and lands where the renter was to erect and furnish two dwelling housesxiii.
 - The following records have been found via an internet search but have not been verified by any other sources. They are included here as indications of land that may have been owned by General Thomas Picton's family^{xliv}.
- Assignment of demise [as in DST/22/1], for £60. Colonel Thomas Picton Turbervill
 [as in DST/22/4], now described as: three cottages standing together on the W. side
 of the road leading from Newton to Porthcawl, known as 'The Old Rest'xlv.

- Lease from Colonel Thomas Picton Tuberville and Benjamin Bowen, James Bowen, John Bowen for piece of land for building purposes at Maesteg, in Llangynwyd, with four houses in course of erecting, for 99 years. Memoranda relating to 1 and 4 Turberville Street.
- Lease for 99 years from Colonel Thomas Picton Turbervill of Ewenny Priory to Thomas Richards and others for the Bethania cemetery ground and school room; with plan.
- Colonel Thomas Picton Turbervill to Reverend Edward Jones and others of property in lease (D548/2/7/6-7). Schedule of deeds 1868-1915.
- Conveyance from Colonel Thomas Picton Tubervill and Charles Grenville Turbervill to Reverend Edward Jones and others, trustees, of property in lease (D548/2/6-7).
- In 1890 Colonel Thomas Picton Turbervill offered a site valued at £500, for the erection of a hospital in the Rhondda Valley, and also subscribed £100 towards the cost of erection^{xlvi}.

4.7 Places for further research

The following organisations have been identified to approach if further information is needed on the history of 'Picton' street names:

- Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society
- Llynfi valley historical society
- Bridgend & District Local History Society
- Dr Chris Evans at University of South Wales: wrote Slave Wales: The Welsh and Atlantic Slavery 1660-1850 in 2010.

4.8 **Process of changing street names**

The procedure for altering street names under section 18 of the Public Health Act 1925 is an order making process set out below:

- (1) The local authority by order may alter the name of any street, or part of a street, or may assign a name to any street, or part of a street, to which a name has not been given.
- (2) Not less than one month before making an order under this section, the local authority shall cause notice of the intended order to be posted at each end of the street, or part of the street, or in some conspicuous position in the street or part affected.
- (3) Every such notice shall contain a statement that the intended order may be made by the local authority on or at any time after the day named in the notice, and that an appeal will lie under this Act to the Magistrates' Court against the intended order at the instance of any person aggrieved.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the intended order of the local authority may, within twenty-one days after the posting of the notice, appeal to the Magistrates' Court.

While it is not a specific requirement of the legislation any change to a street name would require public consultation prior to implementation. To change a street name would impact on all households as it has an effect on a number of areas including mortgages as the deeds will need to be changed.

Post Office and Town and Community Councils would also need be consulted on any proposed new name(s).

https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/street-signs-names-and-numbers/

4.9 Welsh Government have commissioned an audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings, and identify those sites and names that are associated with the history of black communities in Wales, and in particular the slave trade.

Welsh Government have described how a two-phased project will be carried out. The first phase will be to undertake the audit. The task and finish group will then share the findings of the audit with an external reference group, which will include wide community and stakeholder representations, including young people.

Informed by the outcome of this work, Welsh Government will then move to a second phase to determine how we can move forward together and address the concerns it highlights.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but supports the council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 This is an information report to Cabinet Committee Equalities therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is not required at this stage. Further consideration may be given following the outcome of the Welsh Government audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. Further consideration may be given following the outcome of the Welsh Government audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There would be significant financial implications for the local authority and residents associated with changing street names which would include changes to street signage, legal fees and consultation costs. The exact costs would be unknown until the extent of any changes are determined.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Cabinet considers the possible links between street names and the link to General Thomas Picton. Initial research has concluded there could be two possible sources of the name Picton in Bridgend county borough. It is recommended that in order to verify that this information is accurate that further work should be undertaken by a local historian and the findings of that research will be considered once Welsh Government have concluded their audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings.

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Chief Executive

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Background papers:

None

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