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**BLACKSTAFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

C/o 31 Broadway Parade, Belfast BT12 6JX

Amanda Morrison
Secretary to the Commissioner
Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7AR

1st January 2007

Dear Ms Morrison

Re: 'Objection to changing ward name'

Blackstaff Community Development Association (Local History Group) would like to see the retention of the name Blackstaff for the ward name. We see no reason whatsoever to change the name to Boucher. We would point out that in a previous review the local residents requested a change of name from what was then Donegall to a name that would be identified with the local community. It was agreed that the name Blackstaff was the most suitable.

There are several local names for sections of the area and it is good to have a corporate name that all the community can identify with. There seems to be no desire whatsoever for the name to be changed to Boucher. The Boucher Road only takes in the commercial area while the Blackstaff River runs parallel to the Boucher Road and extends to the River Lagan. The Blackstaff culvert even runs under Ulsterville Avenue, taking in the proposed new Lisburn Road section of the ward. The name Blackstaff was always associated with this part of Belfast although when the Blackstaff Factory moved to the Springfield Road it caused some to think (even to this day) that the Forth River was the Blackstaff. With the decision in a previous review to change the name to Blackstaff it helped greatly to revive the ancient name within the area.

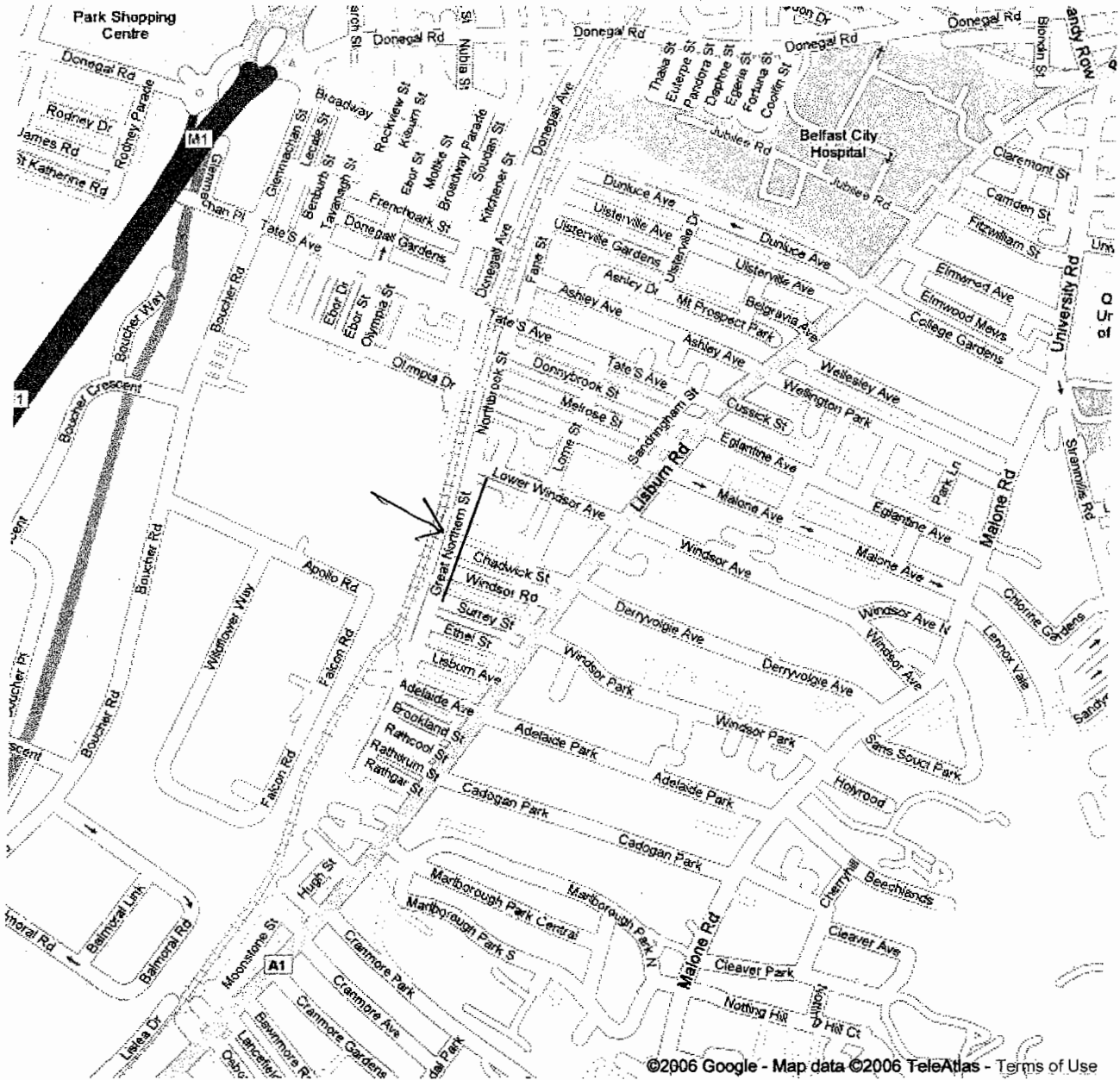
We believe it is important that all wards should have historical names linking us all to our roots and it is good to see that this is indeed the case for most if not all the other wards. We take a pride in having our ward named after the the ancient river of Blackstaff. You could also consider a double-barrel name like 'Blackstaff & Great Northern'. The name 'Great Northern' is associated more with the Lisburn Road area.

Finally, the Blackstaff name gives those involved in tourism a better opportunity to promote the area as the river played a major role in the industrial development of Belfast. It also created the social division in Belfast by residents who could afford it, moving from the town centre to the Malone Ridge to escape the Blackstaff floodwater.

Yours sincerely,



William Dickson
Chairman



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