

## **Petition Received – The Freda Roberts Bridge Campaign**

The new bridge across from Southcourt across the rail line and linking to the town centre is now taking shape. The bridge mast is in place and the bridge itself is currently being lifted into position. The bridge design is intended to create a focal point and gateway for people arriving in Aylesbury. To date the new bridge has had the 'working' title of Southcourt Bridge. The general consensus was that the name 'Southcourt' was too specific. It is important to agree a name so that it can be registered in the database of street names and to give an identity to the imposing new structure.

Discussions about the final name of the bridge have been ongoing for over 6 months.

Local people were asked for suggestions. Both Mix 96 and the Bucks Herald were both involved in canvassing local people for their views.

Aylesbury Vale District Council and Aylesbury Town Council as well as Local residents' groups and young people have all been asked for suggestions.

A number of names have come forward including:

- Freda Roberts Bridge – Presented as a suggestion through the local petition
- Boleyn Bridge – Anne Boleyn once stayed in Aylesbury.
- Courts Causeway – this was proposed by local residents to embrace the fact that the bridge links to Walton Court and Southcourt areas. 'A causeway is a walkway over water'.
- Bourg Walk – This name was proposed following the article run by the Bucks Herald asking Aylesbury residents to suggest a name. Bourg Walk was one suggestion. On 25 Sep 2008 it was reported that the paper been inundated with requests to call the structure The Bourg Walk, in honour of Aylesbury's twin town Bourg en Bresse. The bridge is seen a link between communities which the name Bourg Walk embodies.

The Forum may be interested to be reminded that Cllr Freda Roberts was the Councillor who initiated the twinning.

The views local residents and those of the Local Area Forum are greatly appreciated and will be taken into account in deciding the name

Both the Petition and any supplementary views of the Local Area Forum will be taken into account before a final decision is taken by Cllr Valerie Letheren, Cabinet Member for Transportation.

The decision about the name will be announced at the Full Council Meeting in November.