

Minutes of Meeting of the Moore St Advisory Group (Online)

21/12/20 @ 1.30p.m.,

Members in attendance were:

Tom Collins (Chairman), James Connolly Heron, John Daly, Tom Holbrook, Brian O'Neill, Aengus O'Snodaigh TD, Donna Cooney, Neasa Hourigan, TD, Senator Mary Fitzpatrick, Nial Ring, Coilín O Reilly, Catherine Kennedy, Catherine (Carmel) Smyth, Nessa Foley

Also in attendance were:

Minister Malcolm Noonan TD,
Ed Dobbs - Hammerson,
Jackie Gallagher - Hammerson,
Anne O'Donoghue - Irish Heritage Trust,
Dr Emma O'Toole - Irish Heritage Trust,
Jo Tynan - Irish Heritage Trust

Dave Farrell – Secretariat

Apologies: Gary Gannon TD, Bríd Smith TD, Eimer McCormack

1. Introductions

The Chairperson opened the meeting and all present introduced themselves.

2. Address by Minister for Heritage/ Terms of Reference for Noting

The Minister thanked all for agreeing to act as members of the Moore Street Advisory Group and for attending this meeting on Christmas week and outlined the TOR of the group. The Minister requested that Group compile and submit its report endorsed by the majority of the membership by Easter.

The TOR's and timeline for the work were noted.

3. Presentation by Irish Heritage Trust

Anne O'Donoghue provided some background on the work of the Irish Heritage Trust and some of the other projects it has been involved in and emphasised the importance the Trust places on creating enduring links between communities and the properties cared for.

Dr Emma O'Toole outlined details of the Irish Heritage Trust Project at Moore St:

- Key objective – Create a vision to complement the iconic status of Moore St with respect to 1916 and its market trading history.
- Key Work thus far (Research phase) – research on history of the area (reports/collections) and other museums (GPO, Henrietta St., Collins Barracks) with consideration of potential audiences.
- Next Steps – To produce a scoping document ready to be submitted by the end of March with consideration given to possibilities around museum space, cultural activities and educational programmes.

In response to questions from the members the Trust indicated that their work would aim to integrate the monument with other key elements of the battle ground site and with other cognate monuments in the area. They also confirmed that they would remain in dialogue with the Group over the coming months as they crystallised their vision.

4. **Hammerson**

Ed Dobbs gave the Group an overview of the evolution of the Hammerson proposals to date and its prior engagement with the previous Moore Street Advisory Group. Key points as follows:

- It is also consulting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the proposed metro station for the site.
- A design team was appointed on June 2020 including MOLA architecture, Grafton Architects and a multi-disciplinary Heritage Team.
- It is proceeding with the Master Plan presented in 2019, albeit with some new uses introduced including 100 residential units. Ed pointed out that ‘Securing History 2’ was a key element of the brief.
- It intends to submit a planning application and EIA at the end of the first quarter 2020.
- It would like to engage with the MSAG through a series of meetings in advance of submission of the planning application.
- It has consulted with the Irish Heritage Trust and is open to considering ideas from across the spectrum.
- It intends to mitigate the impact of construction of the market traders.

James Connolly Heron commented that the timeline is very tight and proposed that the MSAG meet without Hammerson present for its next meeting to create its own vision for the area before Hammerson present its proposals. However, the majority of the Group were of the view that it would be best to bring Hammerson in to its next meeting.

Aengus O'Snodaigh TD queried whether the various planning applications would be phased given that construction and the associated impact on market traders would be prolonged the more the applications are phased. Ed answered that there will be multiple applications by necessity.

5. DCC Expert Group on Traders

Cllr. Donna Cooney gave the Group a presentation on the Expert Group's work on the market thus far, covering its aims, membership and the process it has been engaged in in terms of meetings, engagement and carrying out of a survey.

The survey, with over 600 responses, revealed a preference for a food based market on mornings and afternoons Monday through to Saturday.

The Expert Group is looking at a number of physical and other interventions to aid reinvigoration of the market and notes, in particular, the importance of dealing with the anti-social behaviour on the Street which has deteriorated in recent years.

The Group's report is currently in draft stage and is being finalised in consultation with the traders. Cllr. Cooney hopes to circulate the report at the end of January. Funding will be a crucial element for implementation.

Tom Holbrook and Catherine Kennedy raised two matters requiring follow up:

- The need for Hammerson, Dublin City Council and the traders to meet to discuss in detail measures to mitigate the impact construction will have on trading. Secretary to arrange with all parties.
- The need to follow up with An Garda Síochána regarding Anti-Social Behaviour on Moore Street. The Minister will follow up on his letter to the Superintendent in Store St. Garda Station regarding this issue.

6. Update by Department on national monument

Nessa Foley (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) gave an update on funding for the National Monument (No. 14-17)

The Department has applied jointly with Dublin City Council for funding under the Urban Redevelopment Fund and is awaiting the outcome of that application.

In addition, the Department has looked for funding from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, is in constant communication with the Office of Public Works and is liaising with the CSSO on procurement procedure.

James Connolly Heron queried the whereabouts of €5m he believes was set aside by NAMA for restoration of the monument and requested details on the costs to date which Nessa Foley

advised she will look into, noting that most Exchequer funding is allocated on a year by year basis.

Senator Mary Fitzpatrick suggested that it would be beneficial for the Group to be informed as to the overall projected funding requirement.

7. AOB

The Chair acknowledged the work of recently deceased former member John Connolly to the work of the Group and extended his sympathy to his family.

The Group on the whole were impressed by the visions laid out by Hammerson, the Irish Heritage Trust and the Expert Group on the traders. However, the group was keen to engage with all three regularly and with urgency, given the tight deadlines and the need to ensure that the visions outlined are well aligned.

James Connolly Heron requested that reports referenced on the back of Securing History 2 be made available.

8. Schedule of Future Meetings

It was proposed that the group meet again on 4th Jan 2021 at 2pm and continue with fortnightly meetings thereafter.