

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

15th Jan 2021 @ 11 a.m.,

Members in attendance were:

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

In attendance for Hammerson for the presentation were, inter alia:

Ed Dobbs, Hammerson

Friedrich Ludewig, ACME Architects

Various representatives of the Dublin Central Design team, including Mola, RKD and Grafton Architects.

Terry Allen, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Dave Farrell – Secretariat

Apologies: Neasa Hourigan TD

1. Minutes of 21st Dec 2020

The draft minutes of 21st Dec were approved as circulated.

2. Presentation by Hammerson

Hammerson gave a detailed presentation covering:

- The evolution of its plans for the site
- The appointment and make up the design team and heritage team and the employment of a forensic archaeologist to determine the origins of the fabric of the buildings and a history professor to review and critique same
- Its previous engagements with the MSAG and DCC
- Its acknowledgement of the recommendations made in the Securing History 1 and 2 reports

- The outline of the site
- The rationale for an east/west link to Moore St from O'Connell St in terms of the significant increase in footfall to facilitate a vibrant area
- Its programme noting that the submission of planning applications would commence at the end of March 2021
- The proposed construction timelines, locations and access routes for machinery during the construction phase
- Its intention to mitigate the impact of construction on traders and to provide retail units that are complementary
- The study of the extent of, and proposed reuse of, the original cobble stones in Moore Lane, Henry Place and O'Rahilly parade
- The discovery of an Easter 1916 creep hole at first floor level in a retained party wall between the post-1916 buildings at Nos. 12 and 13 Moore St, and Hammerson's intention to carefully retain the wall in-situ
- Its intention to investigate how No.10 might have been accessed by volunteers from Henry Place

Hammerson also outlined some amendments made to plans previously presented to the MSAG based on feedback from the Group and findings from the heritage team including:

- Removal of truck ramp access along O'Rahilly Parade and basement service yard previously proposed
- A proposal to replace the opening in the terrace to be created at Nos. 18 and 19 with an archway that would facilitate access to O'Connell St and the main square but be visually unobtrusive in response to comments of some of the members of the MSAG; Hammerson also outlined the benefits of same in terms of increased footfall to the Market
- The proposal to narrow the east/west link along with the removal of the Petals/Mushrooms previously proposed
- A second entrance to Metrolink on Moore Lane
- Additional retentions on site of the fabric of a large number of buildings identified by the conservation team as being of historical significance – e.g. Conway's public house, Numbers 8, 9 and 10 Moore St., O'Brien's Stables, O'Brien's Bottling Stores, plus a re-imagining of 10 Henry Place as a potential gallery

- Additional fabric along Moore Lane to be retained (6-8 Moore Lane)

Hammerson would welcome engagement from the MSAG, particularly on the following:

- The creation of a statue or piece of public art to commemorate historical event – e.g. in the main square
- Appropriate ideas for the name of the new arch as well as potential for commemorative plaque
- Historic trail: Ideas on design and type of materials would be welcome

The presentation including drawings and artist impressions was well received in terms of the potential to reinvigorate the area and the efforts made by Hammerson to take on board the concerns previously raised by the MSAG. It was agreed that Hammerson would provide a soft copy of the presentation not to be distributed outside the MSAG and that the Group would examine and discuss what had been presented in its next meeting. The Chairperson welcomed any written submissions members may wish to make in advance of the next meeting

3. AOB

- The Chairperson outlined recent communications concerning the request for the reports listed on the back of Securing History 2 to be made available and asked the Department to put any available reports online. On the question of whether a workshop/symposium might be of benefit to newer members of the MSAG to familiarise themselves with the contents of the reports or whether it would make more sense for members to familiarise themselves with the reports in their own time, it was agreed to defer a discussion on the merits of this until the next meeting of the MSAG.
- James Connolly Heron raised the matter of the request from relatives of the signatories who are not members of the reconfigured MSAG to make a presentation to the Group. John Daly suggested that it might be more appropriate for a written submission to be made given the tight timeframe within which the MSAG is working. It was agreed to deal with this request at the next meeting.
- The Chairperson advised that he has contacted both Hammerson and Dublin City Council to advance the process of facilitating a discussion on how best to mitigate the impact of construction on the traders.
- Cllr. Cooney advised that the DCC Expert Group hopes to be able to circulate its report in February and confirmed that it will report to the Minister.

4. Next Meeting

No date set but to be scheduled in approximately two weeks' time.