

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

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 @ 2.30 p.m.,**

Members in attendance were:

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

Dave Farrell – Secretariat

### **1. Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021**

Thomas Holbrook referred to a sentence in the draft minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb which quoted Councillor Cooney as saying she had received an email from the traders welcoming progress thus far. Councillor Cooney clarified that she never referred to having received such an email and it was agreed to delete this sentence. It was agreed to delete the sentence.

Brian O’Neill asked that the minutes be amended to include a statement he had made with regard to the issues traders will face during the construction phase and the need to consider compensation/relocation. Later in the meeting, Councillor Ring echoed the comments and the need to consider compensation.

Subject to the above amendments, the minutes were proposed by Councillor Ring and seconded by Nessa Foley.

### **2. Matters Arising**

James Connolly Heron raised the following matters:

- The request for a copy of the Hammerson presentation to be provided as he has experienced technical issues with the web link timing out after 15 mins:

Nessa Foley confirmed that she will follow up with Hammerson. (Catherine) Carmel Smyth pointed out that the committee of the 1916 Relatives Association would have concerns about the plans being leaked and will not be seeking a hard copy. Coilín O’Reilly stated that he had received correspondence from a shop owner on Moore Street on the Sunday after the Hammerson presentation who had stated he had seen the presentation.

- Request for reports as set out in email to Secretary and Nessa Foley:  
Nessa Foley confirmed the secretary is in the process of sourcing same.
- Issue of Nama Funding for National Monument:  
James Connolly Heron explained he forwarded information to Nessa Foley on previous references to the availability of NAMA funding for the National Monument. Nessa Foley explained that she had found some previous PQs which referred to such funding but that all pre dated the State purchase of No.14-17 in 2016 so it may be that the availability of funding changed following the purchase but she will investigate further. Deputy Hourigan agreed to enquire about the matter with the Public Accounts Committee.
- Nessa Foley advised that the costs to date were set out in a recent reply to a parliamentary question by Deputy O’Snodaigh. James Connolly Heron said a further breakdown of the costs would be useful. Nessa Foley advised she will check to see if that kind of information can be released. The Chair Stated that it was unclear to him how this issue was relevant to the workings of this Group.

Chair confirmed that secretary has arranged a consultation meeting with the Irish Heritage Trust (IHT) on Monday 1st March for those who have yet to be consulted by them.

### **3. Summary of the Submissions on the Hammerson proposals**

Chair opened a discussion as to whether the circulated document captured the range of positions within the MSAG on the proposals. The Chair was of the view that a consensus position may be difficult to achieve and emphasised that the document, which is a draft for discussion, is the first iteration.

James Connolly Heron felt the document was imbalanced and presented more points in favour of the proposals than against. He felt that there were some omissions such as:

- Contrary positions in the reports by Gráinne Shaffrey versus Dooley and Hall on the origin of the facade of No. 18
- The breaking of the terrace
- The effect on the street lines

James Connolly Heron also clarified that, contrary to the text of document, the Save Moore Street Committee is not opposed to Hammerson or other private commercial development in the area. He is advocating for a public private partnership in which the State has an important role.

Coilín O’Reilly clarified that DCC did not make a submission as it would be inappropriate for them to do so as the planning authority.

Deputy O’Snodaigh felt it was difficult to make alterations to a document in this format. He objected to the inclusion of the term “generally the view is...” and emphasised the importance of reflecting the minority view if the text is eventually approved by a vote. In his view, the report should be a commentary rather than a majority/minority position on the Hammerson proposals.

Brian O'Neill stated that, in his view, the report captured the majority position of the Group in not including options that required a CPO for consideration and that it generally captured the view of the 1916 relative's association executive as per its submission. He pointed out that development of the site can't be done in isolation from the National Monument and consideration of the forthcoming report of the IHT.

There was detailed discussion on the best way to progress the report to the Minister and the format the report should take. There was a general consensus that the report should be a commentary on the proposals and reflect, as well as possible, the varying views of the members. To this end, the Chair invited proposed amendments and additions from members. The Chair pointed out that, should consensus on the final text not be achieved, it may be necessary to put the matter to a majority decision.

Nessa Foley stated that Hammerson have communicated their willingness to come back and engage with the Group again once the Group had an opportunity to consider its proposals. James Connolly Heron welcomed this but Deputy O'Snodaigh said that it is too early for this to happen.

Senator Fitzpatrick felt it may be helpful for the Group to consider the proposals again after hearing from the IHT and from DCC on the implementation plan for the market so there is cohesion on these aspects.

James Connolly Heron referred to the proposal in the Green Party vision for the area to be made an Architectural Conservation Area and queried with DCC how such a designation is made. Coilín O'Reilly explained that it would need to be established that the whole area is of high historical and architectural value.

Deputy Smith asked if it was too late to make a submission and Chair confirmed it was not.

#### **4. AOB**

Catherine Kennedy made the point that the traders are not opposed to development of the street and would like to see it restored to its former glory but are very concerned about the impact of construction on their livelihoods. Thomas Holbrook echoed the views of Catherine emphasising the need to safeguard the livelihood of the traders and the safety of their customers.

James Connolly Heron referred to Brian O'Neill's comments on the creep hole in the party wall between No.12 and No 13 stating he supported the view that the buildings should be in public ownership. Brian O'Neill clarified that he did not say that the new buildings should be in public ownership but that there should preferably be an element of public access to the pre-1916 party wall which Hammerson had committed to retaining.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 2.30 pm with 10/15 min presentations from the IHT, and both the Green Party and Sinn Féin on both parties visions for the area.