

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

21st April 2021 @ 10 a.m.,

Members in attendance were:

Tom Collins (Chairman),
Thomas Holbrook,
John Daly (John had technical issues and missed most of the meeting as a result)
Brian O'Neill,
(Catherine) Carmel Smyth,
James Connolly Heron,
Aengus O'Snodaigh TD,
Neasa Hourigan TD,
Senator Mary Fitzpatrick,
Councillor Donna Cooney,
Coilín O Reilly,
Nessa Foley,

Irish Heritage Trust (IHT):

Anne O'Donoghue,
Emma O'Toole,
Jason King,
Jo Tynan.

Office of Public Works:

Tomas O'Connor,
John Cahill,
Terri Sweeney,
Ken Moore.

National Monuments Service:

Terry Allen,
Michael MacDonagh.

Dave Farrell – Secretariat

Apologies: Councillor Nial Ring, Councillor McCormack

Anne O'Donoghue and her colleagues in the IHT gave an overview of:

- The background and context of the study
- How it was conducted in terms of stakeholder engagements, examination of available architectural and archaeological reports and market and tourism research
- The main recommendations of the final report
 - secure the existing buildings in as pure and authentic a condition as possible
 - develop a commemorative centre to the rear of the monument
 - That Interpretation at the National Monument should be framed through the overarching theme of 'Voices of the Rising' and the subthemes of 'Rags' (pre-1916 - development of rag trade and market), 'Rebellion' (1916 Rising) and 'Rebirth' (post 1916 – rebuilding in the aftermath)
 - Develop a visitor experience - guide-led tours, audio visual displays, preserved tunnels and restored and reconstructed rooms, Evacuation Trail and 1916 Commemorative Trail
 - Development of an Education and Outreach programme
- Operating Considerations – site capacity, retail and access
- Governance & Management – proposal for a charitable foundation or not-for-profit

Structure governed by a board of trustees, importance of Volunteerism, Financial Sustainability considerations

Q&A:

James Connolly Heron queried:

- If the IHT had come across a copy of a 2011 conservation report by Gráinne Shaffrey.
- If the IHT had considered the “tunnels” under No's. 12/13. Nessa Foley pointed out that the basements that extend beyond No's 14-17 are not National Monuments.
- If there is provision for keeping the existing walls of the courtyard at 14-17 – Emma confirmed they are retained in their plan
- If the IHT is in favour of the removal of the side wall of No. 17 to build the sliver building – Nessa Foley clarified that the sliver building would be built up against the gable wall of no 17

Senator Fitzpatrick commented that this was the closest she had seen the State come to taking a leading role and commended the IHT on its work. Whilst noting that it may not be in the gift of the IHT to answer, she queried how long it may take and how much it might cost to realise the concept. Anne advised that the next step in the process would be to appoint a project team and that the IHT would not be in a position to estimate the capital costs in advance of a detailed exercise on project costs in the next phase. However, she pointed to the recent announcement by the Minister of URDF funding for the national monument as a very positive development.

Councillor Cooney queried if the tours would highlight No. 10 (Emma confirmed they would) and where the evacuation trail walking tours will go – Emma advised there will be three distinct paths following the O’Rahilly’s charge up Moore Street, the evacuation of 300 Irish Volunteers and Cumman na mBan towards Henry Place and a path to No. 15 Moore Street where Nurse Elizabeth O’Farrell left to meet the British soldiers to declare surrender.

The Chair had to leave the meeting at this point and IHT attendees also left.

John Daly, James Connolly Heron, Brian O’Neill, (Catherine) Carmel Smyth, Councillor Cooney, Nessa Foley and the secretary remained. John Daly explained his dissatisfaction with the meeting platform having missed all but five minutes of the meeting due to technical issues. Nessa Foley resolved to have slides form the presentation circulated ASAP.

James Connolly Heron queried the timeframe for submission of the report and how it is to be drafted. Nessa Foley said she will speak to the Chair and ask him to write to the Group setting out same.

James Connolly Heron queried whether Hammerson had replied to the request for information on the schedule for planning and for slides form last week’s presentation. Nessa Foley confirmed that Hammerson had done so and the secretary is attempting to distribute the email but is encountering a technical issue which he is attempting to resolve with the Departments IT Unit.