

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

12th Feb 2021 @ 10 a.m.,

Members in attendance were:

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

Dave Farrell – Secretariat

1. Minutes of 15th Jan 2021

The draft minutes of 15th Jan 2021 were approved as circulated and it was noted to include “Councillor” before the names of the Dublin City Councillors on future minutes.

2. Matters Arising

Proposal to hold a workshop to consider previous reports and formulate a vision for Moore Street separate to the process of responding to Hammerson proposal

This matter was discussed in detail with consideration given to possible benefits, the urgency to move the process on in a timely manner and the Terms of Reference of the Group. The Group decided by majority decision not to hold a workshop.

Votes in favour of workshop: 4

Votes against holding workshop: 10

Standing Orders

The Chair requested that all correspondence to/from the MSAG be made via the secretary and that the email addresses of those on the Group not be made available to any other parties for data protection reasons.

3. Submissions on Hammerson Proposals

The Chair noted the four submissions received to date from Councillor Nial Ring, the Save Moore Street Committee, the 1916 Relatives Association and Aengus Ó Snodaigh, TD.

The Chair noted that some of the submissions to date offer an alternative vision for the Moore Street area, which would be dependent on state ownership of same. Given that there is no indication from the State that it has any intention to commence Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) proceedings and that Hammerson have stated their intention to apply for planning permission in April, the Chair proposed that the Group not consider options which entail CPO.

The matter was discussed in detail. Key considerations raised were as follows:

- The fact that Hammerson already have planning permission which they have opted not to proceed with, instead revising their plans in a way that is much more sensitive to the cultural and historical significance of the area (Brian O’Neill). Deputy O’Snodagh countered that the current planning permission is due for expiry in 2022 so will not be activated in any case.
- The legal complexity, expense and delays associated with CPO (Brian O’Neill, Councillor Nial Ring, Senator Mary Fitzpatrick, Nessa Foley and Coilín O Reilly) and the continued dereliction and stagnation of Moore St such a delay would result in (Brian O’Neill, Councillor Nial Ring). Deputy O’Snodagh suggested land swap would be an alternative to CPO.
- The need to consider all options and the crucial role of the State (James Connolly Heron)
- The time constraints faced by the MSAG (Hammerson intend to apply for planning in April) and the importance of the MSAG availing of the opportunity to present its views (Brian O’Neill, Councillor Nial Ring, Senator Mary Fitzpatrick, Nessa Foley)
- That when Minister Darragh O’Brien brought forward a bill as a Senator with regard to CPO, the area was owned by a different company and the plans for the area were very different to what Hammerson are proposing (Nessa Foley).

The Chair pointed out that it is the provenance of the Government to decide to pursue a CPO option or not as need arises and the Group’s TORs did not extend to advising on this issue, one way or the other. His concern was more with the decision making process of the Group itself in terms of selecting between possible options.

Group determined by majority decision not to consider options which entail CPO.

Votes in favour of proposal: 10

Votes against proposal: 3

Deputy Hourigan was not present when the vote was taken.

In response to a question from Deputy O’Snodagh, the Chair confirmed that options involving a possible land swap could be considered.

James Connolly Heron stated his dissatisfaction with the use of a voting process for decisions on the above matter and the proposal for a workshop.

Other matters raised with regard to the Hammerson proposals and submissions on same:

- Nessa Foley pointed out that a full archaeological survey will be carried out as part of the planning process
- Catherine (Carmel) Smyth stated that the midden referred to in Deputy O'Snodaigh's submission was Georgian in origin and they are common ; that the Dooly and Hall report had pointed to the party wall between No. 12 and No. 13 as an eighteenth century structure.
- The Chair advised members that submissions will be accepted up to Friday 19th Feb and that they will then be summarised with a view to determine whether a consensus can be reached.

4. AOB

- Chair advised James Connolly Heron that he had corresponded with the National Monuments Service regarding NAMA funding of €5m for the monument but the Department has no record of this. James Connolly Heron to check where this reference originally came from.
- James Connolly Heron followed up the request for the Relatives of the Signatories Group not currently sitting on the MSAG to make a presentation to the Group. The Chair asked James Connolly Heron to ask them to submit a written synopsis of what they propose to present and the MSAG would determine if there is any merit in bringing them in. The importance of maintaining a focus on the tasks at hand and timelines for doing so was noted.
- James Connolly Heron enquired about the availability of a report by Linzi Simpson. Chair agreed to follow up.
- Tom Holbrook advised that the traders met with Hammerson and Dublin City Council on 11th Feb and discussions are ongoing but that the conditions for trading on Moore St. would not be safe when construction commences so he is hopeful alternatives can be found.

Councillor Cooney pointed out that works won't commence till 2022 so there is time to begin renovating market. The expert group report has been sent to the Minister. Senator Fitzpatrick agreed that it is important to look at the short to medium term measures required to bring business to the street.

5. Next Meeting

The Chair set out the plan for the next series of meetings as follows:

Weekly Friday meetings where possible to maintain momentum.

Production of a summary of the submissions on the Hammerson proposals within a fortnight.

Next meeting Friday 19th at 2.30 pm with a focus on the Market and the report of the expert group.

Following Meeting to focus on Irish Heritage Trust update if available or update on the National Monument.