

Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations
Meeting 3rd October 2016, Department of the Taoiseach Room 301

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| <p>Attendance: Dr Maurice Manning (Chair); Dr Martin Mansergh (Vice Chair); Ms Sinead McCoolle; Mr Francis Devine; Dr Eamon Phoenix; Professor Diarmuid Ferriter; Mr Gabriel Doherty; Dr. Sandra Collins Commt. Stephen MacEoin</p> | <p><i>Apologies</i> Professor Mary Daly; Dr Mary Harris; Dr. Leeann Lane; Dr.Eunan O'Halpin</p> | <p>Presentation -Mr John Concannon- 2016 Project office -Jerry Kelleher- D/Taoiseach Officials: -Feargal O'Coigligh; Sabina O'Donnell</p> |
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1. Minutes of 27th June 2016 approved. No matters arising.
2. Dr. Collins (NLI) and Comdt. McEoin (Project Director Military Archives) were welcomed by the Chair as newly appointed members of the Group by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Group expressed their enthusiasm for the new elements of expertise which the new members will be able to offer.
3. Mr J. Concannon (2016 Project Office) provided an update on events since the June meeting, including events involving children. Mr. Concannon outlined plans for events for the remainder of the year, including a major conference in NUIG in November and a final event in December to acknowledge the contribution of the members of the Defence Forces during 2016.
4. Comprehensive consideration was given to the direction of the Group's work from 2017 onwards. Ideas from members, arising from the last meeting, were discussed, in the context of the preparation of a renewed strategic direction for the remainder of the period to 2023, taking account of key events; key themes/approaches; key capital projects which might be promoted/supported.
5. It was agreed that further work would be undertaken by a drafting group of members to progress a text, to reflect the challenges inherent in the commemorative narrative to be dealt with in the coming years. Any additional suggestions from the overall group would be welcome.
6. Mr. O'Coigligh reported that Ireland was represented by President Higgins and Minister Humphreys at the Somme Commemoration ceremonies on 1st July at Thiepval.

Mr, Kelleher outlined the official events which took place in Ireland on 1st and 9th July. Events to commemorate Thomas Kettle and Roger Casement were also noted.

7. Next meeting scheduled for 7th November next.