

**Minutes of Meeting of the Moore St Advisory Group
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
26 Mar 2019 @ 11.00a.m., 23 Kildare St. Dublin 2**

In attendance were:

Tom Collins (Chairman), James Connolly Heron, John Conway, John Daly, Patrick Cooney, Muriel McAuley, Mícheál MacDonncha, Christina McLoughlin, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Brian O'Neill, Aengus O'Snodaigh TD, Maureen O'Sullivan TD, Nial Ring, Garry McDonagh – Secretariat

Apologies: Ernie Beggs, Joan Burton, John Connolly, John Lyons, Sean Haughey TD, Margaret Hanway, Tom Holbrook, Sean Paul Mahon, Cara O'Neill, John Stephenson,

1. Minutes of the meeting 22 February 2019

The Chair welcomed a new member of the Group Brian O'Neill representing the 1916 relatives Association.

The draft minutes of the meeting of 05 February 2019 were approved with one change suggested by Mícheál MacDonncha.

2. Matters Arising

It was agreed that the Chair would not write a letter to Terry Dooley regarding his presentation.

The Chair read out a letter on behalf on the Minister in respect of Deputy Toibin's membership of the group. After a discussion it was agreed that the Deputy could be invited to attend meetings of the sub groups and that the Chair would write to him thanking him for his contribution to the MSAG.

3. Report from TDs meeting with Hammerson

A note of the meeting with Hammerson was circulated to those present. The Chair noted that the most significant change is the plan to include a metro station on O'Connell St. He further stated that transport can transform any part of a city.

Deputy O'Sullivan said that due to the initial planning costs of €7m it appears that Hammerson are committed to the project and she didn't get the impression that they would be selling up soon.

Deputy O'Snodaigh noted that Hammerson will not commit the €7m unless they get approval from MSAG. He felt that they were setting the MSAG up to take the blame if the project fell through. He said that there is a vision for the stalls/traders which is very interesting.

Deputy O'Cuiv was in favour of their proposal, the metro station would help send more people into the cultural area and could provide extra footfall from 7am to midnight.

Cllr Ring asked about current footfall on Moore St as the market area is part of our remit and is very important. The Chair responded that the number is low and is dropping with less Irish people than ever according to the traders.

Mr Connolly Heron said it was a very disappointing report. He asked whether anyone had put the case that our experts and Ned Kelly had raised? We need to lay out our vision to Hammerson, our brief is to develop a battlefield site and not to break the battlefield line. Deputy O’Cuiv asked him if he would write a short paper outlining his concerns, we don’t want something that we can’t agree on.

Cllr MacDonncha noted that it was a significant report, more than we’ve previously gotten. He asked for an explanation of what the community schemes were? He felt it was certainly not our brief to give, or not to give, approval to the Hammerson plan. We are tasked with helping to develop that plan, to provide proposals to make it a better plan.

Deputy O’Cuiv felt that Hammerson would like to know that there isn’t outright opposition to their plan from the MSAG. The Chair sensed that if the Group opposed it then Hammerson would not make a submission. He said that they had informed Hammerson that there were elements that we liked and elements we didn’t like.

It was agreed that Hammerson should be informed of the Groups position in terms of what our vision is. The Chair will ask Hammerson for a copy of their presentation which he will then present to the group at a special meeting. Members of the group will outline their views of the plan after which our thoughts will be submitted to Hammerson.

4. Report from sub groups

Deputy O’Sullivan reported on behalf of the Market sub group. She had met informally with DCC regarding the new stalls. She has asked them to look at licences as soon as possible as the development may not now happen for a few years. She has suggested licences be given to people with different goods. The next meeting of the sub group will take place after Easter.

Deputy O’Cuiv reported on behalf of the National Monument sub group. To date the group have visited the Tenement Museum, the 1916 Rising exhibition in Collins Barracks and a presentation in the Department of the artefacts recovered from the Moore Street buildings. OPW have come up with two proposals, they can continue with the preservation work or they can conduct small limited tours. He said they were considering a purpose built area out the rear which could be used to house the artefacts. He further stated that the DIT students were assisting with the plans and he hoped to have it completed by middle of June.

Deputy O’Snodaigh reported on behalf of the Survey sub group. A survey document was circulated to those present. The Deputy reported that a full survey of the whole site was needed and enquired as to whether funding was available? Mr Cooney suggested that the survey needed to be done before planning permission was sought. Other members of the MSAG felt that it was not within our remit to undertake surveys and that the developer is obliged to undertake the survey. Deputy O’Snodaigh stated that we cannot give approval unless we have all the facts but if Hammerson want to pay for the survey then that is fine. Cllr Ring stated that an Bord Pleanala will ensure that all this will be done and that

Hammerson should know exactly what has to be done. Deputy O’Cuiv interjected that DCC will not allow planning permission through unless all statutory regulations are complied with. The Chair suggested that the Group write to the State asking for assurance that an archaeological survey has been taken on board.

5. Symposium

The Chair suggested that as work is progressing on all fronts it might be useful to host an event where we bring all the stakeholders together. He suggested that the MSAG meets to discuss the Hammerson plan, send a report of that meeting to Hammerson and then hold a workshop in June. Mr Cooney asked about the site visit that Hammerson had offered to the Group?

6. AOB

Cllr MacDonncha stated that a meeting between councillors and Richard Shakespeare of DCC has been requested.

7. Next meeting

TBC