

Minutes of Meeting of the Moore St Advisory Group
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
05 Feb 2019 @ 11a.m., 23 Kildare St. Dublin 2

In attendance were:

Tom Collins (Chairman), James Connolly Heron, Patrick Cooney, John Daly, John Lyons, Muriel McAuley, Mícheál MacDonncha, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Maureen O'Sullivan TD, Nial Ring, John Stephenson, Garry McDonagh – Secretariat

Apologies: Ernie Beggs, Joan Burton, John Connolly, John Conway, Christina McLoughlin, Sean Haughey TD, Margaret Hanway, Tom Holbrook, Sean Paul Mahon, Cara O'Neill, Aengus O'Snodaigh,

1. Minutes of the meeting 15 January 2019

The draft minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2019 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

The Chair has written to the Minister regarding Deputy Toibin remaining as a member, he has received an acknowledgment thus far. He will be meeting with the traders next week to discuss a one page submission regarding the DBEI review of the provisions of Casual Trading Act 1995 and the Occasional Trading Act 1979.

Mr Connolly Heron asked that the Chair look at a request by “The 1916 Relatives Moore Street Initiative” to make a presentation to the Group.

3. Presentation by Terry Dooley NUIM

The Chair introduced Professor Terry Dooley and Dr Donal Hall from the Centre for Historic Houses and Estates in Maynooth University. The Chair stated that the researchers had been asked to survey all available sources regarding the provenance of the Moore Street Terrace from Number 10 to Number 25, with particular reference to the status of each building in 1916. Prof Dooley described it as a hugely important project; they didn't look merely for what happened in 1916 but where it happened. Every available source was interrogated and incorporated into the findings.

Dr Hall went through his power point presentation explaining the provenance of each building from 10 to 25, excluding the National Monument at 14/17. (Presentation attached). Due to time limitations the question and answer section had to be postponed to a later date.

4. Discussion with strategic experts

The Chair welcomed James Kelly and Kevin Rudden back to the Group. They had been asked to review and report on the Hammerson document. Mr Kelly addressed the subject matter and provided a report of his observations which were circulated to the Group. In general, he had reservations regarding what he termed as the aspirational nature of the

Hammerson proposals, the lack of specifics on the design vision, the lack of a particular connection in the proposals to the urban design essence of Dublin and its alignment with a range of conservation charters, especially the Washington Charter and the Venice Charter.

5. Presentation by Eamonn Kelly

The Chair welcomed Mr Eamon Kelly, retired Keeper of antiquities at the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), who gave his thoughts on the project to date. He stated that he had written an advisory report for the Director of the NMI which was for the Minister. His view was that the selection of 14/17 as the National Monument was entirely arbitrary. The Environmental Report didn't look at this as the most important battlesite of 1916. Five years ago the Museum advised the National Monuments Service to look at all the buildings in the street to see if there was a series of linked monuments. What was required was a survey of all the buildings

The archaeology is pre 1916 and includes 2 metres of deposits from the 18th and 19th century, he stated. He suggested that a critical review of all archaeological reports thus far completed was now desirable.

Kevin Rudden stated that neither they, nor Hammerson, know what is in these buildings and that a full survey was required.

In summarising, the Chair reminded the Group of its specific purpose as agreed in the Securing History report, namely to develop an agreed 'framework of consensus' on alternative development arrangements for the Moore Street quarter. He stated that he saw the emphasis of the Group's work as on agreeing a framework, on a vision rather than a plan. This framework should accommodate the requirements of two themes in particular, the market place and 1916. Other issues, particularly those concerning the archaeological significance of the area, were best left to bodies with the requisite expertise and responsibility to handle such matters but, in his view, did not fall within the scope or the competency of the MSAG. He pointed to the statutory role of An Taisce in matters such as these as well as the statutory responsibilities of DCC and An Bord Pleanala. It was agreed that this matter would be addressed at the next meeting of the MSAG.

Hammerson are to be asked to arrange a meeting whereby all interested parties can visit and access the buildings.

6. Presentation by Stephen Troy

Due to time limitations the meeting had to be ended but the Chair asked Mr Troy to send him his material which he would review as soon as possible.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on the 22nd of February .It will concern itself with the Dooley/Hall report and with the remit of the MSAG.

