# Minutes of Meeting of the Moore St Advisory Group
# Mansion House, Dawson St, Dublin 2
# 12 September 2018 @ 4p.m.

In attendance were:
Tom Collins (Chairman), Ernie Beggs, John Conway, Patrick Cooney, John Daly, Margaret Hanway, John Lyons, Muriel McAuley, Mícheál MacDonncha, Christina McLoughlin, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Maureen O'Sullivan TD, Nial Ring, John Stephenson, Peadar Tóibín TD, Garry McDonagh – Secretariat

Apologies:
Joan Burton, John Connolly, James Connolly Heron, Ciaran Cuffe, Pascal Donohue TD, Sean Haughey TD, Tom Holbrook, Sean Paul Mahon, Mary Lou McDonald TD, Cara O'Neill, Noel Rock TD, Eamon Ryan TD, Darragh O'Brien TD,

## 1. Minutes of the meeting 19 July 2018

The draft minutes of the meeting of 19 July 2018 were discussed after the presentation by Hammerson. Mr Cooney and Mr Mac Donncha raised the issue of the possible meeting between Hammerson and the four people who had presented at the July meeting.

The chair stated that while Mr Daly had proposed this at the previous meeting and this had been supported by Mr Connolly Heron, he had pointed out that any such meeting should happen within the set of instructions of the DIT role with the MSAG.

Following lengthy discussion, during which Deputy O Toibin stated that he felt he was a 'passenger' on the Group given how 'democratic decisions' were ignored and Deputy O Cuiv raised concerns on issues of public procurement, Mr Connolly Heron's amendment to the July minutes was accepted.

With regard to the relationship with DIT, Deputy Toibin said he had no recollection of a decision to work with DIT. Mr Cooney stated that the Chair had a personal interest in DIT and that he himself was not happy with DIT. The chair pointed out that he had always declared his relationship with DIT, it was on the public record and was entirely pro-bono, as was also the case with the MSAG.

P Cooney stated that he had emailed the diaries of the 4 experts to the Chair but he never heard back. The Chair said he had communicated with Deputy Toibin and Mr Connolly Heron on his understanding of the role of the experts.

Deputy O'Sullivan stated that the atmosphere at the meeting was extremely disturbing and saw it as a retrograde step. As the Minister's group our job is to ensure that our recommendations are carried out, we need to move on 14/17. Deputy O'Cuiv said that experts have a role but the group itself needs to have an input. We can decide today to send the experts, or not, but what they would achieve? We would need to appoint experts that we can call on a continuous basis and that would lead to procurement. We need to have a session based on the Hammerson plan and see what issues arise.

A document was tabled by the Chair regarding a proposal to use DIT. J Lyons said we would need to take the proposal away and study

Mr Beggs stated that the traders did not know what's going on and felt their interests were not being served by this Group.

M Mac Donncha stated that we should proceed with the proposal that the experts would meet with Hammerson. The Chair responded that he was unclear as to what we would be asking them to do, what our expectations of them were, what their exact relationship was to the Group and if they would be working on our behalf? Deputy O'Cuiv said he had huge reservations. Are we going to ask Hammerson to meet them once on our behalf and then they go away?

M McAuley said that as none of us are conservation experts, and that as the experts can ask questions that we are not aware of, we should request that they meet with Hammerson. The Lord Mayor said the whole issue was very frustrating. He said that Hammerson will not like other experts coming in and reviewing their work. If the four experts go to Hammerson are we looking for them to confirm what F Ludewig says was accurate? Deputy O'Cuiv wondered what would happen if the experts come back to the group and tell us that before they give us their views there's a lot more work to be done?

P Cooney stated that the presentation from Hamerson included inaccuracies, they were wrong about No's 8 & 9 and Austin Broderick had proved that 18 and 19 had elements from the 1800's in them. He further stated that he could not guarantee the experts would now make themselves available after receiving an email from J Stephenson who responded that that was Mr Cooney's interpretation and not his understanding of the email.

Deputy Toibin said there was now a general consensus that the experts will meet Hammerson on a once- off informal basis. This was accepted. The Chair said he will bring the proposal to Hammerson. He stated that we need to discuss our own processes and his chairmanship and he closed the meeting.

## 2. Presentation by Hammerson

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from Hammerson to the meeting who were there to update the Group on their progress since the last presentation. The Presentation covered 7 items:

- Retaining fabric related to the Easter Rising
- Memorial trail
- Photos etched at key locations on buildings
- Public Square
- Commerative sculpture on the square
- Relocation of the O'Rahilly plaque
- Civic building on the square – Irish language centre?

Hammerson were of the view that numbers 11-13 are not the original buildings, they have been redeveloped. They would like to retain No 10 and reinstate the window and staircase to

its original position. Their plan would also include removing No's 18 and 19, rebuild one half of No 18 and have a laneway through to O'Connell Street. Hammerson referenced Thoms Directory which shows 18 Moore St in "ruins" (defined where the property has no value rather than "vacant" when there is no listed occupant but a value rate is given) from 1914-1919 and the 1911 census which listed 19 Moore Street as in ruins and uninhabited. No property claims were made for either property after the Rising which is natural if both were in a ruinous state at the time. Hammerson noted this was consistent with Sean McLoughlin's witness statement of the Easter Rising (Bureau of Military History, WS290) which gave an insight from those tunnelling through houses on Moore St "..we had reached Hanlon's. There was an open space between there and the next houses.."

With regard to a civic building, they felt it should be a publicly funded building, they have raised the issue with the Minister who has informed them that she has asked her civil servants to look into the matter.

Hammerson were asked if they would meet with experts who had recently made a presentation to the group. Hammerson responded that they thought the Group were to be represented by DIT and that it was an internal matter for the MSAG.

Hammerson extended an invitation to any members who might be interested in visiting some of the properties on Moore Street. They were asked if they would circulate a copy of their presentation and they replied that they would have to consider the issue.

## 3. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 25 September at 11am.