

**Minutes of Meeting of the Moore St Advisory Group  
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht  
19 July 2018 @ 10a.m., 23 Kildare St. Dublin 2**

In attendance were:

Tom Collins (Chairman), John Conway, James Connolly Heron, Patrick Cooney, John Daly, John Lyons, Muriel McAuley, Mícheál MacDonncha, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, John Stephenson, Peadar Tóibín TD, Garry McDonagh – Secretariat

Apologies:

Ernie Beggs, Joan Burton, John Connolly, Ciaran Cuffe, Pascal Donohue TD, Margaret Hanway, Sean Haughey TD, Tom Holbrook, Sean Paul Mahon, Christina McLoughlin, Mary Lou McDonald TD, Cara O'Neill, Maureen O'Sullivan TD, Nial Ring, Noel Rock TD, Eamon Ryan TD, Darragh O'Brien TD,

**1. Minutes of the meeting 26 June 2018**

The draft minutes of the meeting of 26 June 2018 were discussed. The Chairman read out a statement from John Connolly in which he asked for an insertion to be placed into the minutes. Mr Connolly Heron has asked Mr Terry Allen if he was aware of the existence of a lease and Mr Allen responded that he was aware of an arrangement. Deputy O'Toibin stated that as Chairman of the Oireachtas Committee he was unaware of any such lease.

Many members expressed frustration at Hammerson's lack of interaction with the group

The Chairman responded that clarification was needed with regard to the lease and that while he is baffled by Hamerson's reluctance to engage with the group, he is meeting Andrew Diggins from Hammerson shortly and will communicate the outcome of that meeting to the group. He also agreed to a proposal to set up a meeting between the Minister and the 4 TD's.

**2. Discussion with invited experts**

The Chairman welcomed the following persons to the meeting to give their views on the future of the Moore St area:

- Kevin Rudden, CEO Garland Engineers
- Austin Broderick, Expert in Structural Engineering
- James Kelly, Kelly & Cogan Architects
- Sean Anton O'Muire, Chair of RIA and lecturer in UCC

Mr Kelly spoke first and favoured an approach which is market based and which he felt was best for urban regeneration. Every pound invested in retail gave a return of £1.35, for every pound invested in the markets the return was £1.75. He suggested that we concentrate on heritage issues and market issues. He informed the group that the development of Parnell St would happen very quickly and the Rotunda Hospital would probably be gone too.

Kevin spoke next and commented that while the area has enormous potential he has major concerns about the top of O'Connell St and the surrounding area. He recognised the good work of the committee with regard to the Moor St Report, Securing History.

Austin Broderick expressed the view that he would like to see the potential of the whole area unlocked while Sean O'Muire suggested putting an Irish language centre in the area and to turn the market into an area comparable with Covent garden in London.

There was a general discussion in which the experts talked about the decline of the area and the possibilities for the future, a new lite rail system will have a major impact in the area, how heritage issues are always advantageous to urban regeneration and that they would need to interrogate the Hammerson Plan if they were to have any input. When several group members suggested the expert meet with Hammerson on our behalf the experts responded that they were not interested in acting as gatekeepers. The Chairman reminded the group that the DIT School of Architecture were already retained by the MSAG and had presented at the previous meeting. He stated that any additional expertise required would be at the discretion of the School of Architecture and would be retained by them if they felt it necessary.

When asked how much it would cost to come up with a master-plan for the area on behalf of the Advisory Group, and how long it would take, the group of experts said that it would cost approximately €250,000 and would normally take 1 year to 18 months but that they could attempt to finish it in 5 months.

John Daly proposed that the experts would arrange to meet with Hammerson on changes to the development plan and report back to our next meeting. This was agreed.

The Chairman closed the meeting by stating that these next steps would be discussed at the next meeting.

### 3. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 06 September at 11am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. C.', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.