

**(Draft) Minutes of Meeting of Moore St Consultative Group,  
City Hall, 06th October 2016 @ 11.00am.**

In attendance were:

Gerry Kearney (Chairman),  
John Connolly - Save No. 16 Moore St Committee  
James Connolly Heron – Save 16 Moore St Committee  
John Conway - Save No. 16 Moore St Committee  
Patrick Cooney – Save 16 Moore St Committee  
John Daly - Save No. 16 Moore St Committee  
Margaret Hanway – Moore St Traders Association  
Sean Haughey - TD  
Tom Holbrook – Moore St Traders Association  
John Lyons - Dublin City Councillor  
Sean Paul Mahon - Dublin City Councillor  
Muriel McAuley – 1916 Relatives Association  
Mícheál Mac Donncha- Dublin City Councillor  
Christina McLoughlin – 1916 Relatives Association  
Éamon Ó Cuív - TD  
Cara O’Neill – 1916 Relatives Association  
Maureen O’Sullivan - TD  
Nial Ring - Dublin City Councillor  
Peadar Tóibín - TD

Garry McDonagh, Nial Dully - Secretariat.

Apologies, Ernie Beggs, Joan Burton, Ciaran Cuffe, Mary Lou McDonald, Darragh O’Brien, Pascal O’ Donohue Noel Rock, Mary Leech, and Eamon Ryan.

**1. Minutes of the meeting 22 September 2016**

The draft minutes were approved as circulated. The Group confirmed its earlier decision for minutes to succinctly identify main issues raised and decisions agreed.

**2. Site Visit on 29 September – Issues arising**

Matters arising from the visit to the site at 14/17 Moore St on 29 September included: the absence of an independent Conservation Architect to accompany the Group; the qualifications of those involved with work at 14/17; the identity, roles and reporting relationships of the various entities involved.

It was noted that the process for the appointment of an independent Conservation Architect to separately inspect the site on behalf of the Group and report back was underway. Briefing notes on the qualifications of the department’s staff overseeing the project were circulated (attached at Appendix 1). A note on the various companies on site and their reporting relationships was also circulated (attached at Appendix 2).

### **3. External groups & Experts**

A document previously circulated on options for inviting various external interests to present to the Group was discussed. This posed two broad questions for such groups to address -1) their vision for Moore St and ii) their implementation plan. A framework of thirty minutes per group which would involve 15 minutes presentation followed by a further 15 minutes discussion was suggested. A subgroup of the Consultative Group is being established to progress arrangements.

Separately it was suggested that there is a wide range of experts available who should be consulted on good international practice in the development of battle sites/historic quarters such as Moore St. As a first step the secretariat will undertake a trawl of the internet and identify possible experts.

### **4. Presentation and discussion with DCC**

Mr Jim Keogan, Assistant Chief Executive, Planning and Property Development Department, Dublin City Council made a presentation to the Group (copy attached at Appendix 3). Matters raised with Mr Keogan included: the basis for the grant of extension of Planning Permission in 2016 to Chartered Land; the conflict apparent between the court decision and that extension; the position regarding the agreement previously entered into by DCC in relation to disposal of No 24/25 Moore St and the reasons for the halting of Moore St buildings inspections which had been proposed by DCC.

Mr Keogan advised that the extension of planning permission was granted solely by reference to the statutory criteria in the 2000 Planning Act; the grant of the extension does not confer an entitlement to proceed with the development, rather this remains subject to the restrictions of the court decision. He indicated that the agreement previously entered into by DCC in relation to the option of disposal of 24/24 remains in force. He advised the inspections previously planned by DCC of other buildings had been stopped on legal advice following claims by the developer that their property rights were being infringed. The developer to whom the extension of the Planning Permission was granted was Chartered Land.

Some members of the Group strongly dissented from the position adopted by DCC, particularly in relation to the grant of extension of the planning permission. They indicated that legal advice available to them indicated that there was not a basis for the extension. Rather the failure to by the developer to implement the original development plan, as well as the precedence of the court decision, negated any obligation on DCC in that regard. The timing of the grant of the extension was also strongly criticised. There was also a strongly dissenting view to that expressed by DCC in relation to any binding commitment still obtaining re the disposal of 24/25 Moore St.

In response to questions in relation to CPOs, Mr Keogan indicated that there are specific grounds governing the making of a CPO and that, in the event of a dispute with the owner, CPO valuations can be appealed to an Independent Arbitrator whose findings are binding. Finally, Mr Keogan offered access to the services of DCC valuers to the Group if that would be of assistance. He also indicated that he would seek to secure material on the legal advice received by DCC in relation to its suspension of inspections of Moore St buildings.

The Group was advised that DCC are uncertain as to current ownership of the properties adjacent to 14/17 Moore St. In light of this it was felt that the position regarding current ownership of the properties adjacent to 14/17 Moore St required clarification.

#### **5. Independent Conservation Architect**

The Group had agreed to engage an independent Conservation Architect to inspect the buildings on Moore St and report back. Seven conservation architects were suggested by various Group members and five had expressed an interest in undertaking the task. The selection of architect from among these will be undertaken by the sub-group with support from independent professional adviser.

#### **6. Work Programme**

There was a brief discussion on this item. It was agreed that space needed to be provided for all interests within the Consultative Group to have their views heard on the way forwards. Further work remains to be done on creating a timetable and framework to address this and other work areas within the end January 2017 deadline.

#### **7. AOB & Next Meeting**

The challenge posed for members attending all meetings of the consultative Group was raised. The challenge arising for TDs in particular was noted and the possibility of alternates was proposed. The majority of members of the Group were not in favour of alternates. It was decided instead to exercise flexibility on the timing and location of meetings. In this context the holding of meetings closer to Leinster House and, where practicable using Tuesday instead of Thursday was agreed.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 10.00am in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 23 Kildare St, Dublin 2.