



A Moore Street 1916 Battlefield Site and Street Markets

It is imperative to build trust with the people and particularly those who are concerned with Moore Street from a historical, social, cultural aspects and those traders with an economic interest in the potential of this unique site.

Authorities, both national and local have worn down any credibility with any proposal after years of empty promises and neglect of the building fabric and the once thriving public thoroughfare.

While this process is being carried out the Department is spending millions on appealing the High Court decision and see that a small shoe-box museum amidst an anonymously owned shopping centre driven by global retail investments and gross returns is what results.

Dublin City Council's executive officers decision of last July to further extend moribund planning permission for a further five years is more evidence of the authority view of where this publicly-loved place will end if their intentions are executed. This is disappointing for all the campaigners.

A show of faith, to build trust, would include the Minister dropping her appeal to High Court decision and shouldn't exclude the Hammerson Retail Empire donating the entire remaining terraces and adjacent streets and lanes in the public realm of Moore Street, Moore Lane, Henry Place and O'Rahilly Parade.

The current disrepair and neglect of the buildings all along the terraces and adjacent to the lanes should addressed immediately.

Access to assess them for protective building status should be fully granted.

The entire site in control of Hammerson Dublin Central ranges from O'Connell St and includes the area under the ILAC its redesign could be more imaginative and innovative than the only current plans on the table which jar with the historical framework and fabric of much of the adjacent areas.

With the technological developments of on-line shopping and the insurmountable problems of City traffic congestion, the experience of city centre retail will not suit the planned large shopping complex.

Use what is there, drawing on that richness and give visitors, employees and inhabitants a unique experience to only be found in Dublin's North City centre.

The photo of a post 1916 restored Moore Street as hosted on the landing page of Moore Street Consultative Group (above) is a good starting point to recreate a historical and cultural quarter.

A properly independently overseen full archaeological examination of the Battlefield should be undertaken. This archaeological examination has been called for by Dr Pat Wallace, former Director of the National Museum of Ireland, on the basis of the known historical events of 1916, the unique

extant footprint of the Early Twentieth Century European Urban Battlefield, the important role of the street from Early Georgian times and its long history of trade.

The significance of the buildings on the terrace have largely been associated with the 1916 Leaders and executed signatories as has been emphasised and there is great importance to that, yet to understand the scale of the actions of those days it has to be recalled that over 350 women and largely men of the rebel forces crowded into the buildings throughout Moore Street etc. All of these people, where it can be clearly established through records should be recognised on the site as part of a Roll of Honour for a Moore Street Garrison.

Much of the details of these actions are only recently publically available through the digitalised records from the Bureau of Military History. There is much historical record of the larger numbers of Rebels and civilians that were killed by Crown Forces, in many cases though not exclusively, that may be as many as 24.

It is possible to rebuild across this area, outlining significant parts of the terraces, walls, buildings and lanes.

To create a living quarter, including social housing, including retail units adjacent to the main historical features, develop start-off and pop-up units and celebrate the street trading traditions of Dublin. In developing a respectful museum and interactive experience of significant historical events, to also provide facilities for historical tours, study groups and a repository for relevant artefacts and those family oral stories that people have shared in the time that I've stood with colleagues collecting over 50,000 signatures in the last 3 years.

That there would be adjacent performance or multi-use venues so it has reason to be visited in the evening and not the cold austerity of the current shopping areas of Henry Street after dark.

As there are medium term plans to berth large Cruise liners on the north port with capacity of up to 40,000 tourists in a day, a uniquely Dublin experience is required.

A wide diversity of tastes will be needed to offer cruise line tourists and hold their attention, particularly leaning on the rich tapestry of historical, social and cultural that is still strongly associated with Moore Street the world over.

In as far as it is attracted to foreign visitors of Irish origin or not, the quarter should be as attractive and authentic to those from Dublin and all of Ireland who have regularly expressed their dismay at the on-going neglect.

I'm supportive and part of the Lord Mayor's Forum and endorse the outlined plan but have made more of my own observations. Similarly I've actively campaigned with Save Moore Street from Demolition and Save Moore Street 2016 and support much of the submissions.

Zoning in Dublin City Council Development plans should be appropriate for the historical and unique archaeological of this quarter and included as fully covered as part of a Special Area of Conservation.

In conclusion, I make a suggestion that the thousands of meters of adjacent retail space that will benefit from the unique attraction that can be created here has a designated levy placed on it for investment in the historical, social and cultural quarter that will be created. This could be accomplished similarly to that which was regulated for in the Dublin Dockland Development Authority, towards Customs House Quay warehousing and designated appropriate activities, to be held by way of Independent Trust with clear transparent structures and procedures and rotating membership drawn from a variety of genuine interest groups such as though contributing to the Moore Street Consultative Group.

Mel Mac Giobúin      November 2016