

2 Carlton
Pembroke Gardens
Ballsbridge
Dublin D04 W7C2

2.4.16

Garry McDonagh, Secretary
Moore Street Consultative Group

Submission to the Ministerial Forum on Moore Street

Dear Secretary

I am a member of the Concerned Relatives of Signatories of the Proclamation, a group which has been campaigning for several years for the preservation of the Moore Street battlefield site. I am delighted that this forum has been established, and am hopeful that a future for this extremely important historical site may be secured for future generations. I apologise for not having contacted you before 1 November about this submission, but I hope it can be included.

The historical importance of this site has been admitted by several authorities, and recognised by Mr Justice Barrett in his High Court judgement, but it is we, the relatives of those who spent their last hours of freedom in this street and its environs, who are most aware of its role in the history of our country. We have been fighting for more than ten years to encourage the state to listen to our case, and to act to preserve this immensely important site.

Campaigners have also been very concerned about the existing condition of the houses and other structures throughout the site. Having been neglected for many years, they now seem to be at risk of poor conservation and unsympathetic repair work, unless close supervision is provided. These buildings were already old in 1916, and are surely worth preservation as examples of eighteenth-century architecture, even if they had never been part of a seminal event of Irish history.

The many commemorations of the Easter Rising which have taken place during this Centenary year, and the extraordinary extent of popular interest which we have all witnessed, surely provide a platform of interest from which a proper Historical Quarter can be developed, both for the tourist and for the Irish citizen. Any other city in the world would be proud to own what we could display, given the will and the commitment. Unfortunately, a lot of this commitment would have to be financial, and this undoubtedly presents a problem in the present economic situation. I have faith,

however, that one day we can look at a busy Historic Trail, where people can walk over the original cobblestones and follow the route of the surrender in 1916, while visiting small shops and workshops along the way, and engaging with the long-established street traders.

This is all possible, and it has been argued for years that it is not only possible, but essential for the life of the city centre. We do not need more large shopping malls. We need to preserve something which is unique to Dublin city, a battlefield site unmatched anywhere else in Europe, and which can demonstrate to the world not only that we fought for our independence, and ultimately won, but that we are proud of that fact, and of the generation which brought it about.

Yours sincerely

Helen Litton

Great-niece of Commdt Edward Daly, and of Kathleen Daly Clarke, wife of Thomas Clarke

Chair, Tom Clarke Memorial Committee

Author, 'Sixteen Lives: Edward Daly' and 'Sixteen Lives: Thomas Clarke' (O'Brien Press)