

'What will the neighbours think if it's not new?'

Ireland is an island with a world famous heritage, a cherished shared history and a bright future. And the Republic of Ireland was born on Moore Street in Dublin City a century ago.

After decades desecrating many precious symbols of history, we should wonder why tourist numbers are not higher or indeed that our sense of pride in ourselves is lacking. Nowadays we are hoodwinked into 'going forward'; a worthy idea which gets transformed into a bulldozer of our past and excuses an abdication of responsibility for our future. Our lovely cottages, water wells, old time pubs and cobblestone streets are bulldozed for some foolish idea of 'progress' or a panicking over '*what will the neighbours think if its not new??*'. Our slavish mindset still rears its head, 100 years after the Easter Rising leaders revealed it.

Our country does not need another fluorescent lit, aluminium windowed, lino floored humourless showroom of nothing. It does not need the 'great tidy job' which carpet bombs everything authentic, signed off with a minister's name on a shiny plaque whose only reflection is a stack of plastic chairs.

Let us restore Moore Street in Dublin City. Not demolish. Not refurbish. Restore it with respect and love, so that families and friends, historians and students will see with their own eyes where our hard won Republic began. They will themselves marvel at those in power a century later; who had the moral courage not to green flag the bulldozer, but to restore, to do what was right with grace and dignity, the least those women and men of 1916 deserve. This is part of what they fought for, that we as a people would have the chance to choose 'right action'. Let us honour them now and choose right action.

Let us also do our part for our important tourism trade and look at other similar examples of preservation. The country of Peru has maintained the integrity of Machu Picchu which gets 912,500 tourists per year. Central Park in New York, a square mile of untouched nature has been preserved by conscientious public leaders who resisted many attempts to interfere with that precious haven of reflection in that beloved metropolis. The city of Amsterdam remembers the horror of World War II by perfectly preserving the house of Anne Frank and 31 million visitors have witnessed the reality of her family's story. When it opened in 1960, there were 9,000 visitors to Anne Frank's House. In 2015, there was 1.3 million.

And so to the future. How many visitors to the perfectly preserved Moore Street in Dublin??

- That is up to to us, all of us. It is happening on our watch.

And what will the neighbours think of us if Moore Street is not new, if it looks old??

- The truth is - It doesn't matter what they think. Moore Street is ours.
It is us. It is the Republic of Ireland.

Signed. 

Kevin McCann, Los Angeles, California, USA.

Writer & Producer of the upcoming movie 'The Rising' - on behalf of the 25,000 social media supporters, investors and global community supporting the 'Save Moore Street' Campaign.

