

# MOORE STREET ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 2013



Baile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City

## 1916

### **POBLACHT NA H EIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.**

**IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:** In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her sailed children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that on one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

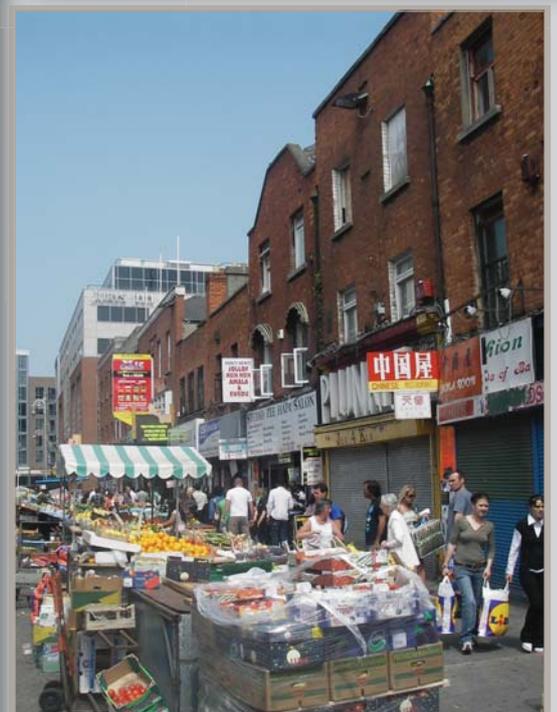
Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.

SEAN Mac DIARMADA. THOMAS MacDONAGH.

P. H. PEARSE. EAMONN CEANNT.

JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.



# Moore Street Advisory Committee Report

## 1. Introduction

Is suíomh fíor-stáiriúil é Sráid Uí Mhórdha i gcroí-lár ár bpríomh-chathair. Is ann a bhí an cruinniú deireannach ag an Rialtas Sealadach, Poblacht na hÉireann, 1916. Tá sé mar cuspóir ag Coiste Comhairleach Sráid Uí Mhórdha an Sráid a chaomhnu, leis an Leacht Náisiúnta ina iomlán, mar oidhreacht don náisiún, ach go háirithe agus muid ag ullmhú do Chomóradh Céad Bliain Éirí Amach na Cásca i 2016.

Moore Street and its environs were sites of great significance during the final days of the 1916 Easter Rising. The evacuation from the GPO, the charge by The O’Rahilly, the tunnelling between the houses and the decision to surrender, taken in Number 16 Moore Street are just some of the events which give the area its status as the “Birthplace of the Republic”.

Dublin City Council’s Elected Members have been concerned for some time with the proposals for development in the Moore Street Area and with their possible adverse effect on the historic fabric of the area including the National Monument known as 14-17 Moore Street.

### **See Appendix 1 for site map showing the National Monument outlined in red.**

A Special City Council meeting was convened on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2012 to discuss and agree a way forward on this matter. At this meeting a motion was carried stating,

*“That the Members agree to set up a Moore Street Advisory Committee to comprise seven elected members, with secretariat and ancillary facilities to be provided by Dublin City Council. The purpose of the Committee is to review, report on, and make recommendations to the Council in respect of the overall Moore Street Area Development, with particular focus and emphasis on the preservation, use and development of the 1916 GPO Evacuation Route and the Moore Street Buildings occupied by the rebels in the final days of the Rising. The Committee will report back to the City Council at the earliest possible date”.*

It should be emphasised that neither the Committee nor the Elected Members of Dublin City Council have the power to grant, refuse or revoke planning permissions. The direct powers and decision making on specific planning applications lie with Local Authority Planning Departments, An Bord Pleanála and the Courts. While consent is required to carry out works to a National Monument, the power to grant this consent is vested in The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The goal of the Committee and the Elected Members of the City Council is to use their political influence, where possible, to put forward and have the recommendations contained in this report implemented.

The Committee would like to recognise the selfless work of groups who have been involved over the years in keeping the issue of Moore Street to the forefront of public consciousness, in particular The National Graves Association and The Save 16 Moore Street Committee. Without the endeavours of these groups, it is probable that the buildings/site that now forms the National Monument in Moore Street would no longer exist.

## **2. Committee Membership**

At the City Council Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2012 the City Council agreed to increase the membership of the Moore Street Advisory Committee, which was set up by resolution at the Special Meeting of the City Council on 19th November 2012, to eight, and to appoint the following Members to the Committee – Councillors Ashe, Breen, Burke, Fitzpatrick, Mac Donnacha, McLoughlin, McRoberts and Ring, It was further agreed that the chairperson would be elected by the committee and the elected chairperson would have a casting vote if required.

The Committee also wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Councillor Flynn and Councillor Perry who attended meetings as non-members but who both made an input into our deliberations and recommendations of the Committee.

**See Appendix 2 containing a short profile of each of the Committee Members.**

## **3. Call for Public Submissions**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2012, at the first meeting of Moore Street Advisory Committee, a decision was taken by the Committee to make a public appeal for submissions in order to assist the Committee in the formulation of their recommendations. Advertisements were placed in the Irish Times Newspaper and Evening Herald Newspapers on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 inviting submissions. The request for submissions was also placed prominently on the home page of Dublin City Council's website.

**See Appendix 3 for wording of public notice.**

A total of 133 separate written/e-mail replies to the request for submissions were received by the Committee as well as a petition from the Irish Volunteers Commemorative Organisation that included over 5000 signatures. There were also twelve parties who at their request made oral submissions to the Committee.

**See Appendix 4 for a list of 97 individuals/groups who made submissions.**

***(36 individuals have not given consent to the publication of their names, prior to completion of the report).***

The Committee has considered the content of all the submissions and would like to express their gratitude to those who took the time to give the Committee their perspective on matters relating to the Moore Street Area. The submissions and oral presentations were of valuable assistance to the Committee in its deliberations.

The volume of submissions made to the Committee demonstrates the growing interest in the Moore Street Area and in particular the increased awareness of the historical importance of the Area in the lead up to the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

## **4. Historical Relevance of Moore Street**

### **Early History**

Moore Street dates back to the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was part of the Drogheda Estate. The remaining terrace of sixteen houses that line the eastern side from numbers 10 to 25 Moore St was built in the 1750's on the site of a large brickworks plot and accommodated the growing business class of the period. The buildings would have included both business and living space and were representative, albeit on a smaller scale, of the development of the historic centre of the city up to the present day. Moore street was inhabited by select tradesmen and professionals who served the needs of those living a block away in the splendour of more grand houses along Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) - only one of which remains to this day.

Moore Street was developed in two phases – the first in the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the second during the 1760's.

The block of houses that forms no's 10 to 25 today comprises original building from the period as well as ones rebuilt after the rising and exactly mirrors the terrace into which the members of the GPO garrison entered upon evacuating the GPO in the latter stages of the Easter Rising 1916.

### **Moore Street and the 1916 Easter Rising**

By Friday evening of the 1916 Rising, the entire area around Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) had become a battlefield and the GPO a blazing inferno. At about 8pm, Pearse realised that those holding the building were left with no chance of survival and a decision was made to evacuate and attempt to reach the safety of Moore Street. Standing on a table in the GPO, Pearse made his final address to the volunteers and paid tribute to “the gallantry of the soldiers of Irish Freedom who have, during the past four days, been writing with fire the most glorious chapter in the later history of Ireland”.

Moore Street, for generations of Dubliners, a market street and home to poultry and butcher shops and stores, would be the route of escape. This modest street terrace of sixteen houses was about to become the last headquarters of the Army of the Irish Republic and the location where six of the leaders of the Rising, five of whom had signed the Proclamation, were to spend their last hours of freedom and make the decision to surrender.

The leaders decided that a diversionary charge of the heavily fortified barricade at the junction of Moore Street and Parnell Street would be necessary to open up a route to the William & Woods factory further along Parnell Street.

The O'Rahilly volunteered to lead the charge and he, together with twelve others, left the side door of the GPO and led his advance party under fire towards the junction of Henry Street and Moore Street as dusk fell. On Moore Street, the column separated into two sections as they headed for the British barricade. The O'Rahilly ordered the charge and dashed towards the barricade. British troops immediately replied with intense machinegun fire. Most of the group took cover in the shop doorways. The O'Rahilly could hear British troops calling out his position and so he decided to make a final dash to safety across Moore Street into Sackville Lane (now O'Rahilly parade) on the far side of the street. As he made a run for it, more firing ensued and he was again struck down along with another volunteer Frank Shouldice. He dragged himself into the lane and managed to prop himself up against a rear doorway of Kelly's shop at 25 Moore Street. He managed to write a last letter to his

wife before slipping into unconsciousness. A reproduction of the letter now adorns the wall of the building opposite the side of 25 Moore Street (on Sackville Lane - now O'Rahilly Parade) where he died.

Meanwhile, the remaining volunteers, having sung "The Soldier's Song" in the GPO, left the side entrance and, under sniper fire from the tower at Amien's Street Railway Station, dashed across Henry Street to Henry Place. The British, now aware of the full evacuation, also opened fire from their positions in Parnell Street and from a sniper post on the roof of the Rotunda Hospital.

As the garrison made their way down Henry Place, they reached the corner of Moore Lane which was subject to heavy and sustained enemy firing. At one stage, the rebels thought that a white house on their left (the white house is still in existence) was occupied by enemy soldiers and proceeded to enter the building but it was empty. From a nearby building, a motor van was taken out of the yard and placed as a barricade across Moore Lane, giving some shelter from the continuous fire from the Rotunda and Parnell Street. Men then attempted to cross under cover of the vehicle, calmed and reassured by the arrival of Tom Clarke and Sean MacDiarmada.

The nearest house was the McKane family home - the last in a row of cottages in Henry Place. The family had remained indoors for the previous two days, having seen a looter shot and unceremoniously thrown upon a barricade by British troops. Mr. McKane, on hearing an attempt to enter the cottage, made for the rear door. A volunteer at that moment broke the glass panel with his rifle which accidentally discharged. A bullet passed through Mr. McKane killing his teenage daughter behind him. Bridget McKane, aged 15, was the first civilian casualty of the retreat from the GPO.

A volunteer, Henry Coyle was also fatally wounded when his weapon accidentally discharged as he tried to force the door of another house.

James Connolly had now arrived, carried on a stretcher into Henry Place accompanied by Winifred Carney, a young Fianna Eireann volunteer and Harry Walpole. Volunteers began to break into houses for safety. Having escorted two Red Cross nurses, Elizabeth Farrell and Julia Grennan, to the safety of Henry Place, Pearse then returned to the blazing inferno of the GPO to ensure that nobody remained. Just as he was about to leave, his brother Willie along with Michael O'Reilly and a small number of volunteers, appeared out of the darkness. They had been helping the wounded to leave the rear of the building. These men were the last volunteers to vacate the blazing GPO.

They entered Henry Place, turned left and crossed the junction of Moore Lane under cover of a now much improved and larger makeshift barricade. Volunteers had by this time gained entry into the first house on their right at the junction with Moore Street (Number 10-Cogan's Grocery shop). Some accounts refer to volunteers breaking in through the side wall, others that access was made to the rear. Outside eighteen year old Sean Mc Laughlin, promoted to commandant by Connolly due to the level-headedness he had shown during the evacuation, began to erect another barricade at this junction with Moore Street while exhausted volunteers commenced to break through internal party walls towards Parnell Street.

In number 10, the leaders gathered for a Council of War. Afterwards, Pdraig and William Pearse left the crowded room and ascended the stairs to sleep, using a table as a makeshift bed with their great coats covering them. The volunteers, by now exhausted and despondent were lying low, some sleeping and some saying the rosary in different rooms along the terrace. Some continued to work through the night and by dawn on the Saturday the volunteers had made considerable headway along the terrace, tunnelling their way at different levels from house to house.

It was decided, in the interests of safety, that the leadership should move up to a halfway point in the terrace of houses away from a possible attack. They stopped at Plunkett's poultry shop, no. 16 Moore Street and settled in a back room on the first floor. This was to be the final Head Quarters of the GPO Garrison and the last meeting place of five of the signatories to the Proclamation (Thomas MacDonagh was in command at Jacob's and Eamonn Ceannt was commanding the South Dublin Union).

Approximately 200-300 volunteers occupied the rest of the terrace (including the back yards)

Discussions were then held as to a plan of action. Sean Mc Laughlin, familiar with British positions, was asked to outline the position as he saw it. He made a case for escape towards Henry Street with a view to meeting up with the volunteers under the command of Edward Daly at the Four Courts. This would require a diversion by way of an attack on the enemy barricade at the junction of Moore Street and Parnell Street by twenty volunteers. While the barricade was being attacked, all other volunteers would emerge from the terrace of houses in to the lanes opposite and make their way to the Four Courts.

The leaders agreed to this plan and with that Mc Laughlin called for twenty volunteers for the barricade attack. This group then proceeded to make their way through the remaining houses towards the Parnell Street end of the terrace. Some time later, they emerged into the rear yard of the last house, Kelly's at no.25, halting to await further orders.

Mc Laughlin opened the rear gate and gingerly stepped into Sackville Lane (now O'Rahilly Parade) at the side of the house. He was shocked to see the body of the O'Rahilly lying along the roadway in a pool of blood with Volunteer Paddy Shortis lying dead beside him. At this very moment Sean Mac Diarmada arrived and on seeing the O'Rahilly became deeply upset. They placed covers on both bodies and then, on receiving an order delivered by a messenger, returned to no.16 Moore Street to be informed that all preparations for an attack were to be cancelled for one hour.

On arriving back to Headquarters, Mac Loughlin was questioned at length by Padraig Pearse as to the likely loss of civilian life in the planned retreat to the Four Courts as this would involve passing through populous districts no matter what route was taken. Mc Laughlin agreed that this was the case. This is believed to have greatly influenced Pearse in his decision to end hostilities. He had earlier witnessed the gunning down of a family, the Dillon family, on Moore Street as they emerged into the street under a white flag.

He then ordered Mc Laughlin to give a ceasefire order to all volunteers to last one hour. Mc Laughlin made a tour of the terrace giving the order and upon his return was informed by a despondent Tom Clarke that the leaders had decided to ask for terms of surrender.

Nurse Elizabeth O' Farrell, along with Julia Grennen and Winifred Carney, tended to the wounded in no.16 Moore Street. At noon, Nurse O'Farrell was approached by Sean Mac Diarmada and asked to bring the surrender message to the British officer in charge at Parnell Street. He also asked her to provide him with a white flag which he hung out of the house to ensure she would not be fired on.

She then left no 15 Moore Street, (Gorman's Clothes Dealers), at 12.45pm carrying a white flag, (actually a white handkerchief tied to a stick), to deliver a verbal message from Commandant Pearse that he wished to treat with the Commander of the British forces. The enemy ceased firing and she was called forward to the barricade at the bottom of Moore Street on Parnell Street.

She approached the barricade and gave her message to the officer in charge. He asked her how many girls were in the terrace and advised her to return and bring them out. He then changed his mind saying he would have to report to his superiors first. He summoned another officer to accompany her to the officer in command. They made their way to the Parnell monument and crossed to houses now occupied by British forces. He ordered that the Red Cross be cut off her armlet and apron and she was brought over to the hall of the bank opposite at the corner of Parnell Street and Cavendish Row. From there she was taken to Tom Clarke's shop (No. 75 Parnell Street) as a prisoner. Within an hour, General Lowe arrived to receive her message. She was driven back to Moore Street and told to tell Pearse that the British would not treat until Pearse surrendered unconditionally.

It was now 2.25pm. Nurse O' Farrell returned to no.16. On the way she now saw the O'Rahilly lying alongside the side door of Kelly's shop.

In No.16 Moore Street, she relayed the message from General Lowe to Pearse, telling him she was to return within half an hour. The leaders discussed this development and she was sent back to the barricade, this time with a written message.

General Lowe's response was to insist that she return and that Pearse was to surrender unconditionally and that Connolly was to follow on a stretcher. He warned that, unless Pearse and herself returned within half an hour, hostilities would begin again.

After a short Council of War meeting, Pearse decided to accompany her back to General Lowe. At 3.30pm, General Lowe formally received Pearse in Parnell Street not far from the Rotunda. Pearse offered his sword to the general.

The Rising had ended but the Birth of a Nation and Death of an Empire had begun.

**Below is a list of casualties in the Moore Street Area.**

**Civilian casualties:**

Bridget Mc Kane	(16)	10 Henry Place
William Mullen	(9)	8 Moore Place
Robert Dillon	(65)	8 Moore street
P Mc Manus	(61)	12 Moore Street
J Doyle	(36)	16 Moore street
W Heavey	(32)	57 Moore Street

## **Volunteers:**

Henry Coyle, died in Henry Place.

Michael Moynihan, shot in Henry Place.

Paddy Shortis, shot in Moore Street.

The O'Rahilly, shot in Moore Street.

Francis Macken, shot in Sackville Place.

Charles Carrigan, shot in Sackville Place.

## **Moore Street Traders**

Markets have had a long history in the Moore Street area. During the late seventeenth century, when the city's butchers and fishmongers were moved from south of the Liffey, the area expanded considerably as an outdoor market. In Georgian Dublin, the wealthy families residing in Dominick Street, Mountjoy Square and Rutland (now Parnell) Square provided a ready source of custom for the burgeoning market.

By the nineteenth century, Moore Street had become the largest outdoor market in Dublin. It is famous for its meat, fish, fruit and vegetable stalls, as well as the Dublin sense of humor of its traders and has historically been the most famous market street in Dublin.

Street trading in Moore Street continues to exist today. The stalls are licenced by Dublin City Council and many of the occupants are third and fourth generation stallholders. There has been a significant reduction in numbers of stallholders and street traders in the Moore Street Area over the last thirty years, mainly due to developments that have taken place and are proposed in the area.

Notwithstanding this fact, the people who currently trade from the stalls on Moore Street are an extremely important group to the City, not only from the preservation of the market for commercial purposes but also from the tourism, cultural and historical point of view. The Moore Street market continues to be one of the biggest commercial and visitor attractions in Dublin City.

Many things have changed in Moore Street over the years; however Moore Street Traders are the one iconic group of individuals who form a living and breathing bridge from today back to bygone eras and particularly the era of Moore Street in 1916.

The Committee was particularly pleased to receive an oral presentation from the Moore Street Traders, given their unique link with the National Monument and the entire Moore Street area and acknowledges Barry Kennerk's authoritative work "Moore Street – The story of Dublin's Market district" which provided much background information on the area.

## 5. Recent Planning History

In 1998, planning permission was granted to the Carlton Group for a major commercial development on a one hectare site which incorporated a proposed "Millennium Mall" linking O'Connell Street to Moore Street. The decision granted by Dublin City Council was upheld by An Bord Pleanala on appeal and the permission incorporated No's 10-25 Moore Street and the approved plans provided for their demolition. Plan Reg Ref No. 1355/98 refers. In 2008, Chartered Land Limited applied for planning permission on a larger site for the comprehensive mixed-use development providing for 158,000sqm on a 2.17 hectare site. The site incorporated the majority of the city block bounded by Parnell Street, Moore Lane, O'Rahilly Parade, Moore Street and O'Connell Street Upper. Following submission of revised drawings, a decision to grant planning permission subject to 35 conditions was made by Dublin City Council in December 2008. The application had generated a significant number of third party objections and observations. The decision to grant planning permission was appealed to An Bord Pleanala.

An Oral hearing was convened by An Bord Pleanala and took place in April 2009. In August 2009, An Bord requested further information including further detailed drawings from the applicant under Section 132 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. This information was submitted to An Bord on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 An Bord Pleanala granted permission for the development subject to 31 separate conditions.

### **See Appendix 5 for copy of An Bord Pleanala decision.**

The Committee has noted the concerns raised by a number of different parties regarding the decisions made by Dublin City Council and An Bord Pleanala in respect of this development and, in particular, its impact on the historical significance of Moore Street and the National Monument Buildings contained therein.

## 6. Chartered Land Proposal

Condition 5 of An Bord Pleanala's decision relating to Planning Application 2479/08 states,

"No works shall commence within the preservation order boundary of the National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street unless the prior Ministerial Consent to such works has been obtained in accordance with the statutory requirements of section 14 of the National Monuments Acts, 1930 – 2004.

**Reason.** In interest of clarity, having regard to the inclusion within the site of works to a National Monument".

On the 17/06/2011 Chartered Land applied to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for Ministerial Consent for works at No' 14- 17 Moore Street, Dublin 1 under Section 14 of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.

At the time of making the application to the Minister, there was no requirement under National Monuments legislation to submit an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of an application for consent. Since the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2012, this requirement has arisen under Irish Law.

An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by Stephen Little and Associates on behalf of Chartered Land and submitted to the Minister in January 2013. Information relating to the EIS was published in two national newspapers 18/01/2013. The advertisement gave information relating to the EIS and advised where the documentation could be viewed. The closing date for submissions was 01/03/2013. Moore Street Advisory Committee sent a holding reply to the Minister dated 27/02/2013.

**See Appendix 6 for copy of letter**

Following receipt of the submissions the Minister has instructed Chartered Land to re-advertise the EIS as the original advertisement did not include the word "demolition". The application has been re-advertised and the closing date for submissions has been extended until the 24/04/2013.

This report will be presented to the Minister prior to the new closing date for submissions.

## **Presentation to the Committee by Chartered Land 14/01/2013**

Chartered Land made a presentation to the Committee regarding their proposal for the National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street.

**Chartered Lands Proposals:**

- 14-17 Moore Street to be preserved in their entirety as a Museum/Interpretive Centre
- An open courtyard to the rear with public circulation
- Cafes facing the rear of 14-17 Moore Street
- Restoration/Preservation of these buildings to be completed by Easter 2016
- Commemorative Centre opening Easter 2016
- Existing Laneways preserved and GPO escape route commemorated
- Funding for works to the National Monument

**Sequence of Events in Designation of the National Monument Site:**

- 2006 DCC adds 14-17 Moore Street to the Record of Protected Structures
- 2007 Minister Dick Roche places a preservation order on the buildings
- 2008 Chartered Lands acquires 14-17 Moore Street
- 2011 Ministerial application for consent to work on National Monument
- 2012 Battlefield Survey
- 2013 EIS to Minister

**Chartered Lands indicated that they had held consultations with the following:**

- Moore Street Traders
- DCC Planning and Conservation
- DOAHG
- Department of an Taoiseach
- National Museum and Local Historians

**See Appendix 7 for copy of presentation of 14/01/2013**

## **7. Committee Visit to National Monument Site 11/02/2013**

Moore Street Advisory Committee was facilitated by Chartered Land with a “tour” of the National Monument site at Moore Street and the battlefield site in general.

Grainne Shaffrey, conservation expert on behalf of Chartered Land, acted as guide. The Committee was given unrestricted access to the buildings, outhouses and back yards, thus getting a comprehensive insight into the entire National Monument site. The group was taken to each building in turn and details of the historic occurrences in 1916 outlined and explained. In particular, the work done to pinpoint the tunnel access between each building was very informative.

Number 16 was of particular interest to the committee and it was poignant to stand at the window where Pearse would have seen the bodies of civilians lying dead on Moore Street – a sight which convinced him of the necessity to consider surrender. Another feature of the buildings which left a lasting impression was the upstairs rooms which housed families in the period. The fact that normal family life went on in these rooms was extremely noteworthy.

The space to the rear of the buildings was explored and there was agreement that the proposed space envisaged in the current plan was considered to be an unacceptable intrusion on the National Monument site. The large scale development approved, rising to several stories in height was difficult to comprehend and be accepted by those present as it was considered that it would have a severely negative impact on the setting and integrity of the National Monument.

Following the visit to the National Monument site the Committee walked the nearby lanes, including the evacuation route along Henry Place and across Moore Lane. The Committee also saw the “White House” and, from the outside, examined the remaining structure of Number 10 Moore Street. The building was acknowledged as a building of equal historical importance to the properties that form the National Monument site.

**See Appendix 8 for photographs taken during site visit on 11/02/2013**

## **8. Committee Recommendations and Vision for Moore Street Area**

The Committee asserts the national and international historic significance of Moore Street as a key site in the story of the struggle for Irish independence and the birth of the Irish Republic. It is this Committee’s ambition that, by Easter 2016, the Moore Street area will, by its preservation as an historic and living part of the City, reflect this vision.

In making its recommendations, the Committee acknowledges the following,

- Chartered Land has title to the vast majority of the buildings/sites that are the subject of Planning Application 2479/08. Chartered Land owns 14-17 Moore Street (the National Monument Site) and No.10 Moore Street. Dublin City Council has legal title to 24-25 Moore Street.
- Chartered Land has a valid planning permission to carry out a large scale mixed use development on a site bounded by Parnell Street, Moore Lane, O’ Rahilly Parade, Moore Street, Henry Street, Henry Place and O’ Connell Street Upper. This site includes 14-17 Moore Street and also No.10 Moore Street.
- The National Monument site is less than 5% of the overall development site.

- The property loans of Chartered Lands in relation to the site granted permission under planning permission register reference no. 2479/08 have been transferred to NAMA.
- There is no indication that works will commence on the overall development in the near future. It is possible that the large scale development which has planning permission may never take place in its current form.
- Ministerial consent for works to and on the National Monument Site, 14-17 Moore Street though sought, has not yet been obtained.
- The centenary of the 1916 Rising is only three years away. It is extremely important that the issue of the National Monument and its future are resolved in advance of 2016.

## The following are the Committee's recommendations.

### a) National Monument Site.

- The Committee recommends that the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht withholds consent for any new development works that would encroach on the National Monument Site. It should be made clear that the National Monument Site comprises not only the buildings at 14-17 Moore Street but also includes the rear yards which are clearly delineated in the Chartered Land proposal for Ministerial consent. At present, the current permission, if implemented would severely compromise the historic relevance and potential enjoyment of the National Monument Site. This would lead to the buildings at 14-17 Moore Street being severely overshadowed by the close proximity of the proposed 6 storey building which, if built, would be situated approximately 10 metres away from the existing rear returns of Numbers 14-17.

In the event that the Minister consents to works on a portion of the National Monument Site, the Committee would recommend that a condition of consent should provide for a substantial increase in the depth and associated width of the proposed open court yard area to the rear of 14-17 Moore Street, so as to give a better setting to the National Monument buildings, reflecting their dignity and status.

- The owner's proposal to restore the actual buildings at 14-17 Moore Street is welcomed by the Committee having seen firsthand the current dilapidated and fragile condition of the buildings. The Committee would recommend minimal intervention on original features during restoration and that the interior of the properties be left reasonably sparse so that visitors to the National Monument buildings in the future could get a feel for the properties as they would have existed when Pearse and the other leaders occupied them during the final hours of the Rising.
- Following restoration, a Commemorative Centre dedicated to the 1916 Rising should be an integral part of these buildings. The Committee recommends that the Centre should be informative, educational and engaging for all visitors, but especially for schoolchildren and youth groups.
- There should be an area within the proposed Commemorative Centre dedicated to the young fatalities of 1916 (**See Appendix 9**) and the important role that women played in the rising should be likewise recognised. Other themes proposed to the

Committee, which could also be accommodated, include Irish Language and Culture, Political Activism and Tourism.

- v. The Committee recommends that Dublin City Council should be responsible for the operation of this facility.

## **b) Battlefield Site**

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht commissions an independent battlefield site assessment to include the 1916 evacuation route and the area encompassing Moore Street, Moore Lane, Henry Street, the GPO, Upper O'Connell Street and Parnell Street/Rotunda Hospital. The recommendations should be considered by the Committee and implemented if endorsed and deemed appropriate.

## **c) No. 10 Moore Street**

The Committee considers No.10 Moore Street to be a building of immense importance. This was the first building on Moore Street which the rebels entered and occupied. The leaders of the Rising stayed here overnight following the evacuation from the GPO. The Committee recommends that the City Council, through nominees from the Moore Street Advisory Committee, start discussions with Chartered Land and NAMA with a view to securing the retention of this important historical building.

## **d) No. 24-25 Moore Street**

The completion of the transfer of lands at No. 24-25 Moore Street may require the consent of the City Council. This should be agreed by the members only if the recommendations contained and approved in this report have been complied with to the satisfaction of the City Council members.

## **e) Public Roads and Laneways in the Moore Street Area**

Should consent be required relating to the extension or extinguishment of any public right of way in relation to the roads or the laneways surrounding Moore Street, the City Council should withhold consent for any such proposal until compliance with the recommendations contained in this report have been secured to the satisfaction of the City Council members.

## **f) Environmental Improvement**

The Committee recognise the importance of Moore Street as a trading area for both Market Traders and businesses which operate from retail units in the Area. Given the uncertainty and delay surrounding the Chartered Land proposed development, Moore Street has been subjected to unsightly, inappropriate plastic signs, temporary advertising signage and severely run-down shop fronts. The Committee recommends that the Planning Enforcement Section of Dublin City Council immediately carries out a full inventory of all signage and shop fronts on Moore Street. Chartered Land, who own many of the said properties, should be required to remove any unauthorised signage, repair the relevant shopfronts and replace both with more appropriate design and materials to be agreed by the Planning Department of Dublin City Council. The Planning Department should send a quarterly progress report on this matter to the City Council.

## **g) Signage**

- I. The Committee recommends that the City Council, through nominees from the Moore Street Advisory Committee, start discussions with Chartered Land with a view to agreeing appropriate temporary signage that would signify the presence of 14-17 Moore Street as a National Monument.
- II. Furthermore the Committee recommends that Dublin City Council, in consultation with the Committee, erect appropriate directional signage clearly indicating the location of the National Monument, in consultation with this Committee.

## **h) Moore Street Market**

We recommend that the traditional small shop and street trading role of Moore Street, in the heart of our capital city, be renewed and sensitively developed to ensure that it will be a living, vibrant street, providing employment and enhancing the City as a whole.

## **i) Future Role of Committee**

It is the intention of this Committee to continue to meet to monitor progress on the implementation of our recommendations.