

Planning Appeal Online Observation

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Online Observation Details

Contact Name:	Shane Stokes
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Glencastle Season Park Newtownmountkennedy Co. Wicklow A63A500

4/3/22

Relating to: PA 2861/21/ABP 312603/Moore Street

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to make an observation on appeals to the Moore Street developments by Hammerson.

I believe that the proposed development is excessively intrusive on the historic site of Moore Street, one which the National Museum has referred to as the 'most important historic site in modern Irish history.'

Indeed Dr Pat Wallace, the former director of the National Museum, referred to the 1916 Rising as 'the single most important event in modern Irish history.'

While the declaration of numbers 14 to 17 as a national monument and incorporation in Hammerson's plans as such is said by the company and others to be a sufficient gesture towards Moore Street's history, I agree with the sentiments of many who feel this is simply not the case.

The entire terrace of Moore Street was occupied by members of the GPO Garrison in the closing days of the 1916 Rising with ,for example, no. 16 Moore Street being the location where the final Council of War was held by the 1916 Provisional Government prior to their surrender.

As the chairperson of the Moore Street Preservation Trust James Connolly Heron has noted, Dublin City Corporation's decision 'ignores the vote of the elected members of Dublin City Council to add the entire terrace 10-25 Moore Street to the Record of Protected Structures.'

The Trust has lodged an appeal, as has Deputy Mary Lou McDonald. She has said that the 'application does not protect or preserve all of the 1916 elements on site as it intends to demolish a part of the last headquarters of the 1916 Provisional Government of the Irish Republic.'

She has also noted that the development would 'erase for all time Moore Street's unique plot grains and courtyards which give this site its historic core.'

Many others have voiced similar opinions.

I too agree with this view; the entire terrace is of such significant historic importance that retaining just four buildings is entirely insufficient. The terrace represents not just the history of 1916, but also the cultural history of Dublin before and after that, including the long tradition of trading in the area.

The proposed development would fundamentally transform the character of the area, overwriting and erasing what has made it so significant. We risk not only losing a very important part of our history, but so too our culture.

I photographed and recorded on video the Citizen's Centenary Commemoration outside the GPO on April 24th 2016, which was organised by my father Tom Stokes and attended by a crowd of thousands of people. I believe there is a very strong appreciation of history within Ireland and also with visitors from abroad, and that the Hammersmith application and general treatment of the area in question is historically and culturally intrusive and insensitive.