

## **Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations**

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017, from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm  
Room 301, Department of the Taoiseach

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

Dr Maurice Manning (Chair)  
Dr Martin Mansergh (Vice Chair)  
Dr. Sandra Collins  
Professor Mary Daly  
Mr Gabriel Doherty  
Mr Jerry Kelleher (D/Taoiseach)  
Dr. Leeann Lane  
Ms Orlaith Lochrin (D/AHRRGA)  
Mr Feargal Ó Coigligh (D/AHRRGA)  
Professor Eunan O'Halpin  
Dr Éamon Phoenix  
Ms Sinead McCoole

#### **Guest Attendees:**

Commissioner John McMahon (OPW)  
Ms Margaret Gormley (OPW)  
Mr Derek Dignam (Houses of the  
Oireachtas)  
Ms Verona Ní Bhroinn (Houses of the  
Oireachtas)

#### **Apologies:**

Mr Francis Devine  
Professor Diarmaid Ferriter  
Dr Mary Harris  
Comdt. Stephen MacEoin

#### **Key Points:**

The minutes of the previous meeting (25<sup>th</sup> April) were agreed and there were no issues arising.

The OPW Commissioner, John McMahon, made a presentation to the group, outlining proposals for the construction of a new commemorative bridge to complete the final element of the Irish National War Memorial Gardens by linking the north and south banks of the River Liffey.

It was agreed that further discussions would be appropriate between Dublin City Council, OPW and other appropriate stakeholders. The Advisory Group endorsed the proposal in principle.

Mr Derek Dignam, Head of Communications at the Houses of the Oireachtas, also made a presentation to the group, in which he outlined plans by the Houses of the Oireachtas to mark the centenary of women attaining the right to vote in 1918 and the centenary of the establishment of the First Dáil in 1919. The Advisory Group welcomed the commemorative programme of the Houses of the Oireachtas. It was also noted that the National Gallery and the National Library also have plans for exhibitions to mark this period. It was suggested that a permanent exhibition focusing on the role of the Oireachtas might also be of value and Mr Dignam advised that this will be considered further. It was noted that the suitability of the site proposed for such an exhibition would be a key consideration.

It was noted that it would be beneficial for State commemorative events to be accompanied by an appropriate educational or cultural element, where feasible.

It was noted that the plans for a conference to commemorate the centenary of the death of John Redmond are moving ahead.

It was agreed that the local authorities will have a central role to play in the commemorative programme for the second half of the Decade.

The Chair advised that he plans to invite relevant personnel in RTÉ to brief the Group in relation to its plans for the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries.

It was agreed that representatives from Glasnevin Trust would be invited to brief the group at its next meeting.

*Ends.*