



**NOTIFICATION TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE RICHARD O'CARROLL ROOM - CITY HALL
ON THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018 AT 8.00 AM**

AGENDA

THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018

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MINUTES OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018

1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd March and matters arising

Order: Minutes Agreed.

2 Lord Mayor's Receptions and Engagements of the Deputy Lord Mayor

Order: Receptions Agreed and Recommended to Council

3 **Conferences**

a) **Conference Attended:**

- Cllr Declan Flanagan. AILG Module 4 "Wellbeing for Councillors". Clayton Hotel, County Cork. 22nd -23rd September 2017
- Cllr Gaye Fagan. AILG Module 5 "The National Public Library Strategy 2018-2022." Bridge House Hotel, County Offaly. 19th October 2017
- Cllr. Paddy Bourke. AILG Annual Training Conference 2018. The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, County Waterford. 12th-13th April 2018
- Cllrs Mary Freehill, Dermot Lacey & Paddy Bourke. LAMA Spring Seminar. "New National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy". Central Hotel, County Donegal. 5th-7th April 2018

Order: Conferences Agreed and Recommended to Council

b) **Conference Reports Received:**

- Cllr Declan Flanagan. AILG Module 4 "Wellbeing for Councillors". 22nd -23rd September 2017
- Cllr Gaye Fagan. AILG Module 5 "The National Public Library Strategy 2018-2022." 19th October 2017
- Cllr. Paddy Bourke. AILG Annual Training Conference 2018. 12th-13th April 2018
- Cllrs Mary Freehill, Dermot Lacey & Paddy Bourke. LAMA Spring Seminar. "New National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy". 5th-7th April 2018

Order: Noted

4 **Flanders Memorial - Presentation from Les Moore**

Parks Superintendant Les Moore briefed the Members on the proposal from the Flanders regional government to develop a memorial honouring all the Irish people who lost their lives in World War One.

Order: The Members thanked Les for his report and agreed that the City Council would accept in principle the gift of the memorial from the Flanders government. They also requested that the Manager bring a report to the next meeting outlining a protocol detailing how the offer of gifts to the City Council should be dealt with in future. A decision on how to progress this particular proposal would be made following an agreement on the Gift Protocol.

5 Amendment to Standing Order No 16 - GDPR & Council Questions

Order: The Members agreed that Standing Order No. 16 should be amended by the inclusion of the following paragraph:

“In the interest of transparency it is desirable that all questions and answers be included on the agenda and minutes of meetings. Questions containing sensitive, personal details of individuals (name & address, health status etc) will have these aspects included “as details supplied”. On all other questions, a Councillor may only request that a “street name/specific location” be submitted as “details supplied”. The rest of the question and response will be included on the agenda and in the minutes of the meeting.”.

Recommended to Council.

In regards to the wider issue of GDPR the Members requested that the Law Agent organise an additional briefing session specifically addressing the needs of Councillors which could be recorded for the benefit of those Members unable to attend.

The Members also requested that the Manager write to Irish Public Bodies Insurance to investigate thoroughly the possibility of providing Councillors with Professional Indemnity in relation to breaches of GDPR.

6 Proposal to rename Hume Street as John Hume Street as referred by the City Council

Order: The Members recommended to Council not to proceed with the initiation of a plebiscite to rename Hume Street.

7 Process for the Changing of Street names

Order: It was agreed that the Manager bring a report to the next meeting with a view to creating a City Council street re-naming protocol that would comply with existing legislation.

8 Proposal for the Portrait of Kathleen Clarke

Order: The Members agreed to the proposal and requested that the final decision on where the portrait was to be located would be made by this committee.

9 Motion in the Name of Councillor Dermot Lacey:

The Members acknowledged that many of the issues contained within the motion were valid but that under existing legislation any proposals put forward by the City Council could not be enforced.

Order: It was agreed that a working group including Cllr Dermot Lacey and Cllr Naoise O’Muirí would be established to look at the environmental issues surrounding election/referendum posters.

10 Correspondence from Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann - Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel

Order: The Members agreed that the Housing SPC was the appropriate forum for Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann to address Councillors. Refer to Housing SPC.

The Members agreed to fly the Fuchsia Flag for one week during July 2018 to coincide with National Day of Commemoration.

Recommended to Council.

11 Request from Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the loan of Chain of the Courts of Conscience

Order: The request for the loan of the Chain of the Courts of Conscience was approved provided that the necessary insurance was in place and that all steps to ensure its conservation were adhered to.

12 70th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights Initiative

Order: The Members agreed the initiative to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

13 Correspondence from Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe

Order: Correspondence Noted

14 Turning of the Sovereign Seal at the Mansion House

Order: The Members agreed that it was not appropriate for the Mansion House to host the ceremony of the Turning of the Sovereign Seal and therefore permission would no longer be granted for such a use.

15 Approval for Councillor Attendance at Conferences:

- The Parole Board Conference 2018 at the Law Society of Ireland on Thursday, 10th May, 2018.
- The Parliament Qualification of Women Act 1918-2018: Have Women Qualified? May 5th 2018

Order: Agreed and Recommend to Council

16 **Managers Report**

The Manager informed Members on the following matters:

- A 2019 Dublin City Council Pocket Diary will be provided for Councillors at a total cost of €2,500
- Councillors were not authorised to use official Dublin City Council headed paper as it may inadvertently mislead members of the public to think that such correspondence was issued on behalf of the Council. The Manager would investigate providing headed paper specifically for use by Councillors if required.
- The new Media Cuttings System which had been trialled by the Protocol Committee would now be offered to all Councillors.
- The Corporate City Council website is currently being redeveloped. It was hoped that the new site will be launched by year end.

17 A.O.B

Order: Nothing to Report.

18 Date of next meeting - Thursday 7th June 2018 at 8am in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall

Order: Agreed

Councillor Deirdre Heney
Chairperson
Thursday 3 May 2018

Attendance:

Members:

Deirdre Heney (Chairperson)
Aine Clancy
Teresa Keegan
Ardmhéara Micheal Mac Donncha
Naoise O'Muirí

Members:

Anne Feeney
Dermot Lacey
Ray McHugh
Ciaran O'Moore

Members:

Mannix Flynn
John Lyons
Michael Mullooly

Officers

Michael Gallagher
Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh

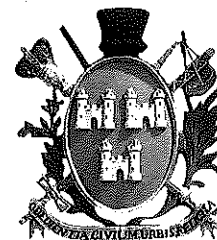
Yvonne Kelly

Les Moore

Apologies:

Brendan Carr

Patrick Costello



Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath
Lord Mayor of Dublin
Mícheál Mac Donncha

22nd May 2018

Ms. Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh
Senior Executive Officer,
Chief Executive's Department

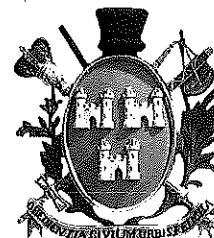
Dear Deirdre,

I would be obliged if you would bring the following receptions for the month of May 2018 to the attention of the Protocol Committee.

Date	Function	Nos
01.05.18	School kids concert	90
02.05.18	Féasta Stráide (Street Feast) photocall	25
02.05.18	Daniel Boon (Artane School of Music)	20
02.05.18	Raheny Girl Guides	60
05.05.18	Cumann Staire agus Cultúrtha Bhaile Annaidh Béal Feirste	54
05.05.18	Commemorative evening to mark 1916 Executions	60
08.05.18	Inland Waterways Volunteers Appreciation Night	85
10.05.18	Dinner for Thomas Kinsella's 90 th Birthday	100
11.05.18	Beijing Delegation	50
11.05.18	30th Anniversary of the Dublin All Stars Marching Band	100
12.05.18	The Voice Squad	80
12.05.18	James Connolly Event in conjunction with 1916 Arts Club	80
15.05.18	Seó Aisteroirí Bulfin / Bulfin Actors Show	50
16.05.18	Reception for three retiring Sinn Féin TD's	80
17.05.18	Dublin/Monaghan Bombing Group	60
17.05.18	Concert - Diarmuid Mac Giolla Ruaidh	80
18.05.18	Gaelscoil Inse Chóir	30
18.05.18	I-Katate Ireland Squad	60
19.05.18	Rohingya Awareness Day	60
20.05.18	Black Family	80
21.05.18	Students from Hedley Park Montessori Students, Merrion Square	42
21.05.18	Doyle Halpin School of Dancing	70
23.05.18	Angela Owens & family	30
23.05.18	50th Anniversary of Na Píobairí Uilleann	100
24.05.18	Cairde na Cruite - Harp event	80
30.05.18	Dublin North West Senior Citizens	50
31.05.18	Donahies Community School 40th Anniversary	60

Yours sincerely,

Mícheál Mac Donncha
Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath



Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath
Lord Mayor of Dublin
Mícheál Mac Donncha

22nd May 2018

Ms. Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh
Senior Executive Officer,
Chief Executive's Department

Dear Deirdre,

Please see below, list of functions, receptions and events in which I had a Deputy/Representative attend on my behalf during the month of May 2018:

Date:	Function:	DLM/Cllr:
04.05.18	Courtesy Call by French Naval Ship ANDROMEDE	Cllr. Paddy McCartan
04.05.18	Courtesy Call by Dutch Naval Ship	Cllr. Paddy McCartan
10.05.18	DCU The School of Law & Government , Programme Launch of the Innovations in Politics Awards 2018	Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr Áine Clancy
11.05.18	Courtesy Call by Belgian Naval Ship BNS BELLIS & BNS GODETIA	Cllr. Paddy McCartan
13.05.18	Defence Forces Veterans Day	Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Áine Clancy
14.05.18	I-Karate Ireland Squad Presentation of plaques	Cllr. Vincent Jackson
20.05.18	Féile na Gaeilge Event	Cllr. Ruairí McGinley
21.05.18	Hedley Park Montessori School, Merrion Square	Cllr. Vincent Jackson
21.05.18	Doyle Halpin School of Dancing	Cllr. Críona Ní Dhálaigh
22.05.18	Sean Moore Community Awards	Cllr. Paddy McCartan
24.05.18	The Bohemian Foundation hosting schoolchildren from Ballymun	Cllr. Larry O'Toole
26.05.18	Muslim Sisters of Eire - The Interfaith Iftar	Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Áine Clancy
27.05.18	IUNVA's Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony	Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Áine Clancy
30.05.18	Opening of Exhibition "Just be yourself" by Rachel Maclean	Cllr. Deirdre Heney

Yours sincerely,

Mícheál Mac Donncha
Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath



Report to the Protocol & Selection Committee for noting and referral to the City Council

Councillor Name	Christy Burke
Conference/Seminar Name	A1LG
Conference/Seminar Topic	JOINT POLICING BOARDS
Venue/Location	CASTLE COURT, HOTEL WESTPORT MAYO.
Date (s) of Conference	19 - 5 - 2018.

Brief Summary

① THE MEETING OPENED WITH CHIEF Supt JOE MR KENNA WHO SPOKE ON HOW THE ~~J.P.C.~~ J.P.C. WORKEN IN THE MAYO AREA. HOW CCTV HAVE BEEN VERY VERY USEFULL, IN THE AREA.

② SECOND PART OF THE SEMINAR OPENED WITH 2 SPOKES PERSONS FROM COMHAIRLE, NO NOG, A VERY GOOD VIDEO WAS PLAYED, TO SHOW HOW ALCOHOL IS A DRUG.

Recommendations

I WOULD ADVISE THAT ALL DUBLIN J.P.C.S. ~~BE~~ INVITE A SPOKES PERSON FROM COMHAIRLE, TO SHOW THE VIDEO..

ENCLOSED DETAILS FOR VIDEO TO BE ALLOCATED TO J.P.C.S. AND SCHOOLS.

Declaration

I certify that I attended the above-mentioned Conference/Training Seminar.

Signed by	Date
Christy Burke,	19-5-2018.



Report to the Protocol Committee Draft Protocol for the Acceptance of Gifts by Dublin City Council

Introduction:

This policy is concerned solely with gifts to Dublin City Council which will have an impact on the Public Realm. It does not apply to donations and gifts to Dublin City Libraries and Archive and the Hugh Lane Gallery who have in place their own specific policies and guidelines.

The overarching purpose of this policy is to protect Dublin City Council's reputation and also the interests of donors. It also seeks to ensure transparency and due diligence in the management of gifts and to ensure best practice is followed. Dublin City Council must apply due diligence to determine the credibility of sources of gifts. It is important to demonstrate the value of private giving in support of communities within Dublin City, but at the same time ensure that there is transparency around whom we accept gifts from and for what purpose.

Philanthropy is described as "a voluntary exchange in which values and aspirations of donors are matched with the values and aspirations of those they benefit". When accepting philanthropic donations, Dublin City Council needs to consider carefully whom they accept gifts from, and for what purpose.

This policy will apply to the offer of gifts from private individuals, commercial organisations, public bodies and local and national governments both within and outside of the Republic of Ireland.

Ethical decision making is a deliberate and conscientious effort to make judgements that reflect Dublin City Council's mission, values and long-term goals. Ethical decisions are made with the public trust and institutional integrity in mind. A major gift is defined as one with a value to the donor of €50,000 or more.

Guidelines:

The Public Realm is defined as the space around, between and within buildings that are publicly accessible, including streets, squares, parks and open spaces. Any decision to accept a gift which impacts on the public realm must be in accordance with Dublin City Council's Public Realm Strategy. Gifts that impact on the public realm includes but is not limited to the following:

- Art Installations
- Sculptures
- Memorials
- Parks/Gardens

In the first instance all public realm gifts should be referred to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group. Where gifts are assessed to have a value to the donor of €50,000 or less the ACAG will be the authorising body.

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group will consult with the Area Committee in which the gift is to be located and will give full consideration to the views of those Councillors before making its decision or recommendation.

For gifts in excess of this amount the ACAG will make a recommendation to the Protocol Committee for their evaluation. Gifts with a value in excess of €100,000 will require full Council approval in conjunction with the Executive of the City Council.

Authorisation of the acceptance of philanthropic donations	Authorisation by
Less than €50,000	Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
€50,000 - €100,000	Protocol Committee and Dublin City Council Executive
€100,000 or greater	Full Council following recommendation by the Protocol Committee and Dublin City Council Executive

Principles:

When accepting a major gift consideration should be given to the following issues.

- Has the donor acted illegally in the acquisition of funds?
- Would acceptance damage or limit the operation of Dublin City Council in fulfilling its stated objectives?
- Would acceptance harm relationships with other partners, funders or stakeholders?
- Would it create a significant conflict of interest?
- Would it damage Dublin City Council's reputation?
- Would acceptance lead to unmanageable conditions applied by the donor?
- Dublin City Council does not accept anonymous donations above €100. Dublin City Council will, however, respect a donor's wish for privacy should they wish their details not to be publicised.
- The gift will be applied for the purpose for which it was given, unless explicit consent is given by the donor or in the case of bequests, the executors.

Gifts of €10,000 or over must have a signed Gift Agreement or equivalent. The following statement will be included in all Gift Agreements:

“It is a legal and moral requirement that gifts do not afford the donor any expectation of benefit from Dublin City Council from the donation.”

Where further background information is needed in relation to the source of a potential gift, the Chief Executive's Office will undertake this work and then make recommendations to the authorising person/s. Where there is concern, there will be discussion with the potential donor of the gift prior to any decision to decline a gift.

Dublin City Council will maintain a record of all major gifts accepted and declined.

Deidre Ní Raghallaigh
Senior Executive Officer
1st June 2018



REPORT TO THE COMMEMORATIONS SUB_COMMITTEE
31st January 2018

FLANDERS FIELDS MEMORIAL PROPOSAL IN THE PEACE GARDEN, CHRISTCHURCH.

A proposal has been put forward by the Government of Flanders to incorporate a memorial honouring all the Irish who lost their lives in World War 1 in the Peace Garden which is located opposite Christchurch Cathedral and has been closed to the public for perhaps 10 years due to issues of anti-social activity and the lack of universal access.

The park was completed for the Millennium celebrations in 1988 and includes a cast bronze symbol of a tree, together with verses from Patrick Kavanagh, WB Yeates and a biblical proverb to express the theme of peace. There was also a small memorial promoting peace in northern Ireland which consisted of a small glass case containing a brick. The text relating to this memorial is now illegible.



Official Opening of Completed Peace Garden 1988.

The proposal from the Flanders government coincides with plans by Dublin City Council to refurbish the garden by raising the level of the central sunken area thus creating a flush level surface for universal access. Some of the dense tree and shrub planting will be removed to alleviate unnecessary shade in the garden and a number of the elements from Dublin City Councils 2017 Silver Gilt 'Bloom' garden will be used in the Peace Garden including granite paving and solid oak benches.

The Government of Flanders has developed bilateral projects of remembrance with many nations to mark the Centenary of WWI. As every nation has its own unique bond with Flanders Fields and its

own traditions and policies in remembering WWI, each memorial is unique. The Government of Flanders develops these projects based on the principle of partnership and respect for local policies and traditions to bring people together in reflection about war and peace, about sacrifice and suffering, about tolerance and hope, about forgiveness and reconciliation. The Garden will be a place for quiet contemplation for the entire community, whatever their political opinion, nationality or creed.

Historical Context linking Ireland and Flanders:

During WWI approximately 50,000 Irish soldiers died on the Somme and in Flanders. Of them 20,000 were Protestant volunteers from Northern Ireland, 30,000 were Catholic volunteers from all provinces of the Island of Ireland.

Minister Charles Flanagan on 7th June 2017 at Messines: "the reasons Irishmen joined the fight, were as varied and complex no doubt as the individuals themselves, but it is clear that like the Redmonds, for many the plight of Belgium and its people struck a chord. In small corners of Ireland, the news from Kemmel, from Loche, from Messines, became a part of the daily life and conversation of thousands of mothers, sisters, fathers, brothers. The bonds created then endure today." (Encl. p. 5)

But the bonds between Flanders and Ireland go back further in time. Both the Flemish and Irish people have had a tumultuous history, suffering war and violence because of religious reasons. Both nations had to fight for the recognition of their language and culture. Trade and academic links e.g. between Trinity College and Leuven University go back to dim and distant medieval times.

Contemporary Context of Ireland and Flanders:

On 1st of June 2016 Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness visited the battlefields in Flanders with Minister President Geert Bourgeois (*see image below*). At the Island of Ireland Peace Park, Wytschate Military Cemetery and at the Irish 16th Division Memorial they talked about the importance of peace, reconciliation and remembrance and laid wreaths in memory of all the fallen.



Martin McGuinness laying wreath with Geert Bourgeois at the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines

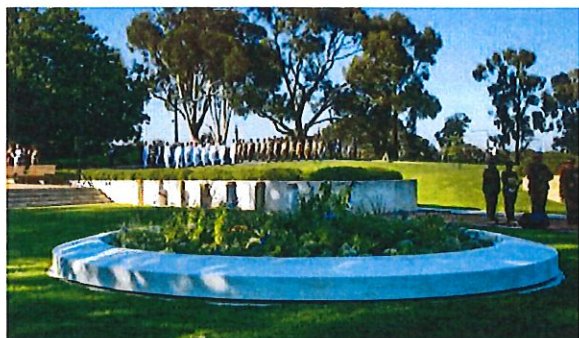
At the grave of F.E. Ledwidge in Artillery Wood Cemetery, the Deputy First Minister read poetry. Mr McGuinness said: “WWI is an important part of Ireland’s multi-layered history, during which tens of thousands of Irish people lost their lives. If we are to build understanding and reconciliation on this Island we all need to recognise and accept the complexity of the historical events and different political narratives that make us who we are as a community and as a people”.

As a follow-up of this visit, the General Representative of the Government of Flanders to the UK and Ireland met with Mr. McGuinness, Minister Chris Hazard and advisor Conor Heaney on 19th September 2016 to discuss cooperation in remembrance and plans for Flanders Field Memorial projects in Stormont and Dublin.

A hundred years after the conflict, the Government of Flanders wishes to develop a memorial project with Ireland, respecting history and all political and religious persuasions, in the same spirit that resulted in the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Mesen/Messines.

The Dublin memorial would be a partnership between The City of Dublin and the Government of Flanders.

The principles of the Flanders memorial would be entirely integrated in the existing plans of Dublin City Council for the refurbishment of the existing Peace Garden.



Flanders Fields Memorial Garden in Canberra, Australia.



Flanders Fields Memorial Garden in London.

Flanders soil will be integrated with soil of the four Provinces of Ireland and put in a circular monument and covered with grass. The circular monument relates to the holes in the roof of the Menin Gate in Ypres. The stone of the monument will be Irish granite and engraved with a poem of Francis Ledwidge. Around the monument four benches of Belgian blue stone engraved with the symbols of Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connacht will be installed. On the top of the circular monument the names of the battlefields where the Irish fought in Flanders Fields, will be placed.

In front of the monument a consecration stone will explain the monument.

A draft text proposal for the consecration stone is as follows:

THIS MEMORIAL IS THE GIFT OF THE PEOPLE OF FLANDERS
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND
IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE IRISHMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF BELGIUM
1914 – 1918
THE SOIL IN THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN GATHERED AND BROUGHT
HERE FROM THE CEMETERIES AND BATTLEFIELDS OF FLANDERS
WHERE SOLDIERS OF THE ISLAND OF IRELAND FOUGHT AND DIED
HONOUR THEM AND REMEMBER



 City of Lincolnshire Council Lincolnshire Council	Running on a Precincts and Spaces Ruman Gandharwaha agam Lingshaline Parks & Landscape Strategic Council	FILE NO PACE PARK - Leinster including WWF memorial DATE 15/03/2018 SCALE 1:100 DATE 15/03/2018 FILE NO PACE PARK - Leinster including WWF memorial INDEX NO.
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Proposed Plan for refurbishment of peace Garden 2018.

Report to the Protocol Committee - Visit of an tArdmhéara to Palestine April 2018

On 21 February 2018 I was invited by the Ambassador of Palestine in Dublin, Ahmed Abdelrazek, on behalf of Dr. Mahmoud al Habbash, the Supreme Judge of Palestine, to speak at the Ninth International Bayt Al Maqdis (Jerusalem) Conference in Ramallah on 11 & 12 April 2018. I travelled to Ramallah via Frankfurt and Tel Aviv on 10 April. I was accompanied by Gráinne Kelly of Dublin City Council's International Office.

The day before my visit the April monthly meeting of Dublin City Council had adopted two motions, one endorsing the campaign of Boycott/Divestment/Sanctions (BDS) against the Israeli state due to its treatment of the Palestinians, and another calling for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador in protest at the killings of protesters in Gaza by the Israeli military. It appears that it was in response to these motions that the Israeli Ministry for Strategic Affairs hastily decided to prevent my entry to Palestine. However, when I landed at Tel Aviv Airport I was permitted through passport control without incident.

On the evening of 10 April, as I prepared for the conference the next day in my hotel in Ramallah, I received word from my office in Dublin that the Israeli government's Interior Minister Arye Dery and Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan had stated that I had been stopped from entering Israel because of my support for BDS. I immediately made it known that I was in fact in Ramallah and knew nothing of a ban which had not been communicated to me in any way. I have still not received any such communication.

The Interior Ministry claimed that I was allowed through because my name was spelt incorrectly in the request it had been given by the Strategic Affairs Ministry to block me. However, the latter Ministry claimed the name was spelt correctly. The Interior Minister ordered an investigation. There was speculation that the error was the inclusion of the title Ardmhéara as part of my name, though this has not been confirmed.

I attended the conference on 11th and 12th April. The conference was especially significant in the context of the decision of the US Administration to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel. There were delegates from Palestine and from many other countries (including EU member states) and they were public representatives, religious leaders of various denominations and faiths, trade unionists and other civil society representatives. Almost 50 people, one third of the delegates, were prevented from entering Palestine by the Israeli government. This included a delegation from India, only two of whom were allowed entry, apparently because one of them was a former Government minister in India.

On the morning of 11 April I spoke in the conference session on the importance of Jerusalem. (See Appendix 1 for speech.)

Later that day I met the Mayor of Ramallah, Mosa Hadid, at his mayoral office.

In the company of Frank Connolly of SIPTU, who was visiting Palestine as a trade union representative, I met Shaher Saad, General Secretary of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions.

That evening the conference delegates were addressed by Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority.

On 12 April, as well as attending the conference I met with the Palestinian Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Adnan Al Hussaini.

We were facilitated to meet Dr. Nabil A. Shaath, foreign policy advisor to President Abbas, and a long-time Palestinian diplomat. And we met with Palestinian civil society campaigners for BDS.

We left Palestine on 13 April. At Tel Aviv Airport Immigration I was presented with a form stating that I had been informed that should I wish to re-enter Israel I would have to seek permission. I signed this form and was permitted to leave after a delay of about 15 minutes. I was not asked to give, nor did I give, any commitment not to return to Palestine.

(See Appendix 2 re commentary on the visit.)

Assessment

Our visit coincided with the ongoing killings of protesters in Gaza by the Israeli military. Even within Israeli society itself there was much opposition to this, summed up in a headline in the Israeli daily 'Haaretz' which said: 'Don't believe a word Israel says about Gaza.' There was also much anger at the false Israeli claim that a photographer killed in Gaza by the Israeli military on the Friday before our visit had not been a journalist but a Hamas activist. The International Federation of Journalists accused Israel of engaging in a cover-up of the murder.

Throughout the visit I learned of the ongoing plight of the Palestinian people, in a society which is, in effect, an open prison. We learned from the trade unionists of the apartheid-style pass system for the many thousands of Palestinians who work in Israeli areas and are under curfew to leave those areas when their work is done. The West Bank, supposedly under Palestinian authority, is split into zones under various degrees of Israeli control, while everywhere illegal settlements continue to be built. We witnessed the wall which separates Israeli from Palestinian areas and which severely disrupts working, family and social life for ordinary Palestinians.

There is clearly no intention on the part of the current Israeli government to engage in any meaningful peace process. As Dr. Nabil Shaath explained to us, what is needed now is an internationally led peace process, headed by credible governments. It is also important that full recognition is given to the State of Palestine by all the EU member states, including Ireland.

I believe what we witnessed during our visit vindicates the support for justice for Palestine and a real and lasting peace settlement between Palestine and Israel as repeatedly advocated by the elected members of Dublin City Council. There was much respect for the position taken the Council, by the Irish government and by Irish people generally in support of Palestine.

I believe the City Council should explore ways in which further practical links can be built, including with the city of Ramallah.

- I would like to record my thanks to Gráinne Kelly for her support and efficiency during the visit, to Jonathan Conlon and Declan Johnston of the Department of Foreign Affairs Ramallah office who were very helpful, and to Frank Connolly of SIPTU for his assistance also.

Appendix 1

The significance of Jerusalem

Address by Mícheál Mac Donncha, Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath (Lord Mayor of Dublin) at international conference on Jerusalem in Ramallah, 11 April 2018.

As Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin, capital of Ireland, it is a privilege to join you for your conference. I have to tell you that last night I was informed that the Ministry of Strategic Affairs of Israel had stated that I had been prevented from entering the country. But here I am and I am very glad to be here.

I want to thank the State of Palestine, through the ambassador in Dublin, Ahmed Abdelrazak, for the invitation to speak.

I accepted the invitation because Dublin City Council by repeated vote of its elected members, has expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine, has condemned the denial of their rights by successive Israeli governments, and has called for a peaceful settlement through inclusive negotiations, respecting all electoral mandates. On Monday at its monthly meeting Dublin City Council condemned the killings of Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli military, another gross violation of human rights. The Council called for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador in protest at these latest atrocities. The City Council of Cork on the same night also called for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador. And Dublin City Council voted to support the boycott, divestment, sanctions movement.

Now as in the past there is much respect and solidarity in Ireland for the people of Palestine in their unequal struggle for self-determination, justice and peace.

I extend that solidarity from one city, Dublin, to the city of Ramallah, and to Jerusalem, an historic city of world importance and, of course, a city of crucial importance to the people of Palestine.

Jerusalem is a place of huge cultural and religious significance for people all over the world, including in Ireland. Three major world religions - Islam, Judaism and Christianity - hold the city of Jerusalem sacred. I believe the attempt by any one state or religion to exclusively control Jerusalem is wrong. That is why the formal recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the US administration was wrong. It was a backward step for peace and a negotiated settlement. Also the recent moves to amend the Basic Laws of Israel to further cement it as an exclusively Jewish state are alarming.

Of course this latest intervention by the US administration is but the most recent whereby a great power has sought to use the region for its own selfish ends regardless of the misery this causes to the people of the region.

100 years ago the people of both Ireland and Palestine were victims of imperialism as their right to self-determination was denied. In both countries so-called solutions were imposed which condemned their peoples to a century of division, oppression and strife.

In the case of Palestine and the Middle East the British and French empires, under the Sykes-Picot agreement, carved the region up between them, setting the pattern for big power manipulation and exploitation. In the case of Ireland our country was cut in two by Partition. In addition of course the Middle East saw the Balfour Declaration which empowered Zionism to claim the land of Palestine, leading to mass expulsions, confiscation and killings. You are still living with the consequences today.

The suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation, exile, mass imprisonment, killings such as the most recent in Gaza, and a catalogue of human rights abuses, has horrified people all over the world. However, the international community, and particularly EU governments, have failed to hold Israeli governments to account for their abuses of human rights. It is time that this policy of standing idly by in the face of horror came to an end.

This week, in fact the day I arrived in Palestine, marked the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in Ireland.

20 years ago the Irish and British governments and the political parties, based on their electoral mandates, reached an agreement to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The basis of the negotiations was inclusivity; the basis of the agreement was respect, equality and human rights. It is far from a perfect agreement and it has taken a long time to implement - and it is still not fully implemented. But through the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement a peaceful, democratic way forward was provided. Despite the current severe political problems - arising primarily, I believe, from the British government, I am convinced the path to political progress and lasting peace remains open. For Irish Republicans - and I am one of them - that is the road to a United Ireland, based on equality and achieved through agreement and consent by referendum as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

Can the hope of Belfast in 1998 provide hope also for Jerusalem and Palestine in 2018? I believe it can.

In Dublin we have faith communities from all the faiths that look to Jerusalem as a sacred city. We have an Inter-Faith Forum that brings these and others together in a way that respects identity, expands diversity and encourages harmony. They promote dialogue and work together to bring about progressive change.

It may seem wildly optimistic to cite this example in the situation of intense conflict and deep division in Palestine and Israel. But seeds of hope begin very small. Perhaps the current attempt to end what remains of the shared nature of Jerusalem as a holy city will, in the future, be seen as a turning point.

One thing is certain, for all the people of this region, for the people of Israel and the people of Palestine, the only basis for progress is full respect for and implementation of human rights. And the only basis for progress is justice and self-determination. In the struggle to achieve these goals we stand with you.

Appendix 2

Commentary on the visit

There was much national and international coverage of the visit. A record of this is available in Oifig an Ardmhéara. On 12 April Maurice Cohen of the Jewish Representative Council in Ireland issued a statement accusing me of anti-semitism. Mr Cohen did not try to contact me directly nor has he done so since my return. I issued the following response on 12 April, when requested by media:

"I am disappointed at the statement from Maurice Cohen, spokesperson of the Jewish Representative Council. I hosted and spoke at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony on 28 January in the Mansion House which Mr Cohen attended. I completely reject any notion that I am in any way anti-Semitic. The conference in Ramallah was sponsored by the Palestinian Authority and I accepted the invitation to attend through the Palestinian ambassador in Dublin. The focus of the conference was the cultural and religious significance of Jerusalem to the major world religions and its political status in the wake of the US government's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This was a backward step for peace, as recognised by the many international delegates present, of all religions and none. Regarding the image of El Hussein on the banner, I was unaware of who he was. This is a distraction from the central issue of the need for a shared Jerusalem and a two-state Palestine/Israel solution arrived at through inclusive negotiations. Once again, justified criticism of the policy of the Israeli government is spuriously equated with anti-semitism. I stand on my record in this regard."

- See also report of visit by Frank Connolly in April edition of SIPTU newspaper 'Liberty'.
<http://siptucommunicationsdepartment.newsweaver.ie/LibertyJuly2014/1o70pz0tb9d1o36yv74egu?email=true&a=11&p=53265600>

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**7th in our 2018 series of Training Seminars
for Local Authority Members**

**Local Electoral Area
Boundary Commission**

**Friday 6th, Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th July 2018
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Letterkenny
074 - 9126251**

Overview of the Committees

13 December 2017

Mr. John Paul Phelan T.D., Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform has established two committees to review and make recommendations on local electoral areas and to report to him not later than 13 June 2018.

The task of both Committees is to review and make recommendations on the division of council areas into local electoral areas.

The review is being undertaken in prospect of the local elections to be held in 2019, having regard to the results of Census 2016 and the commitment to consider reducing the size of territorially large local electoral areas in *A Programme for Partnership government*, published in May 2016. The Committees' reports will be considered by Minister Phelan as the basis for the revision of the local electoral areas under his statutory powers.

Committee No. 1

Committee No. 1 will report and make recommendations on every County, other than Cork, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Galway and South Dublin. It will also report and make recommendations on Limerick City and County and Waterford City and County.

Committee No. 2

Committee No. 2 will report and make recommendations on Dublin City and the Counties of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin. This Committee may also be asked to make recommendations on the division of Cork and Galway into local electoral areas. The Terms of Reference for that purpose will be set out in due course.

Invitation to Make Submissions for local authorities other than Cork and Galway.

NOW CLOSED - Monday 19th February 2018.

Friday 6th July

6.00pm – 7.00pm

**Welcome- Registration
Local Electoral Area Boundary
Commission
Seminar Position Papers**

Saturday 7th July

9.30am

Registration

10.00am

onward

A)

Committee Members

B)

Legislation

11.15am TEA/COFFEE

C)

Terms of Reference

D)

Previous Reports

E)

Submissions Received

F)

Census 2016

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm

Review and Q & A

Sunday 8th July

10.00am * Delegate interactions to exchange information and develop Professional Contacts.

Seminar fee: € 145

**Booking: Bookings for the Seminar must be made in advance to:
Secretary,
Irish Private and Public Bodies (Consulting)
ltd.
086 2402753**

Email: instproftraining@gmail.com

Seminar Organisers: The Seminar organisers reserve the right to change any of the details of this programme to facilitate the safe and efficient running of this event.

***Discretionary. # The organisers assume no responsibility for the attendance / non-attendance of delegates.**

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