



Report on Filming on Henrietta Street

The City Council very much supports the work of Film Producers in the city and we acknowledge how filming can promote Dublin both nationally and internationally.

Henrietta Street is considered to be one of the first and finest planned Georgian streets in Dublin and consequently is very popular for film makers. Unfortunately it can be difficult to achieve a reasonable balance between the demands of film makers and the understandable needs and concerns of residents and getting this balance has always been difficult in Henrietta Street.

The City Council has a permit system involving relevant conditions etc (Events Section) and specific procedures and protocols were implemented for Henrietta Street because of the problems arising there. The majority of residents on the Street appear to support film activity and indeed some facilitate filming on their own private property (separate to our permit system) but a small number of residents/families are very opposed to all film related activity on the street.

In recent months and weeks there has been sustained opposition, constant incidents of conflict, and lots of complaints from a small number of residents on the street in relation to virtually all filming permits granted by the City Council and including filming being facilitated on a private basis by private owners. This has resulted in staff from our Events Section spending a huge amount of time and energy solely on Henrietta Street and it really has created an impossible situation to manage.

Accordingly we decided for operational reasons to suspend the granting of any further filming permits for a period of six months in this area (except for those where we have already given a commitment e.g. "Penny Dreadful" who require some dates for filming over the coming months).

This period of time will allow us to commission an external facilitator/mediator with a clear brief and terms of reference to consult with **all** residents in the area, as well as all the other stakeholders including the Film Producers and the Kings Inn.

Hopefully this will lead to a successful outcome, with an agreement that achieves a reasonable balance between all the different views and objectives, and a permit/approval process that is workable for DCC.

We may be able to do this earlier than the six months indicated and if it was possible for **all** the residents to get together to agree on a way forward then the moratorium could be lifted, but in our view this is very unlikely.

While we may well be accused of allowing a very small minority to influence our decision we cannot ignore them and as indicated above the situation had become impossible! It is important to note that Dublin City Council is not banning film making, we are suspending the issuing of permits for film activity on DCC property in this area only for a period. This will not interfere at all with the right of individual private owners to allow filming internally on their own properties.

We are very aware of the importance of Henrietta Street for film producers in this country and we appreciate their concerns around the suspension of permits at this time and we accept that it is very important that a solution is achieved as quickly as possible. **In this context we have moved quickly to appoint an independent facilitator/mediator and she will begin her work on Monday 7th December.** If there is a reasonable approach and full cooperation from all the parties involved then it could be possible to resolve this issue much faster than the six months indicated.

We had already begun to put some thought into reviewing the City Council's current overall Strategy and Policy/Code of Practice on filming in the City and accordingly we will bring this consideration forward and report to the Arts Strategic Policy Committee early in 2016, such a review will obviously involve full consultation with all stakeholders.

The upcoming consultation process in Henrietta Street will be a useful exercise in such a review.

**Brendan Kenny,
Assistant Chief Executive.**