

In attendance: Councillor Paddy Bourke
Councillor Brendan Carr
Councillor Mary Freehill
Councillor Dermot Lacey
Councillor Vincent Jackson
Councillor Mícheal Mac Donncha
Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh, Senior Executive Officer
Owen O’Doherty, Deputy City Architect
Fanchea Gibson, Office of the Lord Mayor
Apologies: Councillors Andrew Montague, Críona Ní Dhalaigh and Naoise Ó Muirí

Chair: Councillor Dermot Lacey, as Chair of the Protocol Committee, chaired the meeting.

Mansion House Accessibility

Deirdre gave an update on the background since the removal of the original ramp. She outlined issues with the past and current platform lifts and complaints about access to the Mansion House from a number of disability groups. Two consultation meetings have been held with representatives from the PPN disability linkage group. Three options were outlined:

- Adding an additional platform lifts
- Installation of a Ramp
- Installation of an enclosed lift

Following a discussion those present agreed that a ramp would be the preferable option for those with mobility issues. Cllr Carr asked that the moat be examined as a possible location for a free-standing structure to support a ramp. The issue will be referred back to Protocol Committee after consultations.

Mansion House completed works – Update

Bar Area

Those present outlined their thoughts on the new bar with the main points being:

- Some members felt the design was out of context with a heritage building though others disagreed. There was also disagreement on the marble at the front of the bar.
- All liked the recycled wood coming from the Red Stables in St. Anne’s Park and praised the quality of craftsmanship from Dublin City Council Staff
- Impracticable for working in / Not designed with regard to the experience of those who use it. Taps should have been placed at the back of the bar and the barman should never have his back to his guests
- Lack of consultation with elected members / former Lord Mayors

It was agreed that works be done to improve the operational capability of the bar including moving the taps if feasible. It was also agreed that no significant changes be done in future to the Mansion House without prior consultation.

House Steward's Apartment

Deirdre outlined the process and invited those present to view the Apartment following the meeting. All expressed their pleasure with the design and workmanship displayed.

Proposed medium-term works

Lord Mayor's Apartment

Deirdre advised that it is proposed to plan future works to the Lord Mayor's Apartment. She would like to consult with former Lord Mayors. Depending on the scale of the required work she would also like to be able to advise the new Council of a proposed timescale and duration of works so that potential Lord Mayors would be aware of the works. The House steward's apartment would be available to an incumbent Lord Mayor for the duration of the work

Mansion House Oak Room Roof & Ceiling

It was agreed that work to the Oak Room ceiling be done on the provision that the ceiling decoration is not changed. The facilities - stage, podium, furniture of the oak room will need to be modernised.

Period of Closure to allow for essential maintenance works to be carried out in the Mansion House annually

There has been a tradition of closing the Mansion House for 3-4 weeks following the election of a Lord Mayor but this has never been formalised. It was agreed that this would be brought to the Protocol Committee for sign off.

Owen advised that it is planned to revisit the Conservation Plan and develop a multi-year Strategy which will mean that all will be aware of upcoming works and can budget accordingly.

Cllr Carr asked that improvement works to the staff working area be examined.

100th Anniversary of the sitting of the First Dáil on 21st January 2019

Fanchea updated those present on the current plans including public participation days when both the Mansion House and Round Room will be open for the public to visit and also the commemoration event to be held on 21st January 2019 by the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Office of the Lord Mayor is collaborating with the Houses of the Oireachtas on this programme. Those present asked that the role of Local Government be acknowledged and also the role of the Lord Mayor at the formal event on 21st January.

Item proposed by Councillor Mícheál Mac Donncha – Memorialising the first & second Dáil in the Mansion House

Cllr Mac Donncha advised that there are two plaques to commemorate various events from this period – the sitting of the first Dáil over the entrance into the Round Room and the signing of the Truce on the pillar on the forecourt. There is also a plaque in the Dining Room to commemorate the formation of the first Inter-Party Government in 1948. Other events not marked include various sittings of the first and second Dáil in the Oak Room and meetings of the Dáil Cabinet in 1921 including the 8th December Cabinet meeting that split on the Treaty. There is also no portrait or photograph of Lord Mayor Laurence O'Neill.

It was agreed to examine hanging a portrait or photo of Lord Mayor Laurence O'Neill in the Mansion House during 2019.

Any Other Business

Cllr Mac Donncha advised that the publication of his Book “The Mansion House and the Irish Revolution” is brought before the Protocol Committee for consideration for funding from the Decade of Commemorations Budget.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting be held before Christmas.