

# To the Chairperson and Members Of Central Area Committee

14th March 2023

With reference to a Naming proposal for location A within the Residential scheme at the development at Coopers Cross, Mayor Street Upper, Dublin 1

## **Development information:**

The developer, Kennedy Wilson secured planning permission for a Residential development and a Commercial development. Dublin City Council issued compliance agreement under DCC Reg. Ref. DSDZ 2186/20 in January 2021 for the naming and numbering of buildings and associated streets in the Residential scheme. The site address is now 'Coopers Cross – Crois no gCúipéirí', Mayor Street Upper, Dublin 1.

The naming of the following location within the residential scheme (location A) is set out as follows: -

• Location A: Middle Park (as referenced in the North Dock and Grand Canal Planning Scheme) within the residential scheme (DCC Reg. Ref. DSDZ 2186/20 refers).

### **Address Proposal:**

The developer advised that the following proposals were based on feedback from DCC Heritage Officer on a naming submission originally made on 1 December 2022. The DCC Heritage Officer recommended alternatives names associated with Sean O'Casey for the park (Location A).

The developer advised that the following name for Location A is proposed due to the significance of the site's connection with playwright Sean O'Casey and the need for his celebration within the city more generally. For this reason and considering other cultural figures with links to the site (Luke Kelly, U2, Stephen Gately, Maureen Potter, Jim Sheridan) they are taking the live arts, particularly 'performance for stage and screen' as their narrative frame for cultural direction, and the developer wishes to celebrate Sean O'Casey as a local hero across the site. This has informed their naming proposals below and they request this curatorial approach is taken into consideration.

Middle Park (Residential Scheme - Location A)

Irish Name	English Name	Basis of Translation
Páirc Sheáin Uí Chathasaigh	Sean O'Casey Park	Relevance - Sean O'Casey spent many years living locally, first he lived at 25 Hawthorn Terrace in East Wall and later at 18 Abercorn Road, just around the corner, 3 mins walk from the north of the site. The time he spent in the area formed his outlook and approach as a writer. The first three volumes of his autobiography in particular contain much about his life as a resident of the North Docks. He was inspired by what he saw in the area, from the way of life to the language spoken there at the time, the people and the

politics. The savage humour and quick wit associated with the area can be found in his Dublin plays in particular, which are described as tragicomedies, a mix of tragedy and comedy. His characters, often inspired by local people he met and knew, perform the spirit of the place and his plots showcase the common hardships faced and resilience shown by North Wall communities, particularly by strong female figures such as 'Juno' in 'Juno and the Paycock'. On 12 April 1923, O'Casey's first play 'The Shadow of a Gunman' was performed at the Abbey Theatre. With Coopers Cross opening 100 years on in 2023 the developer wishes to mark this anniversary with a timely celebration of his literary contribution.

# The address will be as follows:

(Residential Scheme – Location A (Middle Park))

- Páirc Sheáin Uí Chathasaigh, Sráid an Mhéara Uachtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 1
- Sean O'Casey Park, Mayor Street Upper, Dublin 1

### **Heritage Officer Report**

The City Councils' Heritage Officer has considered the proposed name and gives a recommendation that the name "Páirc Sheáin Uí Chathasaigh / Sean O'Casey Park" for (Location A) is appropriate and the Irish translations have been supplied by the Council's Irish Office.

#### **Recommendation:**

The naming details as set out above are considered suitable and are recommended for adoption.

David Forde Senior Executive Officer North Inner City Area

